



Mayor  
**Jerome A. Prince**  
City Of Gary, IN



5-6-20  
City of Gary COVID-19 update

### **COVID-19 Recovery**

Last Friday, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb released [Backontrack.in.gov](https://www.backontrack.in.gov), a five-stage plan to move Indiana into post COVID-19 recovery. It is a detailed plan, but it is causing some confusion locally.

I encourage all of you, from clergy to business owners to our Gary residents, to go to [Backontrack.in.gov](https://www.backontrack.in.gov) to get the details you need. If you do not have Internet access, ask for help from a family member, friend or neighbor.

First, Governor Holcomb made clear local leaders have the right and authority to make more restrictive plans than the state.

Secondly, Lake, Marion, and Cass Counties officially begin Back-On-Track guidelines one week after the rest of Indiana due to the continued high rates of COVID-19 infections in those counties. Gary's Stay-At-Home order is still in effect until May 15.

Lastly, if the rates of COVID-19 infections do not slow down in the state and our cities, the Governor and local leaders have the power and authority to reinstate restrictions.

### **Gary Religious Services**

I've been pleased to see most Gary residents, churches, funeral homes and other groups taking the COVID-19 pandemic seriously and using good social distancing practices.

Because Gary continues to see daily double-digit increases in new COVID-19 cases being reported, we must continue to fight the spread of the virus.

I am calling on all houses of worship in the City of Gary to continue to use virtual, online services and drive-in services for one more week.

***Please do not hold in-person services of any kind until the weekend of May 15th.***

If you are planning other rites and ceremonies, such as weddings, baptisms, and funerals, please continue to keep your in-person gatherings to no more than 10 people until May 15th.

Our Gary Police Department will not raid services and begin arresting groups of people, but our officers will continue to patrol the city. If necessary, our officers will interrupt in-person services that violate the Stay-At-Home order, which is still in place in Gary.

We will have more details on how to hold religious services and ceremonies as we move forward.

### **Updates**

# of Indiana residents COVID-19 tested:	120,496
# of Indiana residents COVID-19 positive:	21,870
# of Indiana COVID-19 related deaths:	1,264
# of Lake County residents COVID-19 tested:	10,498
# of Lake County residents COVID-19 positive:	2,233
# of Lake County COVID-19 related deaths:	106
# of Porter County residents COVID-19 tested:	2,090
# of Porter County residents COVID-19 positive:	281
# of Porter County COVID-19 related deaths:	7
# of Gary residents COVID-19 positive:	469
# of Gary COVID-19 related deaths:	15

### **Information**

If you are renting an apartment or home, you may have some protection from evictions during the COVID-19 national health emergency.

Under one of the federal COVID-19 responses, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, some renters living in multi-family properties that are backed by a certain type of mortgage, can get protection from eviction.

Renters who have questions on that protection should call the Fannie Mae Helpline at 877-542-9723 or the Freddie Mac Helpline at 800-404-3097.

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## **Conclusion**

We still are fighting a potentially deadly virus across the city. We still need your help.

My administration is working on getting City operations back up and running and opening up Gary's economy in a safe, responsible way.

If we remain patient and calm, we will get through this together.

