



Mayor
Jerome A. Prince
City Of Gary, IN



5-21-20
City of Gary COVID-19 Update

My team and I are closely monitoring the rate of new COVID-19 infections in the City of Gary. We understand part of the increase will be due to more testing being done in the City. However, we will continue to see visitors from Illinois and other areas coming to the City and raising the risk of exposure for our residents.

I will continue to use data on new infections in deciding to what extent we will reopen City operations, houses of worship and local businesses.

Until further notice, we expect Gary residents, businesses, city and faith leaders to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Residents 65 years of age and older and anyone with compromised immune systems and serious health conditions should continue to stay home as much as possible.
- Except for worship services, social gatherings should be kept to fewer than 25 people at a time.
- Anyone over the age of two should continue to wear masks.

City of Gary Operations

Department heads and managers soon will reach out to all City employees to share details of those employees' return to work.

Department heads and managers will return to City facilities beginning Wed., May 27. Their teams will return to City facilities Mon., Jun. 1. In some cases, department heads may require employees to work in staggered shifts.

All City department heads, managers and staff will be required to complete special training modules as they return to work. Department heads and managers will provide employees with more details.

City facilities will remain closed to the general public until Jun. 15.

Houses of Worship

All houses of worship should continue using good social distancing techniques.

Services should not exceed 100 people at a time.

Faith leaders should plan to space families and individuals at least six feet apart from each other.

Funerals, baptisms and other religious ceremonies may be conducted, but the events should not include more than 25 people at a time.

Local Businesses (Restaurants, bars with food service, retail shops, etc.)

All businesses that have customer traffic must post their maximum occupancy notices at all exterior doors, registers and other points-of-sale. They also must post their COVID-19 safety plans directly adjacent to their occupancy notices.

Workers must wear face masks and gloves while they are working with customers. Also, businesses must make clear if visitors are required to wear masks and gloves.

All businesses with customer traffic must limit the number of customers in their stores at all times to 25% of the occupancy rates listed on their exterior doors, registers and points-of-sale.

Nightclubs, bars and adult entertainment businesses will remain closed.

Updates

# of Indiana residents COVID-19 tested:	202,995
# of Indiana residents COVID-19 positive:	29,936
# of Indiana COVID-19 related deaths:	1,764
# of Lake County residents COVID-19 tested:	18,824
# of Lake County residents COVID-19 positive:	3,087
# of Lake County COVID-19 related deaths:	162
# of Porter County residents COVID-19 tested:	3,578
# of Porter County residents COVID-19 positive:	425
# of Porter County COVID-19 related deaths:	19
# of Gary residents COVID-19 positive:	604
# of Gary COVID-19 related deaths:	16

Closing

This weekend will be a busy one in Gary. We are opening our beaches for the Memorial Day weekend, and we certainly will draw many visitors from throughout Northwest Indiana and the Chicagoland area.

This high level of activity means we are highly likely to raise our residents' exposure to the COVID-19 virus. It is especially important we all remain vigilant and practice good social distancing techniques.

I know there are many questions about how Gary will move forward, but, please remember, if we stay calm and patient, we will get through this together.

