



To our Sportsmen and Women,

Understanding the need to act quickly and decisively in the face of a global pandemic, Illinois was the first state to fully close state parks, fish and wildlife areas, recreational areas and historic sites; the closure took effect March 15.

While it was an extremely difficult decision and one that we did not make lightly, we know it was the right one as we continue to see other states encounter large crowds in their state parks, as well as closures of other state parks, recreational areas and federal sites.

The IDNR is working closely with the Governor's Office and the Illinois Department of Public Health to monitor the situation and assess when we can safely reopen Illinois' outdoor and historic sites.

Presently, the Department is forced to cancel all upcoming scheduled events at state sites including, but not limited to, hunting and fishing on state-managed or -owned sites *while state parks, fish and wildlife areas, recreational areas and historic sites are closed.*

Our current administrative rules under the state's wildlife code prohibit the issuance of refunds or transfer of permits.

We understand the problems these laws create for our sportsmen and women and are reviewing all possible solutions.

However, hunters and anglers who wish to hunt or fish during the 'Stay at Home' order may do so provided they have the appropriate licensing and permits and are hunting or fishing on private property or at sites which are currently open to the public. We ask our hunters and anglers to help their fellow outdoorsmen and women by following all public health directives, including staying at least six feet away from other sportsmen and staying home if they're exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

**Colleen Callahan | Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources**