



Governor JB Pritzker
Cynthia Berg, Chair
Lisa McLeod, Acting Executive Director

100 West Randolph Street, Suite 7-801, Chicago, IL 60601
300 West Jefferson Street, Suite 300, Springfield, IL 62702

Illinois Liquor Control Commission

COVID-19 Compliance – Phase 5

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated June 11, 2021

Q. May bars and restaurants bars/restaurants, grocery stores, liquor stores, theaters/performing arts venues, seated spectating venues, outdoor festivals and markets, social event halls/rooms, and meetings/convention/trade show centers allow entry without Covid related capacity restrictions in Phase 5?

A. Yes. Capacity restrictions shall be governed by local capacity restriction laws without any capacity restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid pandemic.

Q. Is my business required to ensure all employees and patrons wear face coverings?

A. From the Illinois Department of Public Health:

For businesses and venues where everyone present is fully vaccinated, the state does not require face coverings and social distancing in both indoor and outdoor settings. Businesses and municipalities are permitted to continue requiring face coverings and social distancing as they deem appropriate.

For indoor businesses and venues where everyone present is not fully vaccinated, unvaccinated persons should wear a face covering and maintain six feet social distance. Businesses and venues may continue to require face coverings and/or social distancing.

At outdoor businesses and venues, unvaccinated persons may choose not to wear a face covering when able to maintain a six-foot social distance while outdoors, unless required to do so by a business or municipality.

See also this link for further information on Illinois Department of Public Health Guidance:

<http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19/Illinois%20Phase%205%20Guidelines.pdf>

Q. For a special event or special use permit application, am I required to submit a plan of operation with my application or restrict attendance at the event.

A. No.

Q. My license has expired or will expire in the upcoming months. Am I required to renew my license?

A. See renewal guidance below:

Extension of License Renewal Dates

Liquor licenses expire on the last day of each month. Due to the hardships on liquor license holders as a result of the recent COVID-19 mitigation actions, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission extends the renewal dates of State liquor licenses and defers the collection of license renewal fees in the following manner:

Liquor License Renewals

1. **All licenses with a renewal date of March 31, 2020 or after are automatically extended to December 31, 2021** (This action supersedes the Commission's prior license extension action through June 30, 2021).
2. No late fees will be charged until on or after January 1, 2021.
3. License renewal fees are due at time of renewal. This extension does not change the fee for renewal nor prorate any fees paid for renewal of a license, nor change the future renewal date of a license.
4. License fees are not refundable.

IMPORTANT: License holders do not have to wait to renew licenses. If a license holder chooses to renew a license when it originally expires or at any time between original license expiration and December 31, 2021, the license holder may renew a license online at [MyTax.Illinois.gov](https://mytax.illinois.gov). License holders are encouraged to renew licenses prior to December 31, 2021 in order to avoid administrative delays at the end of the fourth quarter of 2021. Do not wait until the day of license expiration to renew your license. If licenses expire due to administrative delays, there will be no further extensions granted.

IMPORTANT: License holders may not receive an additional notice to renew licenses. Even if license holders do not receive an additional renewal notice, all license holders are required to renew licenses and pay license fees no later than December 31, 2021.

NOTE 1: The dates cited above are subject to be extended if Executive Orders extend the prohibition on indoor dining and drinking. **BECAUSE THE RETURN TO PHASE 5 ENDED BUSINESS INTERRUPTIONS ON JUNE 11, 2021, THERE WILL NOT BE ANY FURTHER LICENSE EXTENSIONS GRANTED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2021. ALL LICENSE FEES FOR ALL PREVIOUS UNRENEWED PERIODS ARE REQUIRED TO BE PAID IN FULL BY DECEMBER 31, 2021.**

NOTE 2: **Licensees Conducting Retail Sales** – For all licensees that sell at retail, provide proof of a local liquor license (in addition to other required documents). Proof of the local license can be:

- A copy of the current unexpired license OR
- A copy of the written authorization of the local liquor control commission to extend the local license expiration date.

Q: Can we accept an expired driver's license or an identification card as proof of age when making a sale?

A: The Illinois Secretary of State has extended the expiration of all State of Illinois Drivers Licenses and ID Cards until August 1, 2021. This applies to licenses and IDs that expired beginning in March 2020. Accordingly, you may accept a State of Illinois driver's license or ID card which has expired between March 2020 and August 1, 2021 (or if the Secretary of State extends it longer). However, you may not accept licenses issued by other states or governmental entities that have expired. More information can be found from the Secretary of State, at <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2021/january/210104d1.pdf>.

Q. Do I still need to pay the debt I owe to a distributor?

A. Yes. State law does not forgive the debt owed by a retailer to a distributor. For beer purchases, retailers shall pay the distributor in full no later than the date of delivery. For wine and spirits purchases, the retailer shall pay the distributor no later than 30 days after the delivery date.

For debts incurred for wine and spirits purchases between October 1, 2020 and November 15, 2020, a distributor may continue to offer a retailer a payment plan but all payments are required to be paid in full no later than September 1, 2021.

Q. If I have an active on-premises or combined state liquor license but my business is closed do I still need to maintain liquor liability/dramshop coverage?

A. Yes, as of July 1, 2021. Local ordinances also may require dramshop liability coverage for off-premises only licenses.

Q. If I hold manufacturer's license, brew pub license, distilling pub license, or wine maker premises license, may I or a third party conduct off-site deliveries?

A. No, as of July 1, 2021

Q. If I hold an on-premises consumption only license, may I sell alcoholic liquor for off-premises consumption.

A. No, as of July 1, 2021.

Q. I have been issued a Special Use Permit for longer than 15 days. When will the Permit expire?

A. For the remainder of 2021, Special Use Permits will expire on the date indicated on the local commission license or approval. Starting January 1, 2022, Special Use Permit applications shall not exceed 15 days.