ILCC: New COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts to Take Effect in Region 7 (Kankakee and Will Counties)

Non-compliance may result in enforcement action

CHICAGO — New COVID-19 mitigation efforts go into effect August 26, 2020 in Region 7 in response to positivity rate averages greater than or equal to 8% for three consecutive days. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission is reminding licensed liquor establishments in Region 7 that failure to abide by the new mitigation efforts could result in immediate enforcement action against their license. This applies to Kankakee and Will Counties in Region 7.

The new Region 7 mitigations (available via this link) being imposed are listed below and go into effect on Wednesday, August 26:

- Bars and restaurants must be closed by 11 p.m.
- Bars and restaurants can serve patrons at tables with outdoor seating only. No indoor service or seating is allowed.
- No ordering, seating or congregating at the bar is allowed and it is recommended that bar stools be removed. No indoor service or seating is allowed.
- Bars and restaurants must limit parties to no more than six per table with outdoor seating only; tables should be six feet apart.
- Reservations for all groups are required.
- No standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting the premises.
- Meetings, social events and gatherings are limited to the lesser of 25 people or 25% of overall room capacity. (This restriction modifies the previous limitation of the lesser of 50 people or 50% of overall room capacity.)
- All reception halls are closed.
- No party buses are allowed.
- Gaming and casinos must be closed by 11:00 p.m. and are limited to 25% capacity.

Under the Illinois Liquor Control Act (235 ILCS 5/7-5), local liquor commissioners may temporarily cease the liquor license of a business found to be posing an immediate threat to the welfare of their community. Suspensions may last up to seven days. Click here for more information on a Local Liquor Control Commission’s Summary Authority.

The new mitigation efforts will remain in effect until Region 7 is able to reduce its seven-day rolling average test positivity rate to or below 6.5% for 14 consecutive days. The 6.5% positivity rate target was selected by IDPH because it signifies a committed and aggressive reduction in the amount of infections in the region. When the region is able to meet the 6.5% sustained positivity rate target, the region will be allowed to return to regular Phase 4 guidelines without these enhanced mitigations.

Information on the State of Illinois’ central website for COVID-19 is available at coronavirus.illinois.gov. For additional information related to COVID-19 and the ILCC, please visit the ILCC’s website at: www.illinois.gov/ilcc.