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Documenting Illinois' path to recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, 2020-2021

(Redirected from [Documenting Illinois' reopening and path to recovery from the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020](#))

Ballotpedia's [coverage](#) of COVID-19 includes how federal, state, and local governments are responding, and how those responses are influencing election rules and operations, political campaigns, the economy, schools, and more.

This article contains a [general timeline of noteworthy state government responses](#) to the coronavirus pandemic since April 2020. It also includes details on **three** specific types of state responses to the pandemic:

- [Statewide travel restrictions](#)
- [School reopenings and closures](#)
- [Statewide mask requirements](#)

Additionally, the article includes:

- [Noteworthy coronavirus lawsuits](#)



Illinois coronavirus coverage

[Debate in Illinois](#)

[Illinois government responses](#)

[School reopenings in Illinois](#)

- [Diagnosed or quarantined officials and candidates](#)

Response news updates

The following section provides a timeline of Illinois' reopening activity beginning in April 2020. The entries, which come from our [Documenting America's Path to Recovery](#) newsletter, are sorted by month in reverse chronological order. The date shown is the day that we wrote about them in the newsletter. They appear exactly as they appeared in the newsletter.

August 2021

- **August 5:** On Aug. 4, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) masks would be required in all Illinois public schools for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

July 2021

- **July 29:** On July 27, the Illinois Department of Public Health [adopted](#) recent CDC guidance recommending all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear masks in public indoor settings located in areas with substantial and high coronavirus transmission rates.
- **July 13:** On July 9, state Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala [issued](#) a declaration requiring in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Remote instruction will be available to students who are unable to receive a coronavirus vaccine.
- **July 8:** On July 7, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) vaccination incentives for frontline state employees. Employees who have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine can enter a lottery to win cash bonuses, airline vouchers, sports tickets, lifetime fishing and hunting licenses, and passes to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the State Fair.

June 2021

- **June 18:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) the All in for the Win vaccination incentive program. All residents with at least one dose of a vaccine are automatically entered to win drawings for 43 cash prizes, including three \$1 million jackpots and 20 scholarship awards. The drawings will take place between July 8 and Aug. 26. For more information, [click here](#).

State government responses

[Multistate agreements](#) • [Non-governmental plans](#)

Debate over responses to the coronavirus pandemic

[Elections](#) • [Religious service restrictions](#) • [School closures](#) • [State lockdowns](#) • [Debates by state](#)

Related coronavirus coverage

[Changes to elections](#) • [Federal responses](#) • [State responses](#)

Reopening plans by state

Alabama ▼

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- **June 11:** The state [is entering Phase 5](#) of reopening June 11. The statewide mask requirement is ending, and all remaining businesses and events can expand to full capacity.
- **June 7:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced Phase 5](#) reopening guidance, effective June 11. On that day, the statewide mask requirement will end, and large events and gatherings can expand to full capacity.
- **June 3:** On June 2, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [signed a law](#) allowing businesses that serve alcohol to provide a free drink to patrons with proof of vaccination. The law also extends pickup and delivery allowances for businesses selling cocktails.
- **June 2:** On June 1, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) said the state was [scheduled](#) to move to Phase 5 coronavirus restrictions on June 11. Phase 5 would allow for large gatherings of all sizes to resume and remove capacity restrictions for businesses, schools, and recreation.

May 2021

- **May 18:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [signed](#) an executive order exempting fully vaccinated individuals from most indoor mask requirements.
- **May 14:**
 - The state [is moving](#) to the [Bridge Phase](#) of reopening on May 14. To see changes to business restrictions in the Bridge Phase, [click here](#).
 - Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) he would amend the state's mask requirements to align with the CDC's guidance. Pritzker did not say when he would update the order.
 - Pritzker also [announced](#) a partnership with Six Flags to give free tickets to residents who get vaccinated.
- **May 7:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) the state will move to the [Bridge Phase](#) of reopening on May 14. To see changes to business restrictions in the Bridge Phase, [click here](#).

April 2021

- **April 12:** All residents age 16 and older [are eligible](#) for vaccinations starting April 12. Previously, everyone 65 and older was eligible for vaccination.

March 2021

- **March 19:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) all residents age 16 and older will be eligible for vaccinations starting April 12. Pritzker also announced the Bridge Phase between Phase 4 and Phase 5 of reopening. The state can start the phase once 70% of residents age 65 and older receive at least one vaccine dose, ICU rates remain below a certain level, and hospitalizations, deaths, and cases are steady or decline over a 28-day period. To learn more about the Bridge Phase, click [here](#).
- **March 15:** School teachers and staff [became eligible](#) to receive a coronavirus vaccine Monday, March 15.

- **March 4:** Residents age 65 and older [can start](#) scheduling appointments to receive vaccinations at the United Center federal vaccination site on March 4. Other people in Phase 1b, including anyone with high-risk conditions and some frontline essential workers, will be able to schedule appointments starting March 7. The site will start administering vaccinations on March 10.
- **March 1:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) a federal vaccination site will open at [United Center](#) starting March 10. The site will be able to administer up to 6,000 vaccines a day.

February 2021

- **February 25:** People ages 16 and older with state-defined high-risk conditions [are eligible](#) for vaccinations starting Feb. 25. The state's list of qualifying conditions includes cancer, obesity, and diabetes.
- **February 11:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) people age 16 and older with state-defined high-risk conditions will be eligible for vaccinations starting Feb. 25. The state's [list](#) of qualifying conditions includes cancer, obesity, and diabetes.
- **February 4:** On Feb. 2, Region 4 (Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, and Washington counties) [moved](#) out of [Tier 1 mitigation](#) into regular [Phase 4](#).
- **February 3:** On Feb. 2, Region 10 (Cook County suburbs) [moved](#) out of [Tier 1 mitigation](#) into regular [Phase 4](#).
- **February 2:** On Feb. 1, Region 7 (Kankakee and Will counties) [moved](#) out of [Tier 1 mitigation](#) into regular [Phase 4](#).
- **February 1:** On Jan. 31, Region 11 (the city of Chicago) [moved](#) out of [Tier 1 mitigation](#) into regular [Phase 4](#).

January 2021

- **January 27:** [Regions](#) 8 and 9 [moved](#) from Tier 2 to [Tier 1](#) (least restrictive) mitigation on Jan. 26. Region 4 (including Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, and Washington counties) is the only part of the state that still has [Tier 2](#) restrictions.
- **January 26:** On Jan. 25, [regions](#) 1 and 2 [moved](#) out of [Tier 1 mitigation](#) into regular [Phase 4](#).
- **January 25:**
 - On Jan. 22, [regions](#) 10 and 11 [moved](#) to Tier 1 (least restrictive) mitigation, and Region 4 [moved](#) to Tier 2. Every region has moved out of Tier 3 (most restrictive) mitigation.
 - Gov. J.B. Pritzker [announced](#) Phase 1B of vaccine distribution begins Jan. 25. The phase includes individuals age 65 and older and frontline essential workers.
- **January 22:** The Department of Health [announced](#) [Region 6](#) is no longer under Tier 1 mitigation restrictions and is now in [Phase 4](#) of the Restore Illinois plan. Region 7 moved from Tier 3 (most restrictive) to [Tier 1](#) (least restrictive) mitigation, which allows limited indoor dining at bars and restaurants. Region 4 is the only of the state's 11 regions that is still in [Tier 3](#) mitigation.
- **January 19:** The Department of Health [adjusted](#) the state's mitigation metrics to reflect additional hospital staff and capacity. The change allowed regions 8, 9, 10, and 11 to begin operating under Tier 2 mitigation restrictions. Regions 1, 2, and 6 [were allowed](#) to move to Tier 1 (the least restrictive mitigation level), and regions 3 and 5 were allowed to resume

Phase 4 of the [Restore Illinois](#) plan with no additional mitigation measures. Before the adjustment, the entire state was under Tier 3 (most restrictive) mitigation since November 20, 2020. For more information on what activities are permitted in each mitigation tier, [click here](#).

- **January 12:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [extended](#) the state's coronavirus emergency order through Feb. 6.
- **January 7:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) [Phase 1B](#) of the state's vaccination plan will include individuals 65 years of age and older, non-medical essential frontline workers (including first responders, school staff, and grocery store workers), and inmates. The press release did not include a target date for Phase 1B to begin.

November 2020

- **November 18:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker [announced](#) additional statewide mitigation measures, effective Nov. 20. Restaurants and bars will not be able to offer indoor service, casinos and museums will be required to close, and gyms will have to cease indoor group classes. Retailers will have to reduce capacity from 50% to 25%.
- **November 12:** Additional mitigation measures for regions 5, 7, and 8 [took effect](#) Nov. 11. Indoor and outdoor social events and gatherings are limited to 10 people. Party size limits at bars and restaurants were reduced from 10 people to six.
- **November 6:** The state [implemented](#) mitigation policies in Region 2 [starting](#) Nov. 4. Bars and restaurants cannot offer indoor service, and outdoor service has to close by 11 p.m. every night. Gatherings are limited to the lesser of 25 people or 25% of a room's capacity. All 11 of the state's regions now have mitigation restrictions in effect.

October 2020

- **October 20:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced mitigation policies will be implemented in Region 5, starting Oct. 22. Bars and restaurants will not be able to offer indoor service, and outdoor service will have to close by 11 p.m. every night. Gatherings will be limited to the lesser of 25 people or 25% of a room's capacity.
- **October 16:** The Illinois Department of Public Health [added](#) eight more counties to the state's warning level classification, bringing the total number of warning-level counties to 34. The state uses the classification system to identify counties that may need additional mitigation measures.
- **October 9:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) Region 4 (the Metro East region) is returning to Phase 4 of reopening at 5 p.m. on Oct. 9. The region had rolled back reopening on Aug. 18 due to increased coronavirus case numbers. The Illinois Department of Public Health also [removed](#) two counties from the state's warning level classification, bringing the total number of warning-level counties to 26.
- **October 2:** The Illinois Department of Public Health [added](#) 11 more counties to the state's warning level classification, bringing the total number of warning-level counties to 28. The state uses the classification system to identify counties that may need additional mitigation measures.

September 2020

- **September 30:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) additional mitigation measures will be into effect in Region 1 (Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties) starting Oct. 3. Under the new restrictions, bars and restaurants will not be able to offer indoor service and gatherings will be limited to 25 people.
- **September 18:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) Region 7 (Will and Kankakee counties) can resume indoor dining at bars and restaurants starting on Sept. 18. The Illinois Department of Public Health [announced](#) 24 counties are still at the state's warning level for coronavirus infections.

August 2020

- **August 28:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) the Department of Health added 10 more counties to the state's warning level classification, bringing the total number of warning-level counties to 30. The state uses the classification system to identify counties that might need additional mitigation measures.
- **August 26:** New restrictions [are taking effect](#) for Region 7 (Will and Kankakee counties) on Aug. 26. As part of the new restrictions, bars and restaurants cannot offer indoor dining, social events and gatherings are limited to 25 people or 25% of a room's capacity (whichever is less), and casinos have to close no later than 11 p.m. each night. Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) also [announced](#) an additional statewide order requiring restaurant and bar patrons to wear a mask anytime they interact with a server, including whenever beverages or food are brought to a table. The rule is also effective August 26.

July 2020

- **July 29:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) guidance for youth and adult recreational sports.
- **July 15:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) new criteria the state will use to determine if additional mitigation measures are necessary in a region. The indicators include a sustained increase in the 7-day rolling positivity rate average or an 8% or greater positivity rate sustained over three consecutive days.
- **July 7:** The Department of Public Health [approved](#) Illinois High School Association guidelines for school sporting events.

June 2020

- **June 26:** The state is [moving](#) into the fourth phase of reopening on June 26. Phase 4 allows gatherings of up to 50 people. Indoor recreation venues (like bowling alleys and theaters), indoor dining services, and outdoor spectator sports facilities can reopen with limits.
- **June 22:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker [announced](#) the state was on track to enter the fourth phase of reopening starting June 26. Phase 4 will allow gatherings of up to 50 people. Indoor recreation venues (like bowling alleys and theaters), indoor dining services, and outdoor spectator sports facilities will be able to reopen with limits.
- **June 17:** On June 16, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [signed](#) SB 863 and HB2238 into law, requiring local election officials to deliver vote-by-mail applications to all voters who cast ballots in the 2018 general election, the 2019 consolidated election, or the

2020 primary election. The legislation also expanded early voting hours at permanent polling places and authorized curbside voting. The law's provisions are set to apply to the Nov. 3 general election.

- **June 5:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [announced](#) public and private summer school programs could begin reopening on June 4. State officials also said community-based coronavirus testing sites would begin opening to everyone, regardless of symptoms.

May 2020

- **May 29:** The state's stay-at-home order expired on May 29, making it the 30th state to end a stay-at-home order. Illinois also [started the third phase](#) of its reopening plan, which allows non-essential retailers and manufacturers to begin reopening. Restaurants can also reopen for outdoor dining and gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed.
- **May 26:** State officials released a [toolkit](#) and restrictions for businesses reopening in the third phase of the Restore Illinois plan. Phase Three is expected to begin on May 29.
- **May 21:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced additional [guidance](#) for Phase Three of the state's reopening plan. He said restaurants will be able to offer limited outdoor seating, campgrounds and state parks will be allowed to open, and golfers will be allowed to play in groups of up to four. Other outdoor recreational activities like paintball will be permitted to resume operations with distancing and gathering limits. On May 19, Pritzker [said](#) the state was on track to enter Phase Three starting May 29.
- **May 18:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker [filed](#) an emergency rule on Friday, May 15 that allows business owners who violate the state's stay-at-home order to be charged with a Class A misdemeanor.
- **May 6:** Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) [released](#) his [Restore Illinois](#) plan. The plan has five phases and splits the state's 11 existing Emergency Medical Services Regions into [four reopening regions](#). The regions may reopen independently of one another. All regions are currently in Phase Two, which allows for retail curbside pickup and delivery as well as outdoor activities such as golf, boating, and fishing. Phase Three will allow manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops, and salons to reopen with capacity limits, along with gatherings of fewer than 10 people. The plan does not give a timeline for advancing through the phases.

Vaccine distribution

This section contains a table of quick facts on the state's vaccine distribution plan and a timeline of noteworthy events, including updates on vaccine availability for new groups of individuals, changes to state distribution plans, and much more. If you know of a noteworthy story we are missing, please email us at editor@ballotpedia.org.

The [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) released a [distribution plan](#) on October 16, 2020.

Quick facts

Illinois state vaccination plan quick information

[hide]

What governing entities are responsible for vaccine allocation and distribution?^[1]

[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

Where can I find a quick breakdown of phases in my state?

[Vaccine Distribution: Phases 1A and 1B](#)

Where can I find the distribution plan?

[Illinois Mass Vaccination Planning Guide](#)

When was the plan first released to the public?

October 16, 2020

When was the plan most recently updated?

January 10, 2021

Where can I find answers to frequently asked questions?

[COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Where can I find data related to the coronavirus vaccine in my state?

[COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Data](#)

Where is the state health department's homepage?

[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

Where can I find additional information about the state's vaccine distribution?

[The COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan in Illinois](#) -
AARP

Timeline

- **June 17, 2021:** Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced the All in for the Win vaccination incentive program. He said all residents with at least one dose of a vaccine would be automatically entered to win drawings for 43 cash prizes, including three \$1 million jackpots and 20 scholarship awards. The drawings were scheduled between July 8 and Aug. 26. For more information, [click here](#).
- **May 13, 2021:** Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced a partnership with Six Flags to give free tickets to residents getting vaccinated.^[2]
- **April 12, 2021:** Illinois residents 16 and older became eligible for vaccinations. Previously, everyone 65 and older was eligible for vaccination.^[3]

- **March 18, 2021:** Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced all residents age 16 and older would be eligible for vaccinations starting April 12. [\[4\]](#)
- **March 10, 2021:** In Illinois, a federal vaccination site opened at United Center capable of administering up to 6,000 vaccines a day. [\[5\]](#)
- **March 3, 2021:** Illinois residents age 65 and older started scheduling appointments to receive vaccinations at the United Center federal vaccination site. Other people in Phase 1b, including anyone with high-risk conditions and some frontline essential workers, were scheduled to start making appointments beginning March 7. The site was scheduled to start administering vaccinations on March 10. [\[6\]](#)
- **March 1, 2021:** Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced a federal vaccination site would open at United Center starting March 10. [\[7\]](#)
- **February 25, 2021:** In Illinois, people ages 16 and older with state-defined high-risk conditions became eligible for vaccinations. The state's list of qualifying conditions included cancer, obesity, and diabetes. [\[8\]](#)
- **February 10, 2021:** Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced people age 16 and older with state-defined high-risk conditions will be eligible for vaccinations starting Feb. 25. The state's list of qualifying conditions included cancer, obesity, and diabetes. [\[9\]](#)
- **January 25, 2021:** Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced Phase 1B of vaccine distribution began Jan. 25. The phase was scheduled to include individuals age 65 and older and frontline essential workers. [\[10\]](#)
- **January 6, 2021:** Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) announced Phase 1B of the state's vaccination plan would include individuals 65 years of age and older, non-medical essential frontline workers (including first responders, school staff, and grocery store workers), and inmates. The press release did not include a target date for Phase 1B to begin. [\[11\]](#)

Statewide travel restrictions

See also: [*Travel restrictions issued by states in response to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020-2021*](#)

As of September 7, 2021, Illinois had not issued any travel restrictions.

More information can be found at the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) .

- **July 6, 2020:** Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Allison Arwady issued an order requiring travelers entering the city of **Chicago** from states experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases to self-quarantine for 14 days. The order applied to travelers from the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. [\[12\]](#)

School reopenings and closures

See also: [School responses in Illinois to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)

Schools in Illinois were closed to in-person instruction on March 13, 2020, and remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. To notify us of when schools were allowed to reopen statewide, [email us](#) . The timeline below lists statewide responses we tracked.

- **June 29, 2021:** At the end of the school year, [Burbio](#) reported a majority of schools were in-person in Illinois. [\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)
- **Sept. 10, 2020:** At the beginning of the school year, [Burbio](#) reported most schools were using virtual or hybrid learning in Illinois. [\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)
- **June 23, 2020:** Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) released guidance for reopening schools. The guidance required face coverings for all students and staff, prohibited gatherings of more than 50 people, and established temperature screenings and social distancing protocols. [\[17\]](#)
- **April 17, 2020:** Pritzker closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [\[18\]](#)
- **March 31, 2020:** Pritzker announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 7, was extended through April 30. [\[19\]](#)
- **March 20, 2020:** Pritzker announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 7. [\[20\]](#)
- **March 13, 2020:** Pritzker closed all schools across the state until the end of March. [\[21\]](#)

Statewide mask requirements

See also: [State-level mask requirements in response to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020](#)

On April 23, 2020, Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) included a face-covering requirement in an extension of the state's stay-at-home order. The

Illinois Department of Public Health issued guidance for individuals on the use of face coverings.

Pritzker signed an executive order exempting fully vaccinated individuals from most indoor mask requirements on May 17.

On June 11, 2021, Pritzker ended the statewide mask requirement.^[22]

On Aug. 26, Pritzker announced he would reinstate an indoor mask requirement for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, effective Aug. 30.^[23]

On Feb. 9, Pritzker announced he would end the statewide indoor mask requirement on Feb. 28.^[24]

- [Click here to expand the state's original mask order](#)





SIREN_Memo_-
_IDPH_Guidance_for_the_Use_of_Masks_by_the_General_Public_04.06.2020.pdf

Open

See also: [Lawsuits about state actions and policies in response to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020-2021](#)

Bailey v. Pritzker: On April 27, 2020, Clay County Circuit Court Judge Michael McHaney granted a restraining order against Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's (D) 30-day extension of the state's stay-at-home order. According to CBS News Chicago, the restraining order applies only to the plaintiff in the case, state Rep. Darren Bailey (R). This means that Bailey does not have to follow the order past its prior expiration date. The order also gives other state residents the opportunity to join in the lawsuit or file their own. Pritzker said he would appeal the ruling. Pritzker appealed the order.^[25]

Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church v. Pritzker: On May 16, 2020, a three-judge panel of the [United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit](#) denied a motion for a temporary stay against Gov. J.B. Pritzker's (D) Executive Order 2020-32, which generally barred gatherings of more than 10 people, including religious gatherings. In an unsigned order, the panel wrote, "The Executive Order does not discriminate against religious activities, nor does it show hostility toward religion. It appears instead to impose neutral and generally applicable rules."^[26]

The panel did grant the plaintiffs' motion for an expedited appeal. The suit originated in the [United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois](#). The plaintiffs, Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church and Logos Baptist Ministries, alleged that the governor's order violated their First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion. They motioned for an injunction barring enforcement of the order. On May 13, 2020, Judge [Robert Gettleman](#) rejected the motion, writing in his order, "Plaintiffs' request for an injunction, and their blatant refusal to follow the mandates of the Order are both ill-founded and selfish. An injunction would risk the lives of plaintiffs' congregants, as well as the lives of their family members, friends, co-workers and other members of their communities with whom they come in contact. Their interest in communal services cannot and does not outweigh the health and safety of the public."^[27]

Illinois Republican Party v. Pritzker: On June 15, 2020, the Illinois Republican Party, together with three local Republican groups, filed suit against Governor J.B. Pritzker (D) in the [United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois](#). In their complaint, Republicans argued that their First and Fourteenth Amendment rights had been violated because, "unlike churches, political parties are barred from gathering in groups greater than 10 under the Governor's Executive Order 2020-38." Republicans said that "[w]hen the state grants access to one set of speakers, it must give equal access and treatment to all speakers of a similar character," contrasting their treatment to both that of churches and protesters. They have asked the court to enjoin the state from enforcing Executive Order 2020-38 against political parties. Pritzker's spokeswoman, Jordan Abudayyeh, said, "[As] the Republicans who attended protests against the public health guidance are well aware, the State has never prevented people from exercising their First Amendment rights."^{[28][29]}

On July 2, 2020, Judge [Sara Lee Ellis](#), of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, denied Republicans' motion for an injunction against the gathering-size restriction (which was subsequently raised to 50 people). Republicans appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. On Sept. 3, a three-judge panel rejected the appeal, finding that precedent "does not compel the Governor to treat all gatherings alike." The panel further concluded that "free exercise of religion enjoys express constitutional protection, and the Governor was entitled to carve out some room for religion, even while he declined to do so for other activities." Finally, the court emphasized that re-subjecting religious gatherings to the mandatory cap would "leave the

Republicans no better off than they are today." Chief Judge [Diane Wood](#) and Judges [Amy St. Eve](#) and [Amy Coney Barrett](#) sat on the panel and were unanimous in their decision.^{[30][31]}

Daniel Suhr, counsel for the Republican Party, said in a statement, "We are disappointed in the decision, respectfully disagree with it, and are considering our options."^[32]

Pritzker v. Board of Education of Hutsonville CUSD #1: On July 16, 2020, Illinois Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) filed suit in Sangamon County Circuit Court against three schools that had announced their refusal to comply with mandatory COVID-19 health and safety protocols for students and faculty returning to the classroom in the fall. At issue in the case were Executive Order 2020-05, which closed schools across the state, and Executive Orders 2020-40 and 2020-44, which allowed schools to resume in-person instruction subject to public health directives issued by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). IDPH and ISBE guidance stipulated that public and nonpublic schools implement certain health and safety measures before reopening. This included a requirement that individuals in school facilities wear face coverings. The preemptive suit came after the defendants, a public school district and two private schools, informed the state that they would not abide by the guidance, arguing that it "is unlawful, is arbitrary and unreasonable, and was issued without legal authority." Pritzker countered in his complaint that the Illinois Constitution and the Emergency Management Act provided him emergency powers during disasters, and thus formed a legal basis for his school guidance. Pritzker's suit sought a judicial declaration confirming the legality of his executive orders and the reopening guidance, as well as injunctive relief requiring that the three schools cease their refusal to comply with the orders and guidance.^[33]

Officials and candidates diagnosed with or quarantined due to coronavirus

See also: [Government official, politician, and candidate deaths, diagnoses, and quarantines due to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020-2021](#)

The table below lists officials or candidates who have been diagnosed with or quarantined due to coronavirus. The most recent announcements appear first.

Name	Office	Date	Status
Sam Yingling	Illinois House of Representatives District 62	September 21, 2020	On September 21, a spokesperson for Yingling announced that he had tested positive for coronavirus and began self-quarantining. ^[34]
David Welter	Illinois House of Representatives District 75	October 16, 2020	Welter announced he had tested positive for coronavirus. ^[35]

Name	Office	Date	Status
Mike Bost	U.S. House Illinois District 12	October 12, 2020	Bost announced that he had tested positive for coronavirus. [36]
Chris Welch	Illinois House of Representatives District 7	November 29, 2020	Welch announced that he had tested positive for coronavirus. [37]
Cheri Bustos	U.S. House Illinois District 17	November 16, 2020	Bustos announced that she had tested positive for coronavirus. [38]
Edgar Gonzalez Jr.	Illinois House of Representatives District 21	May 18, 2020	On May 18, 2020, Gonzalez announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19. [39]
J.B. Pritzker	Governor of Illinois	May 11, 2020	Pritzker announced he would self-quarantine after a member of his staff tested positive for coronavirus. Pritzker tested negative for the virus. [40] He entered quarantine a second time on September 29, 2020. [41]
Betsy Londrigan	Candidate, U.S. House Illinois District 13	March 15, 2020	Londrigan announced she would self-quarantine after she had been exposed to a person who had tested positive for coronavirus. [42]
Kwame Raoul	Attorney General of Illinois	June 16, 2020	Raoul announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19, the diseases caused by the novel coronavirus. [43]
Carrie Austin	Chicago City Council Ward 34	July 13, 2020	Austin announced that she had tested positive for coronavirus. [44]
Maurice West II	Illinois House of Representatives District 67	January 13, 2022	West announced on January 13, 2022, that he tested positive for COVID-19. He said he was vaccinated at the time he contracted the virus. [45]
Brad Schneider	U.S. House Illinois District 10	January 12, 2021	Schneider announced that he had tested positive for coronavirus. [46]
Lori Lightfoot	Mayor of Chicago, Illinois	January 11, 2022	Lightfoot announced on January 11, 2022, that she tested positive for COVID-19. She said she was vaccinated at the time she contracted the virus. [47]
Jim Langfelder	Mayor of Springfield, Illinois	January 10, 2022	Langfelder announced on January 10, 2022, that he tested positive for COVID-19. He said he was vaccinated at the time he contracted the

Name	Office	Date	Status
			virus. [48]
Juliana Stratton	Lieutenant Governor of Illinois	December 30, 2021	Stratton announced on December 30, 2021, that she tested positive for COVID-19. She said she was vaccinated at the time she contracted the virus. [49]
Thaddeus Jones	Illinois House of Representatives District 29	December 3, 2021	Jones announced on December 3, 2021, that he tested positive for COVID-19. He said he was vaccinated at the time he contracted the virus. [50]
Bobby Rush	U.S. House Illinois District 1	December 27, 2021	Rush announced on December 27, 2021, that he tested positive for COVID-19. He said he was vaccinated at the time he contracted the virus. [51]
Jan Schakowsky	U.S. House Illinois District 9	December 23, 2021	Schakowsky announced on December 23, 2021, that she tested positive for COVID-19. She said she was vaccinated at the time she contracted the virus. [52]
Michael Scott Jr.	Chicago City Council Ward 24	August 6, 2020	Scott announced that he had tested positive for coronavirus. [53]
Rodney Davis (Illinois)	U.S. House Illinois District 13	August 5, 2020	Davis announced that he tested positive for coronavirus. [54]
Dan McConchie	Illinois State Senate District 26	August 20, 2021	McConchie announced he tested positive for COVID-19. He said he was vaccinated at the time he contracted the virus. [55]
Don Harmon (Illinois)	Illinois State Senate District 39	August 16, 2021	Harmon announced he tested positive for COVID-19. He said he was fully vaccinated before he contracted the virus. [56]
Kimberly Lightford	Illinois State Senate District 4	April 14, 2021	Lightford announced she tested positive for COVID-19. [57]

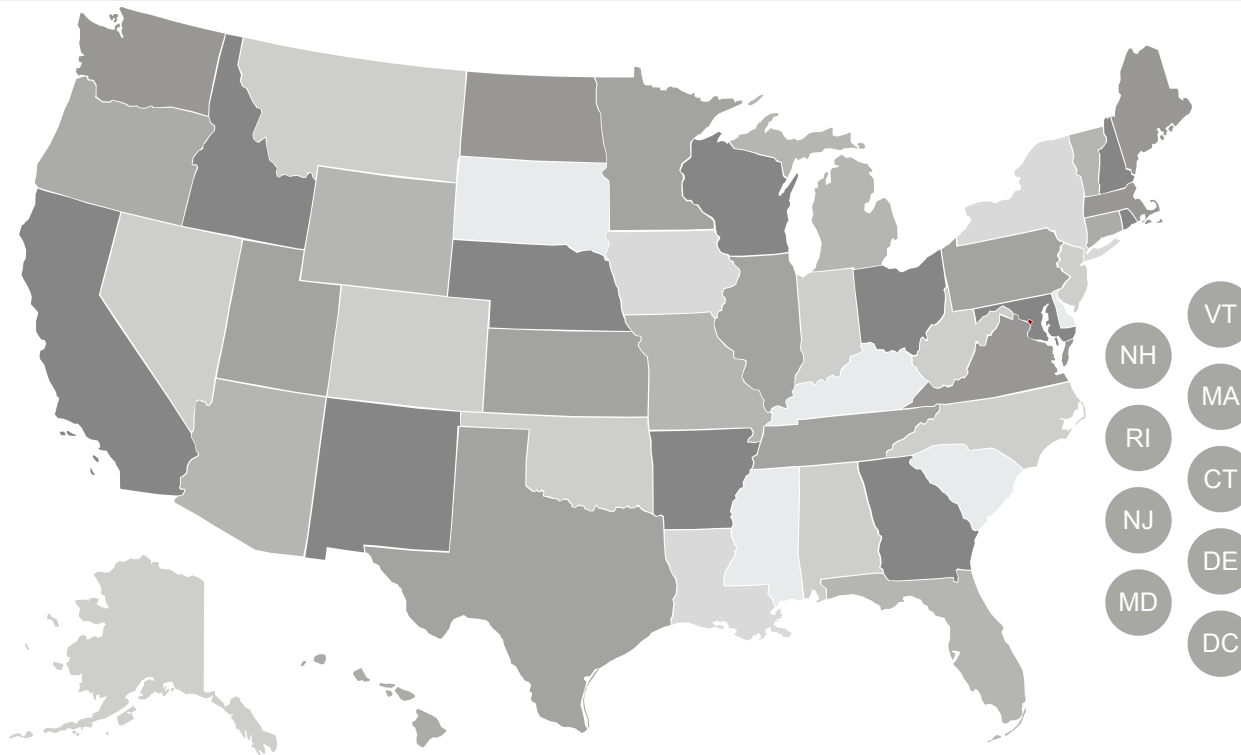
Paths to recovery by state

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Other state government responses

To view previous coverage areas, including changes to 2020 election dates and policies, initial stay-at-home orders, coronavirus-related legislation, and much more, click a state in the map below.



General resources

The chart below shows coronavirus statistics from countries across the world. The information is provided by [Real Clear Politics](#).

Click the links below to explore official resources related to the coronavirus outbreak.

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations, Our World in Data](#) (Number of vaccines administered)
- [Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker, New York Times](#) (Progress of vaccine trials)

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Footnotes

1. *Found on page 13 of the state's vaccination plan.*

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

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