

Iowa State Updates

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: None

Food Service: Restaurants reopened statewide on May 15 with these [guidelines](#) in place. Bars were permitted to reopen at 50% capacity on May 28. On June 12, Gov. Reynolds lifted the 50% capacity limit.

**The full list of Iowa Reopening Criteria/Operation Restrictions can be found [here](#).

**The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship COVID-19 resources page can be found [here](#).

November 17

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced Monday that more than 200 local meat and poultry processors have been awarded Meat Processing and Expansion grants through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. These small businesses can use the funds to purchase or upgrade equipment, develop a direct-to-consumer sales strategy or participate in food safety certification training ([source](#)).

Kim Reynolds announced in a news conference on Monday evening that Iowans will be required to wear masks when indoors and unable to social distance starting Tuesday, along with other new restrictions ([source](#)).

November 10

They faced different disruptions, but Iowa's egg and turkey producers are recovering from pandemic-added markets ([source](#)).

October 27 & November 3

N/A

October 20

Thousands of foreign farm workers who spend summers in Iowa fields detasseling corn, picking melons, building animal confinements and caring for millions of pigs and other livestock could see their pay cut in half, according to a lawsuit advocates filed Wednesday ([source](#)).

An anonymous donor has contributed \$750,000 to help immigrant farmworkers and meatpacking-plant workers in Iowa who are struggling with lost income, health care costs and other challenges tied to the COVID-19 pandemic ([source](#)).

Ohio State Updates

Stay at Home Order/Shelter in Place Order: expired May 29, and is now considered voluntary. The Urgent Health Advisory can be found [here](#).

Restaurants: Outdoor service resumed May 15. Dine-in service resumed May 21. The rules and guidelines for reopening and sanitation can be found [here](#).

**The Ohio Department of Agriculture's COVID-19 information and resources can be found [here](#).

November 10 & November 17

N/A

November 3

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that in the first month of the application period, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) approved more than \$7 billion in payments to producers in the second round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. CFAP 2 provides agricultural producers with financial assistance to help absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic ([source](#)).

October 27

Farmers are encouraged to contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2.0 (CFAP 2.0). The application deadline is December 11, 2020 ([source](#)).

October 13 & October 20

N/A

October 6

Columbus City Council voted unanimously Monday to repeal a city ordinance halting the sale of food and alcohol at restaurants and bars at 10 p.m., and closing for all on-site business at 11 p.m. ([source](#)).

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$2.2 trillion COVID-relief bill with numerous provisions sought by the National Pork Producers Council ([source](#)).

Indiana State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired statewide May 4 – expired in Marion County on May 15.

Restaurants: Restaurants in all counties except Marion, Lake and Cass were able to reopen at 50% capacity on May 4. Restaurants in Marion, Lake and Cass counties have all been able to reopen since. Restaurants are currently operating at 75% capacity and bars are operating at 50% capacity. On Saturday, September 26, limitations on bars and restaurants were lifted. In Marion County, Mayor Hogsett said that – starting Nov. 15 – bars and entertainment venues will be limited to 25% capacity indoors. Guidance for restaurants can be found [here](#).

**Guidance for businesses and employers can be found [here](#).

**The Indiana Farm Bureau's COVID-19 resource page can be found [here](#).

November 17

Strack & Van Til donated five times as many turkeys as normal to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana to help families struggling with the coronavirus pandemic ([source](#)).

According to Gov. Holcomb's latest executive order, businesses that don't comply with the statewide mask mandate could be shut down and the owners prosecuted ([source](#)).

November 10

N/A

November 3

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch announced \$4 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding has been allocated for the Indiana Meat Processing Expansion and Development Grant Program ([source](#)).

October 27

A week ago, only one of the 11 regions in the governor's reopening plan was forbidden to have indoor dining, bar service and crowds of more than 25 people. By Wednesday (Oct. 28), more than half of the state's population will be living under the stricter rules ([source](#)).

The government of Indianapolis is offering a grant to businesses to help them get outdoor dining set up for the winter months([source](#)).

Pennsylvania State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired statewide May 8 – Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Northampton, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties remained under the order through June 4.

Restaurants: Counties in the green phase may reopen bars and restaurants at 25% occupancy for dine-in service and outdoor service if they follow the appropriate [guidelines](#). On-site alcohol sales at bars and restaurants are banned in Allegheny county. Gov. Tim Wolf allowed restaurants to increase indoor capacity to 50% on September 21 if they self-certify by October 5. Starting Nov. 20, bars and restaurants in Philadelphia will not be permitted to have indoor parties or indoor dining.

**Guidelines for essential business and operations employers can be found [here](#).

**The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s COVID-19 guidance and resources page can be found [here](#).

November 17

On Monday, Philadelphia city officials announced that they would roll back the modest concessions granted over the last several months, effective Friday, eliminating indoor dining altogether and limiting outdoor tables to parties of four people who live in the same household ([source](#)).

November 10

Across the state from Oct. 19-25, the Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Food Safety performed 15 coronavirus complaint-driven inspections. Nineteen coronavirus complaints were referred to local and county health jurisdictions. Sixty-one complaint-driven educational letters and one formal warning letter were issued ([source](#)).

November 3

N/A

October 27

After a debate that included claims about saving businesses and saving lives, a sharply divided Pennsylvania House late Tuesday afternoon narrowly failed to override Gov. Tom Wolf’s veto of a bill to loosen coronavirus restrictions on bars and restaurants ([source](#)).

California State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: Yes – no official end date.

Food Service: On July 13, Gov. Newsom ordered all counties in the state to close all bars and the indoor operations of businesses including restaurants, movie theaters and museums, as Covid-19 cases continue to climb. The businesses will be allowed to operate outdoors, if possible, except for bars, he said. Current guidance can be found for restaurants [here](#).

** The California Climate & Agriculture Network's COVID-19 resource page can be found [here](#).

November 3, November 10 & November 17

N/A

October 27

Restaurants in Alameda County resumed indoor dining Friday for the first time in more than seven months. It's the last part of the Bay Area to have maintained such restrictions for so long, and one of only two counties where indoor dining remained off-limits ([source](#)).

October 20

N/A

October 13

The first phase of a survey of California farmworkers about the impacts of COVID-19 found a community afraid to seek medical help, suffering financially more than most groups and missing out on information and guidance due to language barriers. The study, undertaken on short notice by a consortium of groups, led to a series of recommendations to improve assistance to workers who survey representatives said are three times more likely to contract COVID-19 than those in other jobs ([source](#)).

October 6

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a farmworker relief package this week, which promises farmworkers stricter enforcement of health guidelines and education of paid sick leave for COVID-19, among other things. Lawmakers also requested Newsom prioritize farmworkers for both PPE and testing ([source](#)).

Texas State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired statewide April 30 – the city of Austin and Travis County will remain under the "Stay Home, Work Safe" order until December 15.

Food Service: Bars were ordered to close by Gov. Abbott on June 26. They can remain open only for to-go or delivery. Restaurants were ordered to reduce their capacity from 75% to 50%. You can find more information about the minimum standard health protocols required [here](#).

**Texas encourages restaurants and bars to follow the [CDC's guidelines](#) while remaining operations.

**The Texas Farm Bureau COVID-19 resources page can be found [here](#).

November 17

Thousands of families — including some who waited nearly 12 hours — turned out Saturday at the usually empty grounds of Fair Park for the North Texas Food Bank's fifth and largest mega-distribution of food during the coronavirus pandemic ([source](#)).

A state appeals court on Thursday put on hold El Paso County's shutdown of nonessential businesses that was scheduled to last until Dec. 1. El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego issued the shutdown order Oct. 29 in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 ([source](#)).

November 10

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) announced Thursday that additional emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits will be provided this month. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the governor's office said the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will provide approximately \$202 million in emergency benefits through the state's partners at the U.S. Department of Agriculture ([source](#)).

October 27 & November 3

N/A

Michigan State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired June 1

Restaurants: 32 counties could reopen bars and restaurants at 50% capacity on May 22 if they followed these [guidelines](#). On July 29, Gov. Whitmer closed down indoor bar service statewide. Outdoor service and restaurant service were able to remain open. On Nov. 15, Gov. Whitmer ordered restaurants close indoor dining.

Operations that remain open must follow certain [guidelines](#) and can find other resources on how to keep employees safe [here](#).

**The Michigan Farm Bureau COVID-19 resources page can be found [here](#).

November 17

Michigan will shut indoor bars, restaurant dining rooms, high school classrooms and colleges for three weeks starting Wednesday, November 18, as part of a new push to fight the surging coronavirus ([source](#)).

November 10

Michigan has extended its expansion of food assistance for 350,000 families through November as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Michigan has provided additional food assistance since March – and now it is being extended for November with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service ([source](#)).

November 3

Michigan restaurants will have to begin tracking the names and numbers of customers in case of COVID-19 outbreaks starting Monday under a policy announced Thursday as the state experiences surges in cases of the virus ([source](#)).

October 27

N/A

October 20

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced the farms and agricultural processors awarded Agriculture Safety Grants, which include some Upper Thumb operations ([source](#)).

Minnesota State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired May 18

Restaurants: Bars and restaurants were able to reopen outdoor seating on June 1 and indoor dining on June 10. Currently, indoor occupant capacity is limited to no more than 50% up to 150 people. Guidelines for reopening can be found [here](#).

**The list of MN essential Food and Agriculture workers can be found [here](#).

**The Minnesota Department of Agriculture COVID-19 resources page can be found [here](#).

November 17

A recent change because of increasing COVID-19 cases means that the 79th annual Minnesota Farmers Union convention will be held virtually this Saturday, Nov. 21 ([source](#)).

Under new restrictions Gov. Walz put into place on Nov. 10, bars and restaurants are required to end dine-in services between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Indoor capacity will also be capped at 150 people. Bar seating will also be closed, with the exception of establishments that only have bar seating ([source](#)).

November 10

N/A

November 3

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is opening up a second round of grants aimed at increasing the capacity for livestock processing plants and producers to increase capacity for slaughter, processing and storage in the wake of supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a press release ([source](#)).

October 27

N/A

October 20

Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan have announced a \$7.7 million plan to support agricultural producers, meat processors and farmers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic ([source](#)).

Nebraska State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: No official stay at home order – the “21 Days to Stay Home and Stay Healthy” expired April 30.

**Restaurants and bars can reopen and serve customers if they follow these [guidelines](#).

**The Nebraska Farm Bureau COVID-19 resource page can be found [here](#).

November 17

On Friday, Gov. Ricketts said if coronavirus patients begin to occupy 25% of hospital beds, the state will impose, or reimpose, a number of restrictions that previously had been in place. New restrictions would include requiring bars to return to carry-out and delivery service only ([source](#)).

November 10

The number of people hospitalized with the coronavirus in Nebraska continues to increase steadily. The state said another new record was set Sunday when 794 were hospitalized with COVID-19, up from 760 the day before. That number has more than doubled over the past three weeks as cases continued to surge in the state ([source](#)).

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and first lady Susanne Shore have gone into quarantine after both were exposed to a person with the coronavirus ([source](#)).

October 27 & November 3

N/A

October 20

Businesses, charities and individuals suffering from the economic effects of COVID-19 can soon apply for a new round of state aid, Gov. Pete Ricketts announced Monday. The new grants target some businesses that were passed by in the state’s initial round of aid offered back in June, including arenas, ethanol plants, zoos and massage and tattoo parlors ([source](#)).

October 13

The agricultural economy continues to be a force in Nebraska and remains resilient despite recent down years. That’s the conclusion of a report released last week by University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers ([source](#)).

Georgia State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired April 30 for the general public – older persons and the chronically ill were under a shelter in place order through October 15.

Restaurants can open for dine-in if they follow Gov. Kemp’s regulations outlined [here](#). Bars were able to open June 1.

**Food and agriculture business is generally safe and can continue operation. However, they have to work under extensive [guidelines](#) to operate.

**The Georgia Department of Agriculture COVID-19 resource page can be found [here](#).

November 3, November 10 & November 17

N/A

October 27

Alpharetta city officials have launched the Vulnerable Population Grant Program and is currently accepting applications from not-for-profit agencies that provide certain services to support Alpharetta families who are suffering significant hardship due to the pandemic. According to city officials, the focus of the program will be overdue rent and mortgage assistance; utility assistance; food and nutrition; childcare; distance learning support; or other unforeseen financial/ emergency needs of the community. It may also focus on providing group community services such as food kitchens or pantries for the same population as mentioned above and/or may also focus on organizations that provide mental health services for vulnerable individuals ([source](#)).

October 20

N/A

October 13

Still crippled by the pandemic, many Atlanta restaurants are struggling to hang on. Nearly 30% of Georgia eateries unlikely to survive without bailout, according to a new survey ([source](#)).