

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](#).

December 22 & December 29

N/A

December 15

In Iowa, the state's Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (IDAC) is charged with addressing questions on priority groups to receive the vaccine. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig says that he will be recommending to the IDAC that food and agricultural workers are considered as essential workers. When Secretary Naig looks at the food and agricultural sector and who should get priority for the vaccine, it's the meat processing workers and ag retail workers ([source](#)).

December 8

Iowa posted another 35 deaths from the novel coronavirus on Monday, continuing the high level of deaths related to the pandemic ([source](#)).

December 1

Senior managers at Tyson Foods' Waterloo, Iowa, pork processing plant lied to interpreters about the scope of coronavirus dangers at the facility, the latest complaint in a federal lawsuit alleges. The amended suit, filed on behalf of the families of three Tyson workers who died of COVID-19, says plant manager Tom Hart and human resources director James Hook told interpreters during an April meeting that the building had "no confirmed cases" and that Black Hawk County Health Department employees had "cleared" the plant for operation ([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](#).

December 29

Congress agreed on a \$900 billion COVID stimulus package, which will include up to \$13 billion in funding that directly benefits agriculture. Nearly \$1 billion will support a dairy donation program and supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage payments for small and medium-sized producers. More help will be made available to specialty and non-specialty crop growers, and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will be expanded, which will allow small farmers to continue operating and paying their employees ([source](#)).

December 1, December 8, December 15 & December 22

N/A

November 24

On Nov. 17, Gov. DeWine announced a new curfew as the state faces a COVID-19 surge. The curfew will run from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for three weeks starting Thursday, November 19 ([source](#)).

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](#)).

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](#).

December 29

A federal judge has denied [a request from 15 Indianapolis bar owners](#) to stop coronavirus restrictions put in place by Mayor Joe Hogsett and the county's public health department ([source](#)).

December 22

N/A

December 15

On Nov. 30, new COVID-19 restrictions on businesses became effective in Lake County. Health Officer Dr. Chandana Vavilala's order limits how many people are allowed inside a business. They must have full air ventilation and screen employees daily. Private house parties, club meetings or banquets are still limited to 25 people. If more, party throwers need to draw up and seek county approval for a COVID-19 risk mitigation plan. Lake County shopping malls and retail, including liquor and convenience stores are limited to 75% capacity. Food courts are limited to 50% capacity with six or less people per table ([source](#)).

December 8

Indiana awarded meat processors in Gary and LaPorte \$300,000 in coronavirus assistance. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture gave a total of \$4 million in relief to 41 Indiana meat processing businesses struggling because of COVID-19 through the Indiana Meat Processing Expansion and Development Grant Program ([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](#).

December 29

The state Department of Agriculture has ordered 61 restaurants across Pennsylvania to stop indoor dining for defying [COVID-19 mitigation orders](#). Indoor dining is banned through Jan. 4, 2021 ([source](#)).

December 22

N/A

December 15

In an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus and prevent hospitals from becoming overrun, Pennsylvania is [temporarily banning indoor dining](#), ordering indoor gyms, theaters and casinos to close, as well as prohibiting school sports and extracurricular activities. Gov. Tom Wolf made the announcement on Thursday, one day after [announcing his own COVID-19 diagnosis](#) ([source](#)).

December 8

The Pennsylvania Farm Show canceled the butter sculpture for the 2021 show due to the COVID-19 pandemic ([source](#)).

California State Update

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

Food Service: Gov. Newsom's [stay-at-home order](#) went into effect Dec. 6 one minute before midnight. Restaurants are not allowed to offer either indoor or outdoor dining, limiting them to only take-out and delivery service only. Current guidance can be found for restaurants [here](#).

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

December 29

On Dec. 28, Gov. Newsom announced that farm and agriculture workers will be included in Phase 1B, Tier One of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution rollout ([source](#)).

December 22

Fresno County health officials on Wednesday unveiled its Agriculture Industry COVID-19 Safety Guidelines developed in collaboration with industry leaders to help employers better protect their workforce during the pandemic ([source](#)).

December 15

Vaccinations are underway for health care workers, and so are lobbying efforts to give a higher priority to workers in certain jobs. One such group is California's 800,000 farmworkers ([source](#)).

A 12-county region in California is out of ICU-bed capacity as a second wave of COVID-19 ravages the state's rural Central Valley. San Joaquin County, an agriculture hub where the majority of fruits and vegetables in the US are grown, has been hit particularly hard in recent weeks. ICU capacity at all seven hospitals in the county stood at 100 percent on Saturday, the highest rate anywhere in California, [according to the state's Department of Public Health](#) ([source](#)).

December 8

Meat processor Foster Farms temporarily closed a poultry processing plant for deep cleaning following a coronavirus outbreak at the facility in Fresno, California. In the past two weeks, 193 of the 1,400 employees at the plant tested positive for COVID-19, reported the [Fresno Bee](#) ([source](#)).

California Governor Gavin Newsom, along with several [Bay Area counties](#), have put 33 million people under virtual lockdown on Dec. 6 ([source](#)).

Texas State Update

Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order: expired statewide April 30.

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](#).

December 29

Texas hit a new record of COVID-19 hospitalizations Monday (Dec. 28), smashing the previous high mark set in July, as the state continues to slowly give its first round of vaccines. At least 11,351 people were hospitalized with the disease caused by the coronavirus — more than 450 patients beyond the previous one-day record of 10,893 of hospitalizations, set July 22 during a summer surge ([source](#)).

December 15 & December 22

N/A

December 8

Food banks across Texas are projecting food shortages in coming months due to the end of three key federal and state programs that have helped them respond to high demand during the coronavirus pandemic and its [accompanying recession](#) ([source](#)).

November 24 & December 1

N/A

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](#)).

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](#).

December 29

N/A

December 22

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

Final passage could come as early as Monday on a \$465.1 million Michigan state aid package that would provide “survival” grants to ailing small businesses and entertainment venues that were closed or had their operations limited by state orders during the COVID-19 pandemic ([source](#)).

December 15

Michigan small businesses such as independent restaurants that are hurting due to the novel coronavirus crisis can [apply](#) starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 15, for up to \$15,000 of a total of \$10 million in relief from the Pure Michigan Small Business Relief Initiative ([source](#)).

December 8

Michigan has extended its three-week COVID restrictions for 12 additional days to gauge the impact of Thanksgiving -- an order that will keep dine-in service closed for restaurants and bars heading into the holiday season ([source](#)).

Minnesota State Update

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

Restaurants: Governor Walz's extension now allows outdoor seating, but limited to half-capacity, with a maximum of 100 customers. Eating inside won't be allowed until January 11, at the earliest. 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](#).

December 29

The Minnesota Department of Health announced Monday, Dec. 28, it issued a cease-and-desist order and notices of license suspension to Long Pine Store and Pizza north of Pine River after determining it violated an executive order intended to minimize the spread of COVID-19 ([source](#)).

December 22

Minnesota's current set of COVID-19 related business restrictions were set to expire on Dec. 18. Governor Walz's extension now allows outdoor seating, but limited to half-capacity, with a maximum of 100 customers. Eating inside won't be allowed until January 11, at the earliest ([source](#)).

December 15

An executive order issued last month by Gov. Tim Walz closing bars and restaurants and other businesses to slow the spread of COVID-19 is set to expire Friday. ReOpen Minnesota Coalition, which claims support from roughly 160 statewide businesses ranging from bars to fitness studios, plans to defy the governor by encouraging members to reopen Wednesday, the same day Walz is expected to extend or modify his executive order or let it expire ([source](#)).

Minnesota lawmakers on Monday, Dec. 14, approved a \$216 million deal to provide grants to business owners hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic and extend unemployment insurance to workers through April ([source](#)).

December 8

N/A

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 24, December 1, December 8, December 15, December 22 & December 29

N/A

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](#)).

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](#).

December 29

N/A

December 22

The Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, GFVGA, in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Department of Agriculture and the University of Georgia Extension, has developed a practical and comprehensive COVID-19 handbook for growers and farm labor contractors in the specialty crop industry ([source](#)).

November 3, November 10, November 17, November 24, December 1, December 8 & December 15

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](#)).