

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](#).

January 19

State public health officials say they will begin to vaccinate the next priority group of Iowans against the novel coronavirus by Feb. 1, shifting from front-line health care workers to other populations that face high risk for exposure to and severe illness from the virus. Populations that fall in the [Phase 1B of the state's vaccine distribution plan](#) include Iowans aged 75 and older, school and child care staff, first responders, **food, agriculture, distribution and manufacturing workers in congregate settings that don't allow for social distancing** and other at-risk groups ([source](#)).

January 12

N/A

January 5

On Dec. 16, Gov. Reynolds lifted requirements restricting normal operating hours and gathering size limit. The remaining requirements, including that Iowans unable to socially distance wear masks when in indoor public spaces, will be in place until Jan. 8, Reynolds said. Bars and restaurants must also limit groups no more than eight people, unless they're all members of the same household. Groups of diners must also be six feet from other groups ([source](#)).

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 ([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](#).

January 19

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), expanding eligibility for some agricultural producers and commodities as well as updating payments to accurately compensate some producers who already applied for the program ([source](#)).

January 12

N/A

January 5

On Dec. 30, Gov. DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Health will extend Ohio's 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew until January 23, 2021. The extension is necessary until Ohio can determine if it will see a post-holiday case surge that impacts hospitals ([source](#)).

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

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](#).

January 19

N/A

January 12

A more contagious variant of the coronavirus that was first identified in the United Kingdom late last year has been found in Indiana, state health officials announced Monday ([source](#)).

In Indiana, Gov. Holcomb and Republican legislative leaders have made adding coronavirus-related protections a priority for the legislative session which started last week. On the other side of the aisle, Democrats have their reservations about such legislation because it does not explicitly ensure the health and safety of workers, they say ([source](#)).

January 5

N/A

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](#)).

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](#).

January 19

More restaurants in Pennsylvania have been ordered to close for not following the state's COVID-19 enforcement orders. The [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#) announced that 24 restaurants received closure notices for defying Gov. Tom Wolf's measures. The inspections took place Jan. 4-10 ([source](#)).

January 12

The annual Pennsylvania Farm Show is going virtual due to the coronavirus pandemic. Starting Jan. 11 through Jan. 15, there is a full schedule of virtual events ([source](#)).

An additional three dozen restaurants in Pennsylvania have been ordered to close for not following the state's COVID-19 mitigation measures. The [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#) announced earlier this week 36 restaurants violated an indoor dining ban and were instructed to shut down. The inspections took place Dec. 28 - Jan. 3 ([source](#)).

January 5

As part of its latest round of inspections, the [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#) announced it has ordered 33 restaurants to close for allowing patrons to eat indoors. The inspections took place Dec. 21-27 ([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](#).

January 19

N/A

January 12

The coronavirus death toll in California reached 30,000 on Monday, another staggering milestone as the nation's most populous state endures the worst surge of the nearly yearlong pandemic ([source](#)).

In the first major expansion of the vaccine eligibility list, Los Angeles County announced on Monday that all healthcare industry workers can now receive vaccinations, including staffers at urgent and primary care clinics, research laboratories, pharmacies and dentist offices ([source](#)).

January 5

The death of a third worker from COVID-19 at a California food processing facility has renewed pressure on the Foster Farms company just days after a court ordered it to provide face masks to employees and follow a number of other anti-virus measures. Three workers at Foster Farms' Cherry Avenue plant in Fresno and nine at its Livingston plant in Merced County have now died of COVID-19 ([source](#)).

Dealing with an influx of coronavirus patients that has put its health care system on the brink, Los Angeles County is imposing a [mandatory 10-day quarantine](#) on anyone who travels into the area from outside the Southern California region ([source](#)).

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](#)).

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](#).

January 19

N/A

January 12

The Hays County judge is ordering bars that don't meet qualifications to [operate as restaurants to shut down once again](#) under state restrictions from Gov. Greg Abbott. [Gov. Abbott's order](#) places 50% occupancy limitations when more than 15% of overall hospitalizations in any trauma area are COVID-19 hospitalizations for seven consecutive days. Trauma Service Area O, which includes Hays County and the surrounding Austin area, exceeded that 15% threshold from January 3 through January 9 ([source](#)).

Trauma Service Area Q – which is made up of Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Austin, Colorado, Matagorda, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties – has had seven consecutive days of [COVID-19](#) hospitalizations above 15% of total hospital capacity. According to a state order, the counties must pause elective surgeries and scale back indoor business capacity to 50%. Bars are also ordered to stop indoor service ([source](#)).

January 5

The Texas Supreme Court has blocked [Austin and Travis County's orders restricting restaurants' operations to takeout only](#) between certain hours overnight. The decision came the evening of Jan. 1, after the rules went into effect on New Year's Eve, hours after [a district court judge sided with Austin and Travis County](#) in allowing the restrictions to happen ([source](#)).

Restrictions are tightening up in Jim Wells County. Their emergency management organization said they no longer meet the requirements that allow bars to be open for business ([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](#).

January 19

Grants totaling \$58.5 million have been approved to help Michigan small businesses impacted by the pandemic, the state announced Thursday. The Michigan Small Business Survival Grants and the Michigan Stages Survival Grants were approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund in an effort to meet the dire need of struggling businesses ([source](#)).

Since Wednesday, November 18, restaurant and bar [dining rooms have been closed](#). Socially-distanced outdoor seating, takeout, and delivery are still permitted under a Sunday, November 15 MDHHS order. The order has since been [extended three times](#) and now is scheduled to expire on Sunday, January 31 ([source](#)).

January 12

Michiganders who lost wages, hours or their jobs due to state COVID-19 [health and safety orders issued in November](#) can start applying [for new grant funding](#) this Friday, according to an announcement from the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association ([source](#)).

Michigan health officials have issued citations to 13 businesses due to violations of [the COVID-19 order](#) put in place by [the Department of Health and Human Services](#) ([source](#)).

December 29 & January 5

N/A

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 resumed January 11 at half capacity, or 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](#).

January 19

N/A

January 12

On Jan. 6, Gov. Walz announced that he's relaxing COVID-19 restrictions for Minnesota bars and restaurants, which have been closed to indoor dining for the last six weeks. Loosened restrictions were also announced for movie theaters, gyms, places of worship, and small gatherings. On Wednesday morning ahead of the official press conference, the governor said he is adjusting the dials on state COVID restrictions, allowing bars and restaurants to reopen indoor dining at 50% capacity, or up to 150 people. Restaurant tables will be able to seat up to six people, and bars will be able to seat groups of two. Under the new rules, reservations will be required, and establishments must close by 10 p.m. ([source](#)).

January 5

N/A

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

Governor Walz's extension of current COVID-19 related business restrictions now allows outdoor seating, but limited to half-capacity, with a maximum of 100 customers ([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 24, December 1, December 8, December 15, December 22, December 29, January 5, January 12 & January 19

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, January 5, January 12 & January 19

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](#)).