

Covid 19 Announcement

This is an update from the Hendricks County Health Department in June 2020 with information about the novel coronavirus and “coronavirus disease 2019”, abbreviated COVID-19. This update is to provide information about COVID-19 in Hendricks County Indiana, and what we can all do to minimize its spread.

Since March 6th there have been a series of statewide executive orders issued by Governor Holcomb to protect the health and well-being of Hoosiers and to respond to threats posed to the public health by COVID-19—including the stay at home order. On May 5th, Governor Holcomb issued executive order 20-26 as a means of gradually but safely reopening the state. This initiative has been called Back on Track Indiana and serves to continue mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and to lower the risk of resurgence. Back on Track Indiana’s plan includes five measured stages with each additional stage being subject to fewer restrictions and limitations than the previous stage. As COVID-19 severity differs between counties, businesses and entities within a county may be permitted to advance to the next stage if certain criteria are met. On June 12th Hendricks County advanced to stage 4 of the plan.

All Hoosier employers should have developed a plan to implement safety measures and institute safeguards to ensure a safe environment for their employees, customers, clients, and members. The plan should be provided to each employee or staff and posted publicly. The plan must address, at a minimum, the following points:

- 1) Instituting a health screen process for employees,
- 2) Using enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols for the workplace, including regularly cleaning frequently touched surfaces,
- 3) Enhancing the ability of employees, customers, and clients to wash hands and to use hand sanitizer, and
- 4) Complying with social distancing requirements established by the CDC, including maintaining 6-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the general public when possible, and/ or employing other separation measures such as wearing face coverings or using barriers.

Stage 4 Openings and Updates

Similarly to the previous stay-at-home orders, all individuals should limit trips outside of their home. When outside of the home, individuals shall maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members. Additionally, when outside of homes or residences, individuals are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.

In Stage 4, any social gathering is limited to 250 or fewer people who must all engage in social distancing and other sanitation measures.

Malls and retail stores are now permitted to operate at full capacity with social distancing guidelines in place. Movie theaters, bowling alleys, and similar facilities will be opening at 50% capacity. Cultural, entertainment, and tourism sites will also be permitted to open at 50% capacity. Amusement parks, water parks, and similar facilities are permitted to open at 50%

capacity. Playgrounds may reopen, but those using these facilities should wash hands and use sanitizer frequently. Bars and nightclubs will now be permitted to open at 50% capacity.

Restaurants and other facilities that provide full-dining services will still be open for in-person dining at 75% capacity, with bar seating opening at 50%. While in Stage 4, restaurants may only provide in-person dining services by adhering to the following conditions:

- 1) Dining must be limited to no more than 75% of seating capacity,
- 2) Tables must remain 6 feet apart to adhere to social distancing guidelines,
- 3) Self-service food stations such as salad bars are not permitted, and
- 4) All employees and staff must wear facial coverings if food service workers cannot comply with the 6-foot social distancing guidelines.

For detailed guidelines on each of these facilities in Stage Four, visit [in.gov/gov/2384.htm](https://www.in.gov/gov/2384.htm) and refer to Executive Order 20-32.

To view all guidance, openings, and stages of the Back on Track plan, please refer to: backontrack.in.gov/

For business and industry questions regarding Indiana's Stay-at-Home order, please call the Critical Industries Hotline at 877-820-0890 or email covidresponse@iedc.in.gov.

COVID Testing

On May 6th, the Indiana State Department of Health partnered with OptumServe to provide free COVID-19 testing at 50 sites across the state, including Danville. There are currently 3 testing sites in Hendricks County which includes the OptumServe site in Danville, the Walmart parking lot in Camby, and Hendricks Regional Health. Testing is available for symptomatic and certain asymptomatic individuals. Hoosiers will not be charged for testing and insurance is not required. If you do have private health insurance, please bring that information with you. Individuals can register online for the OptumServe test site at <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling (888) 634-1116.

About COVID-19

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person through respiratory droplets produced by sneezing and coughing by persons within about six feet. It may also be possible to contact COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching one's own mouth, nose, or possibly eyes. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19. Examples of close contacts are healthcare workers or household members.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. The virus has now been confirmed in over 200 locations internationally, including the United States.

COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus, meaning that it is a new coronavirus that had not previously been identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease, COVID-19, is not the same as the coronaviruses that now commonly circulates among humans.

The symptoms associated with COVID-19 typically include mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms that include fever, muscle pain, chills, cough, loss of taste and smell, and shortness of breath. Older adults and people who have underlying medical conditions like chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, are immunocompromised, severely obese, have diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or have liver disease are at a higher risk of getting sick from this illness and developing serious medical complications.

The best ways to protect yourself and others are to:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds,
- avoid touching your face with unwashed hands,
- avoid close contact with people who are sick,
- stay home when you are sick,
- cover your cough or sneeze and clean, and
- disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Cases of COVID-19 are being investigated by local and state health officials, and we can all do our part to prevent and minimize the spread of this virus by practicing everyday preventive actions. Please continue to be informed through reliable sources, such as the Indiana State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If you have questions or would like additional information about Coronavirus or COVID-19, please call the Hendricks County Health Department at 317-745-9222. The Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center may be reached at 877-826-0011 from 8 am to 5 pm daily.

For the latest information visit the ISDH website at [coronavirus.in.gov](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov) or CDC website: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). These websites are updated frequently, so please revisit periodically.