

# IDPH updates Phase 5 guidance for businesses and other venues

This guidance replaces the industry-specific guidance that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity published as part of the state's Restore Illinois plan. This guidance includes recommendations for types of businesses and venues, customers, and employees in order to help maintain healthy environments and operations, as well as lower the risk of COVID-19 spread.

The following are recommended prevention strategies that recognize that while the state of Illinois has made substantial progress in vaccinating its residents, a number of individuals remain ineligible or have not yet chosen to be vaccinated. Consistent use of prevention strategies

will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including customers, employees, and their families. As always, businesses and local municipalities may choose to implement additional prevention strategies as they deem appropriate.

\* COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and widely available across Illinois. Everyone aged 12 years and older should be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible to keep from getting and/or spreading COVID-19.

\* For businesses and venues where everyone present is fully vaccinated, the state does not require face coverings and social distancing in both indoor and out-

door settings. Businesses and municipalities are permitted to continue requiring face coverings and social distancing as they deem appropriate.

\* For indoor businesses and venues where everyone present is not fully vaccinated, unvaccinated persons should wear face covering and maintain six feet social distance. Businesses and venues may continue to require face coverings and/or social distancing. Outdoor Businesses and venues, unvaccinated persons may choose not to wear face covering when able to maintain a six-foot social distance while outdoors, unless required to do so by a business or municipality.

\* Although people who

are fully vaccinated are not required to wear face covering understate guidance, businesses and venues should be supportive of customers and employees who choose to wear a face covering.

\* Persons who are immunocompromised should consider wearing face coverings when in settings where others may not be fully vaccinated.

\* All unvaccinated persons should wear face coverings in crowded settings, both indoors and outdoors, especially when youth are present. See CDC guidance for further information.

\* There are limited circumstances and settings where all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated, must continue to wear

a mask in accordance with CDC guidance: (1) on public transportation, (2) in congregated facilities, (3) in health care settings, and where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

\* Individuals in schools, day care settings, and educational institutions should continue to follow separate guidance issued by the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and Illinois Department of Public Health.

\* All businesses and venues should support social distancing to the extent possible, especially in indoor

settings. Businesses and venues should apply best practices in managing distancing at such places as concessions/counters, public restrooms, and lines/queuing.

\* This guidance will be updated as the CDC releases new recommendations and is meant to supplement federal or local guidance, safety laws, rules, regulations on business safety policies that may expressly require a face covering and/or social distancing.

\* Continue to consult the CDC and IDPH websites for updated resources, guidelines, and rules related to COVID-19 safety.

## Lakeland introduces new special admission

### Fire Science program for career advancement

Lake Land College will begin offering a new special admission Fire Science program in Fall 2021 designed exclusively for current firefighters and volunteers seeking career advancement. Those interested in applying must first receive a recommendation from their fire chief.

The program is approved by the state fire marshal and will assist these professionals in earning Fire Officer 1 and 2 certifications, allowing them to increase their knowledge and skills as well as advance their careers. One key advantage of Lake Land College's new program is the flexible format.

"They do have programs like this across the state, but most of them are Monday through Friday," Fire Science Management Adjunct

Faculty Member Rob Plummer said. "For volunteers and folks who work during the week it can be hard to do that. They often have to take vacation time or make other schedule changes."

Plummer, Laker Nation Class of 2000, completed an Officer 2 Certification three years ago, taking traditional Monday through Friday classes. During his time in the class, Plummer said he listened to his classmates' concerns about the difficulty surrounding the availability of the classes, and that is what inspired him to get involved with the program.

The in-person classes in the program will take place only on the weekend, including Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with a schedule spanning several months to better accommodate the

participants' time frames. The schedule will also have a blended format, with elements of both in-person learning and online work.

"This is an effort to get training to volunteer fire departments and such for the officers' side of things," Plummer said. "During the hands-on portion, the program will have members of several different local departments working side by side, and I think it will be really beneficial to the community having so many local departments working together."

Plummer said the course will cover the Illinois state objectives, as well as "experience and real-world scenarios" targeted toward local settings. Students will even be given the opportunity to train on the equipment in their respective stations, al-

lowing them to gain knowledge and skills specific to their situations.

"This program is a great opportunity to further your education," Plummer said. "As officers one of our goals should always be to stay up to par with new techniques and ways of doing things. This is another tool in that tool box. It may seem hard to give up those weekends, but this program really has a great value compared to some of the others throughout the state."

For more information on the Fire Science program, visit [lakelandcollege.edu/high-demand-programs/paramedical-services/](http://lakelandcollege.edu/high-demand-programs/paramedical-services/) or contact Jasmine Ballard at [jbballard9365@lakelandcollege.edu](mailto:jbballard9365@lakelandcollege.edu) or 217-234-5370.

## FOID bill strengthening enforcement for all revoked cards will soon head to Pritzker

### Measure maintains \$10 renewal fee, allows for voluntary fingerprinting to expedite renewals

By Jerry Nowicki  
Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois house on Wednesday passed a Firearm Owner Identification card law change that would strengthen law enforcement's ability to retrieve guns from those with suspended or revoked FOID cards and allow for voluntary fingerprinting to expedite renewals.

**Renewals**  
FOID card applicants would not be required to submit fingerprints, but if they do, or they share with the Illinois State Police the fingerprints they filed to receive their Concealed Carry License, they would be eligible for the automatic renewal process, which is to be established by ISP by 2023.

That process would allow applicants who submit fingerprints to be automatically renewed without a renewal fee, provided they purchased a gun sometime within the 10-year period between renewals and passed the ISP background check in the process.

Otherwise, the application fee for renewal would remain at \$10 every 10 years,

but the bill would direct \$5 of each renewal to State Police Firearm Services Fund and \$5 to the State Police Revocation Enforcement Fund.

Under current law, only \$3 went to the Firearm Services Fund, with \$6 going to the state Wildlife and Fish Fund and \$1 going to the State Police Services Fund.

The law already passed the Senate on May 31 by a 40-17 vote and it passed the House Wednesday by a vote of 75-40. Its Senate sponsor was Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, and its House sponsor was Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea. While a lawmaker put a procedural hold on the bill, Hoffman said Wednesday night he expects it to soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker for a signature.

FOID card renewal delays have been an ongoing problem in Illinois, with gun rights groups filing lawsuits regarding the delays and lawmakers frequently citing the issue as the main reason they are contacted by constituents.

The State Police supported the FOID bill, House Bill 562, and has long advocated

for the redirection of funds from the renewal fees to fund a more targeted approach to renewals and enforcing revocations.

**Revocation enforcement**

The bill also strengthens enforcement mechanisms for removing guns from the hands of those who have had FOID cards revoked.

That includes creating a "prohibited persons portal" to track people who have had their cards revoked or suspended. Law enforcement agencies would have access to that portal, and the bill requires ISP to have it online within 90 days of the bill's effective date, which is January 2022.

The bill also requires ISP to establish the Violent Crime Intelligence Task Force to aid in enforcement of FOID card revocation or suspension enforcement. The task force would "conduct enforcement operations" for those with suspended or revoked licenses, with a priority on individuals "presenting a clear and present danger to themselves or to others," ac-

cording to the bill.

The task force would be a law enforcement entity, not a legislative task force, and the ISP director would have the authority to execute intergovernmental agreements with other law enforcement agencies to create it. Any agency that is part of the task force could apply for grants through the State Police Revocation Enforcement Fund, which receives half of the FOID fee money.

Another portion of the bill would require ISP, by July 2022, to create a publicly searchable database that contains the serial numbers of weapons that have been reported stolen. Anyone purchasing a gun from a private sale could search the database to ensure it was not stolen.

The measure also requires the State Police to monitor state and federal databases for residents charged with firearm-related crimes and to correlate the measure with FOID and Concealed Carry Licenses to identify individuals that should not be

See FOID page 6

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