



## Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

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### MONROE COUNTY GOING TO STAGE 4.5 OF INDIANA BACK ON TRACK PLAN WITH FOUR DEVIATIONS

**BLOOMINGTON:** The Monroe County Health Officer, Dr. Thomas Sharp, and the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) issued a new health order to go into effect July 4th, 2020, replacing the former Health Order. The Order will stay in effect until repealed or replaced by Dr. Sharp.

According to the Order, Monroe County residents will follow the Stage 4.5 requirements of Governor Holcomb's Back on Track Indiana, *except for the following deviations made for Monroe County:*

- **Inside gatherings are limited to no more than 100 people**
- **Outside gatherings are limited to no more than 150 people**
- **In order for a restaurant or bar to provide “bar top” service, they must protect bar supplies from possible contamination by patrons at the bar.**
- **All businesses are required to post a sign (minimum size 8” by 10”) at the main entrance by July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, that requests patrons wear a face covering while on the premises in order to protect employees, other customers and those with whom they are in contact.**

The Back on Track Plan Stage 4.5 is a blend of Stage 4 and Stage 5. It keeps indoor capacities at the same level while advancing mostly outside activities:

- Restaurants– remain at 75% capacity; employees must wear masks
- Bar seating in restaurants – remain at 50% capacity; employees must wear masks
- Bars and nightclubs– remain at 50% capacity; employees must wear masks
- Retail stores – remain at 100% capacity
- Social gatherings (weddings, parties, events) – (In Monroe County)
  - Indoor – limited to 100 people
  - Outdoor – limited to 150 people

The Governor's Executive Order 20-35 “Back On Track Indiana: Stage 4.5” is available on the IN.gov website at <https://www.in.gov/gov/2384.htm>.

Monroe County had a recent daily spike in reported coronavirus cases as reported on the state coronavirus dashboard at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>. Penny Caudill, Monroe County Health Department administrator says “We are seeing a correlation between increased testing

and cases. Our nurses continue to monitor and look for any concerning issues and the contact tracers do their follow-up as well.”

“We are monitoring the situation closely and carefully moving forward in lifting restrictions”, says Dr. Sharp. “The only way that we can continue forward is for people to take personal responsibility for their health and others.”

“As we celebrate this Independence Day, show your love for our county by doing your part to protect yourself and other citizens by following the recommended steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection,” says Caudill.

- Maintain social distance of 6 feet, regardless of if you are inside or outside
- Wear a face covering in public when you can’t be socially distant
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds
- Stay home when ill

The health department is considering a number of protective interventions due to surges of COVID-19 within the country, including a requirement to wear face coverings and have only seated service in bars.

Dr. Sharp reminds people to vote with their feet. “If you want masks to be required at the places you frequent, talk to the manager and let them know you are considering taking your business elsewhere”.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend face coverings for most people when in public and around people outside of their household, especially when social distancing is difficult. Face coverings are not recommended for children under the age of 2 and those unable to take the face covering off by themselves.

Places of worship and faith communities are still encouraged to offer virtual services. Religious services themselves are not subject to gathering size limits but related receptions or visitations are restricted.

For more detailed information on the Governor’s Back on Track Indiana Plan, visit <https://backontrack.in.gov/>.

For more information, visit the Monroe County Health Department webpage at [www.co.monroe.in.us/HealthDepartment](http://www.co.monroe.in.us/HealthDepartment).

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