



Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

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HEALTH BOARD UPDATES PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS

BLOOMINGTON: Because of continuing local and national Covid-19 transmission, the Monroe County Board of Health updated its' July Public Health Regulation on Friday, November 13, 2020. The changes went into effect at noon today
https://www.co.monroe.in.us/egov/documents/1605633556_42846.pdf.

In addition to the updates, the Health Board said the County will follow the Governor's Executive Order 20-48 <https://www.in.gov/gov/governor-holcomb/newsroom/executive-orders/> but with added restrictions under each color level. The Executive Order issued targeted prevention steps based on Covid community spread levels as shown by a color-coded map <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>

Monroe County is currently labeled as yellow on the map, but Monroe County Health Department Administrator, Penny Caudill, expects the county will change to orange tomorrow. The Indiana Department of Health updates the map each week on Wednesday.

“Given our increasing positivity rate and daily cases, I expect we will be orange on this week's metrics map. It is a stark reminder that the virus is spreading in the community and we must resolve to do better, to take actions, and to do our part in reducing the spread of the virus in our community. We can slow the spread, there is some power in prevention and mitigation.” says Caudill.

In addition to the measures and restrictions outlined in the color code metric in the Executive Order 20-48, Monroe County has added the following:

Blue (Low Community Spread)

- Residential gathering size limit is 50 people. Gathering size limits for larger events are 100 inside and 150 outside.

Yellow (Moderate Community Spread)

- Social gatherings size limits in Monroe County are restricted to 50 and event size limits are 100. People wishing to have an event larger than this must complete an exemption request form available at www.co.monroe.in.us.
- No self-serve or buffet-style food service in restaurants
- Restaurant staff may serve patrons in a cafeteria-style fashion

Orange (Higher Community Spread)

- Social and event gathering sizes are limited to 25
 - The Health Department will not be allowing exemptions to gatherings (personal or commercial) when in orange except for rare extenuating circumstances of need. These must still meet prevention measures for safety.
- No self-serve or buffet-style food service in restaurants
- Bars/Restaurants: prefer carry out as much as possible.
 - Early closure of 1:00 AM

Red (Very High Positivity and Community Spread) -

- Further restrictions to be determined

Other updates concerning bars and restaurants included the following guidelines:

- Bars and restaurants must have and require table-top seating for all patrons and must require patrons to remain seated and masked unless those patrons are actively eating or drinking. This means patrons must wear masks when ordering and when staff are serving patrons, in order to keep staff and patrons as safe as possible.
- No standing, congregating or dancing allowed inside the establishment boundaries or the parameters.
- Restaurants are encouraged to use outdoor seating where possible.
- Party size must be limited to 10 people or fewer at each table. Back-to-back seating with Plexiglas barriers will not replace the necessity of the 6-foot social distancing rule.
- Restaurants with bars may operate bar-top ordering service from a single location at each bar within the restaurant. Ordering must take place in one designated area, rather than across the entire bar.
- Clear floor-markings must be put in place to indicate where the single bar-top ordering line may begin. Six foot markings must be placed on the floor and the line must be formed in such a manner as to keep the patrons safely six-feet or more distanced from other seated guests. Groups of seated patrons and those patrons standing in line for bar service must be spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Air ventilation should be increased to maximum capacity, or at least 6 air changes per hour. It is recommended that filters be replaced with those designated to address Covid-19 issues.
- It is recommended that patrons not wait indoors in establishments for an available table but that a reservation system be utilized, which calls patrons upon the availability of their table.

The Health Board also provided clarification that exercises must be aerobic in nature in order to be exempt from face covering requirements as well as social gathering and events within city limits are monitored and enforced by the City of Bloomington.

Violations of the Public Health Regulation can be enforced by law enforcement or any agents authorized by the Monroe County Board of Health, Health Department or the County Commissioners.

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