

# Livingston County Health Department

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310 E. Torrance Ave., P.O. Box 650, Pontiac, IL 61764  
Ph. 815-844-7174 \* TDD 1-800-526-0844 \* FAX 815-844-7468 \*

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November 12, 2020

To our Livingston County businesses,

We would like to begin by thanking all of the businesses making conscientious efforts to operate safely under IDPH's mitigation guidelines, helping to keep our communities healthy. We acknowledge and empathize with the difficulties of these challenging times, and we understand that many are exhausted by the ongoing battle with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative, however, that everyone, individuals and businesses alike, continue efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in order to ensure the health and safety of our Livingston residents.

Per Governor Pritzker's orders effective August 26, employees of businesses are mandated to wear masks (correctly – securely over the nose & mouth) when unable to maintain 6' of social distance, while also strongly encouraging patrons to do the same. This mandate is an effort to keep both workers and consumers healthy and safe. While we were hoping businesses would comply on their own, it has become clear that some businesses are not taking these actions, as we receive daily complaints for businesses of all types across the county. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise across the county, ensuring compliance with this mandate has become increasingly more important. **This letter is to be considered by all Livingston County businesses as a first warning in failing to comply with the mandate to enforce facemasks and social distancing in places of employment.** We will be conducting compliance checks in Livingston businesses and offering continued support to help to businesses comply with this mandate. **Please note that businesses found to be in repeated violation of this mandate may incur a fine.**

We also ask that you please talk with your employees about taking action outside of the workplace as well. It is imperative that everyone:

- Avoid large gatherings
- Limit social interactions and tighten their social circles
- Stay home when sick
- Wear masks *correctly*
- Practice social distancing
- Get tested if symptomatic or in close contact with a confirmed case (5-7 days after exposure)
  - Quarantine while waiting to be tested and/or for test results

This is for the health and safety of not only our Livingston community at large, but for the health and safety of your own business.

Should an employee test positive for COVID-19, we ask that employers not require a negative test result in order to return to work after completing isolation. People may remain positive for up to 90 days after contracting COVID-19; however, they are not contagious after their 10 days of isolation. Those individuals who are considered close contacts must quarantine for 14 days regardless of whether they test negative or never develop symptoms. Release letters required to return to work may be accessed through a link sent via text message after individuals complete a survey on their final day (day 11 for isolation or day 15 for quarantine). The LCHD will not provide these letters.

Local employers and their workers may visit the [Illinois Department Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\) website](#) to download resources and find further details on employee safety to help guide their businesses. You may also visit the Livingston County Health Department's [Local Businesses page](#), as well as our [Food Safety page](#), for links to these resources.

It is important to note that new guidance continuously being developed, and we are doing our best to update our website as often as possible with new information for our communities. If you have concerns or questions regarding the needed adjustments to your business operations, please contact the DCEO on their Business Hotline Monday through Friday at 1-800-252-2923, or email at [ceo.support@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.support@illinois.gov). You may also reach out to the Livingston County Health Department at 815-844-7174 ext. 252 or email [lchd@lchd.us](mailto:lchd@lchd.us).

We appreciate your cooperation and partnership in helping to keep our Livingston County residents and businesses healthy and safe. We are all in this together. It's us against the virus. We can slow spread.

Please reach out for support in ensuring your compliance with the safety measures put forth by IDPH.

Sincerely,

***Jackie Dever, RN, BSN***

Administrator  
Livingston County Health Department  
PO Box 650, 310 E Torrance  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
P - 815-844-7174 ext 228  
F - 815-842-1063  
[jdever@lchd.us](mailto:jdever@lchd.us)