

# Stark County Board



130 West Main Street • Toulon, IL 61483-5043

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May 18, 2020

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Residents of Stark County

**RE: Restore Illinois A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State**

Presented: May 5, 2020

Prepared by: Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health

**RE: Restore Illinois Staged Implementation Plan for the Heart of Illinois Sub-Region of the North Central Health Region**

Presented: May 13, 2020

Prepared by: Central Illinois Leaders

In a span of seven (7) days, we have been introduced to two (2) plans to address the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic on daily life and our local businesses. The first plan was introduced on May 5, 2020, by Gov. J.B. Pritzker. The second plan was introduced on May 11, 2020, by local government leaders including the mayors of Peoria and Washington and a regional health director.

On May 5, 2020, Gov. Pritzker introduced the Restore Illinois: A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State. This plan remains in effect.

On May 12, 2020, the Stark County Board of Supervisors met in regular session. The Agenda for our regular meeting did not include the topic nor any comments regarding a document entitled Restore Illinois Staged Implementation Plan for the Heart of Illinois Sub-Region

of the North Central Health Region.

On Wednesday, May 13, 2020, the Restore Illinois Staged Implementation Plan for the Heart of Illinois Sub-Region of the North Central Health Region was introduced during a press conference held in Peoria. This plan presented last Wednesday included Stark County as one of the eleven (11) counties in the sub-region. To date, this plan which includes Stark County in the sub-region has never been approved by Gov. Pritzker or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Should the Restore Illinois Staged Implementation Plan for the Heart of Illinois Sub-Region of the North Central Health Region be approved by Gov. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health, the procedure to “open up” activities and businesses within the eleven counties in the sub-region will move at a quicker pace than before.

The mention of Stark County as one of the eleven counties in the sub-region implied the approval of the Stark County Board and local agencies active in addressing this pandemic. The record would indicate that neither the Stark County Board, the Stark County Health Department nor any county offices were contacted for input, discussion or approval of the plan prior to its public introduction on May 13, 2020.

For this reason, at this time, though Stark County was included in the sub-region of 11 counties, the Stark County Board has not endorsed the eleven county sub-region plan.

Currently, Stark County is in Stage 2 of the Restore Illinois: A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State. When authorized by the Governor's Office and the Illinois Department of Public Health, we will transition to Stage 3. This change in status will continue to permit bars and restaurants to remain open for delivery, pickup and drive through only. A material change in Stage 3 will be that salons and barbershops will open with Illinois Department of Public Health safety guidance retail stores will open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance, including face covers.

To summarize, Stark County remains in the Stage 2 compliance phase of the Restore Illinois plan effective May 5th. The major enforcement incentive for a business currently in Stage 2 and awaiting relief in Stage 3 is the effect noncompliance may have upon their business license issued by the State of Illinois.


The Stark County Board and the Stark County Health Department are now engaged with the other counties of the sub-region to assist in reaching the objective of advancing to Stage 3 as quickly as possible. The objectives of reopening and assisting local businesses while assuring the safety of the public remains the priority of the Stark County Board.

The stay at home requirement and conditions affecting the resumption of business will be reviewed by Gov. Pritzker on May 29, 2020.

The Restore Illinois A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State and the Restore Illinois Staged Implementation Plan for the Heart of Illinois Sub-Region of the North Central Health Region are available for review on this website.

In the interim, we continue to receive information regarding the Restore Illinois Staged Implementation Plan for the Heart of Illinois Sub-Region of the North Central Health Region.

This issue will be included in the Agenda for the next regular meeting of the Stark County Board to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

  
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Al Curry, Chairman  
Stark County Board