



**HENRY & STARK COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
110 N. Burr Blvd., KEWANEE, IL 61443  
309-852-0197 Main Office



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Director of Health Promotion

November 4, 2020

**“HEALTH DEPT OFFERS GUIDANCE & EDUCATION TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY REGION 2 RESURGENCE MITIGATION MEASURES”**

The Henry and Stark County Health Department and the Henry County Office of Emergency Management announce that Henry and Stark Counties, along with all counties in Illinois Region 2, will be implementing the Restore Illinois Resurgence Mitigation Plan that took effect as of Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 12:01am.

Duane Stevens, Public Health Administrator with the Henry and Stark County Health Department states, “We understand that with the Illinois Region 2 resurgence mitigation plan roll-out, comes many questions and concerns from local businesses affected by this measure to quell the growing numbers of local Covid-19 cases and regional positivity rates. We are also well aware of much misleading and uninformed messaging being disseminated on social media. Therefore we would like to enumerate the ways in which the Health Department and its staff intends to address local concerns; work with and offer guidance to local businesses; and continue to “protect and improve the health of the communities we serve.”

- We ask that all Henry and Stark County Food and/or Beverage Establishments voluntarily comply with the Region 2 Resurgence Mitigation Plan.
- Our staff will offer education, guidance and counsel to any businesses with questions they may have about this mitigation plan and how it affects their operations. Please feel free to call the Health Department at 309 852-0197.
- Anyone with concerns and questions about a local food or beverage establishment please call our hotline at 309-883-5057.
- To view the full Henry and Stark County food ordinance visit [www.henrystarkhealth.com](http://www.henrystarkhealth.com).

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PAGE 2

The Henry and Stark County Health Department offers the following information for their resurgence guidance and enforcement activities:

As the local health authority for the counties of Henry and Stark, I, Duane Stevens, confirm that the local health department has received the declaration of a disaster, reissued by Illinois Governor Pritzker on October 16, 2020; and confirm the existence of a public health emergency within the counties of Henry and Stark. In addition to this duly signed and executed proclamation, the Governor has issued Executive Order 2020-69 instituting additional public health restrictions and mitigations for the region of Illinois comprising Henry and Stark Counties.

In accordance with Section 2310-15 of the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law, the Illinois Department of Public Health has the general authority to delegate to a certified local health department, for the purpose of local administration and enforcement, the duties that the Illinois Department of Public Health is authorized to enforce.

As a result, I hereby conclude that the cited conditions prompting the public health restrictions and mitigations identified in Executive Order 2020-69 are acutely present in Henry and Stark Counties; according these restrictions and mitigations shall immediately apply to all applicable food and/or beverage establishments, lawfully operating with a permit issued under either the Henry or Stark County Food Ordinance. Likewise, I find said permit holder's failure to adopt and/or comply with the restrictions and mitigations identified in Executive Order 2020-69 shall constitute a substantial hazard to the public health.

The purpose of Henry and Stark County Food Ordinance is to safeguard public health by regulating the owners or operators of food and/or beverage establishments regarding the reduction or elimination of the risk of transmission of microorganisms and communicable diseases in the operation of food and/or beverage establishments.

The ordinance declares that it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a food and/or beverage establishment, within Henry or Stark County, State of Illinois, who does not possess a valid permit issued to him by the Health Authority. Only a person who complies with the requirements of this ordinance, including payment of permit fees and all fines originating from enforcement of the Food Code shall be eligible to receive and retain such a permit.

To extent necessary and expedient, whenever the Health Authority finds unsanitary or other conditions in the operation of a food and/or beverage establishment which constitutes a substantial hazard to the public health, the Health Authority may without warning, prior notice, or hearing issue a written notice to the permit holder or operator citing such conditions, specifying the corrective action to be taken and specifying the time period within which such action should be taken; and, if deemed necessary, such order shall state that the permit is immediately suspended and all food and/or beverage service discontinued.

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of the food ordinance shall be guilty of a Petty Offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00. Additionally, such persons may be enjoined from operations. Each day's violation constitutes a separate offense. The State's Attorney of Henry or Stark County shall bring such actions in the name of the People of the State of Illinois or may bring action for an injunction to restrain or to enjoin the operation of any such establishment causing such violation.

For serious or repeated violations of any of the requirements of the ordinance, or for interference with the Health Authority in the performance of official duties, the permit may be permanently revoked after an opportunity for a hearing has been provided by the Health Authority.

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