



**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

December 9, 2020

“HEALTH DEPARTMENT, OEM AND LOCAL LEADERS AGREE TO MODIFICATION OF TIER 3 RESURGENCE MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HENRY AND STARK COUNTY RESTAURANTS AND BARS”

The Henry and Stark County Health Department and the Henry County Office of Emergency Management announce they have met with local leaders and businesses and have agreed to revise the manner in which the County’s food permit requirements are applied toward the State’s Tier 3 Covid-19 Resurgence Mitigation actions for local bars and restaurants.

Duane Steven, Public Health Administrator with the Henry and Stark County Health Departments, states, “The County is not authorized to, nor do we condone circumventing the Governor’s mitigation measures. However, the County Health Authority is tasked with determining the actions a local food and beverage establishment must abide by to remain in compliance with the County Food Ordinance. Establishments that adhere to the county temporary food ordinance modifications will not be subject to suspension of their locally issued permits by the County.”

Steven adds, “I remind all businesses that mask mandates are still in effect and all businesses, including retail and manufacturing are required to ensure all employees and patrons are masked-up to suppress spread of virus, save lives and protect healthy people. These temporary revisions to the County’s Food Ordinance do not exempt any business or organization from any enforcement action that may be taken by other state agencies.

The Health Department and Office of Emergency Management understand that the Illinois Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation Plan, has been a hardship on many local bars and restaurants. Therefore, they have come to an agreement and compromise with local leaders that they believe will both support local businesses and still help our communities mitigate further spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Stevens concludes, “What we want to see is a level playing field for all businesses, no matter their size, in our counties. We salute those businesses that have complied; and we now feel good about offering some relaxing of the most economically detrimental aspects of our local enforcement actions. Therefore, the Health Department will be executing a temporary policy to our Henry and Stark County Food Ordinances to allow for the following new guidelines for food establishments:

- All bars and restaurants may conduct indoor service at no more than **25% of their Table Capacity**.
- Masks must be worn at all times when not actively eating or drinking.
- All bars and restaurants will close all indoor service at 11pm and may reopen no earlier than 6am the following day. However, carryout and curbside delivering may continue after 11pm.
- **All bar patrons should be seated at tables.**
- No ordering, seating, or congregating at bar (bar stools should be removed).
- Tables should be a minimum of 6 feet apart.
- No standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting.
- No dancing or standing indoors. All patrons must be seated at tables.
- Reservations required for each party.
- No seating of multiple parties at one table, and no more than 6 people to a table.

The Health Department and the Office of Emergency Management ask that all Henry and Stark County Food and/or Beverage Establishments voluntarily comply with these new local guidelines. They also remind local businesses and residents:

- 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 COVID hotline at 309-883-5057.

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County Health Authority – Policy Intent

As 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 November 13, 2020; and confirm the existence of a public health emergency within the counties of Henry and Stark.

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.

In addition to the Illinois Department of Public Health Act, the Henry and Stark County Food Ordinance establishes the manner in which the Health Authority regulates food and beverage facilities, operating under a permit and granted by means of said ordinance. The overall 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.

With regard to infection and exposure data, I again echo and support the findings of the State's Executive Branch. In response, I hereby enact the following series of temporary modifications to supplement the Henry and Stark County Food Ordinance and stand as necessary remedies to what the Health Authority constitutes a substantial hazard to the public health.

Effective Friday, December 11, 2020 at 6:00 AM, the following restrictions and mitigation measures shall apply to all applicable food and/or beverage establishments, lawfully operating with a permit issued under either the Henry or Stark County Food Ordinance:

1. [Permit holders](#) must limit indoor food and/or beverage service by utilizing not more than 25% of their table capacity.
2. Masks must be worn at all times when not actively eating or drinking.
3. Permit holders will cease all indoor service at 11:00 PM daily and may reopen no earlier than 6:00 AM the following day. Only carryout, curbside and delivery may continue past 11:00 PM.
4. All patrons must be seated at tables.
5. Tables must seat no more than six persons. All persons seated at a table must be from a single household or party. No seating of multiple parties at one table.
6. No ordering, sitting, or congregating at a bar (bar stools must be removed).
7. All tables must be greater than six feet apart.
8. No congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting.
9. No dancing or gathering while standing, when indoors and while food and/or beverages are being consumed. All patrons must be seated at tables.
10. Reservations are required for each party.

Likewise, I find said permit holder's failure to adopt and/or comply with the restrictions and mitigation measures identified above, or any other direct order issued by the Health Authority, or his designee, pursuant to the County's response to this pandemic, shall constitute a substantial hazard to the public health.

Only a person who complies with the requirements of the Food Ordinance, including the above cited temporary modifications, enacted in an effort to protect the public health, shall be eligible to receive and retain such a permit. Additionally, 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.

To the 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. #####