

**CHECKLIST FOR REOPENING AMERICAN JOB CENTERS IN ILLINOIS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR’S “RESTORE ILLINOIS” PLAN**

The WIOA Interagency Teams developed the following checklist to identify a few requirements and to offer additional guidance to support Local Workforce Innovation Boards (LWIBs) in making decisions about when to reopen centers with the appropriate safety measures in place. The checklist may evolve as additional information is known and as LWIBs share their insights about best practices.

Requirements, recommendations and other considerations are categorized into the following: Center Services, Procedures, and Staffing. Each was identified as appropriate for each phase of the Governor’s [“Restore Illinois: A Public Health Approach to Safely Reopen Our State.”](#)

Three requirements must be met before an American Job Center can safely offer in-person services in any capacity. They are:

1. Ensure adequate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is available for all staff and customers through Phases 3 and 4 and adhere to all mandatory requirements in the Restore Illinois Plan¹.
2. Ensure the safety of staff and customers, including ongoing assessments for additional and/or designated onsite security personnel. The need for an increased security presence must be assessed prior to reopening and should be reassessed as needed. The security assessment shall at minimum, consider the following factors: a) traffic and occupancy levels; b) whether opening for appointments only, limited hours of open door services, or a full reopening; c) the presence of other required partners; d) the overall community environment; and e) availability and capacity of existing security measures. Note that where IDES has a contract for security services in an American Job Center, additional or separate security contracts are prohibited.
3. Establish an agreed-upon process for making decisions for a practical reopening that includes conversations between the leaseholder, one-stop operator and required partners before deciding or announcing that an American Job Center will reopen to the public.

After meeting the requirements above, the remaining elements of the “Checklist for Reopening American Job Centers in Illinois” are not mandatory and offer examples of best practices to consider in determining what works best in each local workforce area.

¹ The Governor’s Restore Illinois Plan sets mandates as well as identifies Phases and a Mitigation Plan that can be found at: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-introduction>

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Update February 2021: IDES offered the following clarifications about the presence of security guards at American Job Centers throughout the state:

1. Where IDES is the leaseholder, IDES has contracts for onsite security. Whether that security cost is a shared cost allocated across all parties to the MOU is subject to MOU negotiations.
2. In local areas where required partners already agree to share in the cost of the IDES security contract as part of the MOU, IDES intends to continue to ask partners to share in those existing security costs for PY 2021.
3. But IDES will not ask that charges for increased security be added to the PY 2021 MOU budget. Examples of additional costs would include more security guards than are currently present or arming guards where guards are not already armed.
4. It is a local decision whether required partners agree that an armed security guard is needed in the American Job Center.
5. When IDES prepares to send staff back into the AJCs, IDES will evaluate on a case-by-case basis whether the AJC has sufficient security to allow IDES staff to return safely.

IDES-administered Unemployment Insurance services will not be available through in-person at American Job Centers through Phase 4 and until further notice. Also, centers where IDES is the leaseholder will not reopen to the public during Phase 4 and until further notice. If customers require Unemployment Insurance services, please direct customers to the IDES call center at 800-244-5631 or the website at www.ides.illinois.gov.

The remaining checklist items are guidelines and considerations for determining what fits best in each local workforce area.

CHECKLIST FOR REOPENING AMERICAN JOB CENTERS IN ILLINOIS (CONTINUED)

#	ACTIVITY / AREA	CONSIDERATIONS – RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASES		
		PHASE 3 RECOVERY	PHASE 4 REVITALIZATION	PHASE 5 ILLINOIS RESTORED
SERVICE DELIVERY				
1. Center Services				
<i>This category offers guidelines in accordance with the Governor’s “Restore Illinois” Plan for service delivery within American Job Centers.</i>				
	In-person service delivery	If a center is open to the public, appointments are required for all services; walk-ins are not permitted. (Sample dialogue is included as Attachment 1 if customers must be turned away for services.) If Unemployment Insurance services are necessary, the customer may go to the website at www.ides.illinois.gov or call 800-244-5631.	Appointments are still the standard practice; walk-in services are allowed only if PPE is readily available in the center for customers and only if staffing capacity allows. Face coverings and social distancing are mandatory. If Unemployment Insurance services are necessary, the customer may go to the website at www.ides.illinois.gov or call 800-244-5631.	Centers may fully reopen to in-person service delivery. Additional safety precautions remain in place. If Unemployment Insurance services are necessary, the customer may go to the website at www.ides.illinois.gov or call 800-244-5631.
	Customer/Staff screening	If a center is open to the public, screen customers and staff via phone to assess illness or exposure when scheduling appointments or re-entering the center; upon entrance, staff verifies screening questions. (Sample screening procedures and questions are included in the procedures section below and	Screen customers and staff upon entrance. Face coverings and social distancing are mandatory for anyone entering the center.	Centers may fully reopen and screening is not mandatory. Additional safety precautions remain in place.

CHECKLIST FOR REOPENING AMERICAN JOB CENTERS IN ILLINOIS (CONTINUED)

#	ACTIVITY / AREA	CONSIDERATIONS – RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASES		
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		in Attachment 2.) Additional guidance can be accessed through the IDPH ² . Face coverings ³ and social distancing are mandatory for anyone entering the center.		
	Orientations, workshops and hiring events	If a center is open to the public, virtual group meetings are required, unless by appointment; groups must be limited to 10 total persons (Centers must confirm, in their reopening plans to be available for leaseholder review, whether they plan for individual or group appointments). Face coverings and social distancing are mandatory.	Group meetings may resume and must be limited based on center occupancy limits or 50 people (including all staff), whichever is less. Face coverings and social distancing are mandatory.	Centers may fully reopen and group meetings may resume but are limited to center occupancy levels (including all staff).
PROCEDURES				
2. Procedures				
<i>This category suggests procedures in accordance with the Governor’s “Restore Illinois” Plan within American Job Centers.</i>				
	Safety Protocol	Partners should agree to a communications protocol to ensure that staff who are onsite at the American Job	Safety protocol continues to be developed and updated based on current security risk and/or evolving guidance	Safety protocol continues to be developed and updated based on current security risk and/or evolving guidance

² The Illinois Department of Public Health’s Coronavirus webpage contains guidance for staff and customer screening and can be visited at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/business-guidance>.

³ The Illinois Department of Public Health released guidance including a frequently asked questions list which can be visited at: [FAQ for Businesses Concerning Use of Face-Coverings During COVID 19](#).

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#	ACTIVITY / AREA	CONSIDERATIONS – RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASES		
		PHASE 3 RECOVERY	PHASE 4 REVITALIZATION	PHASE 5 ILLINOIS RESTORED
		Center or remotely providing services are aware of safety concerns and the current response protocol in public health or public safety emergencies.	issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Central Management Services (CMS)	issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Central Management Services (CMS)
	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	If a center is open to the public, face coverings must be worn by all staff and customers entering the center. Social distancing is enforced to 6 feet between customers and staffing. Installation of barriers at reception areas is recommended.	Face coverings and social distancing remain mandatory.	Centers may fully reopen. Additional safety precautions remain in place.
	COVID-19 cases	The one-stop operator must develop procedures and train staff on how to respond if a staff member or customer becomes ill or tests positive for COVID-19. The one-stop operator must contact their local health facility if a known risk or infection occurs.	Procedures remain in place to respond to cases and are updated as needed.	Centers may fully reopen. Procedures remain in place to respond to cases and are updated as needed.
	Limited Occupancy	If a center is open to the public, the center occupancy is limited to appointments only. Common areas and resource rooms are closed to	Center occupancy is limited to 50% (including customers and staff), per <u>Phase 4</u>	Centers may fully reopen. Service delivery and occupancy levels resume to regular procedures. Additional

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#	ACTIVITY / AREA	CONSIDERATIONS – RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASES		
		PHASE 3 RECOVERY	PHASE 4 REVITALIZATION	PHASE 5 ILLINOIS RESTORED
		prevent gathering. If applicable, group appointments, training and meetings are limited to 10 persons (Centers must confirm, in their reopening plans to be available for leaseholder review, whether they plan for individual or group appointments), service counter areas are limited to 5 customers per 1000 square feet and maximum occupancy is limited to 50% of office capacity as described in <u>Phase 3 and 4 Guidelines</u> .	<u>Guidelines</u> . ⁴ Appointments and virtual services are recommended. Face coverings and social distancing remain mandatory.	safety precautions remain in place.
	Sanitation and Cleaning	If the center is open to the public, centers must be adequately equipped with hand and surface sanitizers. All areas must make these sanitizers available for staff and customers. Centers are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each day. Areas where customers are served	Centers must be adequately equipped with hand and surface sanitizer. All areas must make these sanitizers available for staff and customers. Public work areas and equipment should be sanitized after each use ⁵ . Centers should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each day.	Centers may fully reopen. Cleaning and sanitizing remain the norm after each day.

⁴ The State of Illinois Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response to Phase 4: Revitalization, can be visited at <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-4>.

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#	ACTIVITY / AREA	CONSIDERATIONS – RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASES		
		PHASE 3 RECOVERY	PHASE 4 REVITALIZATION	PHASE 5 ILLINOIS RESTORED
		are cleaned and sanitized after each appointment.		
	Signage	If the center is open to the public, highly visible signage must be posted at entrances and reception areas notifying the public of social distancing and PPE requirements, as well as the risks associated with crowded spaces. (Sample signage is included in Attachment 1 and in <u>Phase 3 Guidelines</u> .)	Signage must be updated to adhere to Phase 4 guidelines.	Signage must continue to be updated as guidelines are issued.
STAFFING				
3. Staffing <i>This category suggests staffing practices in accordance with the Governor’s “Restore Illinois” Plan within American Job Centers.</i>				
	Training	Prior to reopening, all staff must be trained on protocols that include staff roles and responsibilities, safety procedures, sanitation practices, CDC guidelines and service availability and procedures for customers.	Staff must be trained on any new protocols that have been issued.	Staff continues to be trained on any new protocols and procedures.
	Personnel	Staff is increased as needed based on volume of service needs. Centers must designate trained staff to facilitate safety procedures and protocols that	Increase staffing levels as needed to ensure service demands are met. Staff continues to be designated to	Centers fully reopen and staffing levels and responsibilities resume as normal.

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#	ACTIVITY / AREA	CONSIDERATIONS – RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASES		
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		are in place to assist with the safety of the staff, customers and center. Staffing must include the designation of a Safety Officer and a Supervisor with specific duties and responsibilities (Sample job duties provided as Attachment 3).	facilitate safety practices and procedures.	
	Security	See Item 2 on page 1. Consider arranging a dedicated entrance for center staff and customers who have appointments. Note that where IDES has a contract for security services in an American Job Center, additional or separate security contracts are prohibited.	A new assessment is recommended as a first step in planning operational changes based on the state transitioning to a new reopening phase with increased public mobility.	A new assessment is recommended as a first step in planning operational changes based on the state transitioning to a new reopening phase with increased public mobility.

In addition to the guidelines and considerations listed above, it is important to ensure the safety of vulnerable populations that utilize center services or are American Job Center staff. According to the CDC, people who are over age 60, who have severe chronic health conditions or who are immuno-compromised face a higher risk of critical illness if they contract the coronavirus. The CDC recommends these populations stay home as much as possible and avoid crowds and travel.

American Job Centers may take the following precautions to help best serve these vulnerable populations:

- Post a highly visible sign at the entrance of the American Job Center informing vulnerable populations about risk of crowded spaces.

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- Ensure these individuals that they can be served remotely.
- Station staff at entrances to collect these individuals' contact information to provide remote services.
- If vulnerable populations choose to stay, establish a safe area where these customers can be served.

CHECKLIST FOR REOPENING AMERICAN JOB CENTERS IN ILLINOIS (CONTINUED)

Resources

- WIOA Implementation during COVID-19 - State of Illinois Coronavirus Web Page:
<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Pages/covid.aspx>
- Guidance on the use of masks – Illinois Department of Public Health: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/mask-use>
- FAQ for Businesses Concerning Use of Face-Coverings During COVID-19:
https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Documents/IDHR_FAQ_for_Businesses_Concerning_Use_of_Face-Coverings_During_COVID-19_Ver_2020511b%20copy.pdf
- United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/office-buildings.html>
- Illinois Coronavirus Resources: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>
- Restore Illinois: A Public Health Approach to Safely Reopen Our State:
 - Website: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-introduction>
- Illinois Community College Board Guidance for the return to Campus for Illinois Community Colleges in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ICCB_Return_to_Campus_Guidance.pdf
- Illinois Central Management Services Guidance for returning to work:
 - Returning to Work Guide for Employees:
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:523088ee-b623-42fe-9e86-d3a67158be45>
 - Returning to the Workplace Design Guidelines:
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:3bae8b20-756e-4aa6-b17a-7dd817b208b3>
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19:
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

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- Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC): Resources for Distance Service Delivery:
<http://www.wintac.org/content/resources-distance-service-delivery#vrresponse>

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Sample Signage and Customer Interaction, page 12
2. Sample Screening Procedures and Questions, pages 13-14
3. Sample of Designated Staff for Safety When Reopening: Job Duties and Responsibilities, pages 15-16

ATTACHMENT 1 – SIGNAGE AND CUSTOMER INTERACTION

SAMPLE SIGNAGE FOR COMMUNICATING EXPECTATIONS

- Social distancing signage must be placed at entrances, lobbies, and other public areas.
- Utilize highly visible messages in the American Job Center to communicate expectations to those who may feel ill. Examples include:
 - “In our effort to keep everyone healthy, if you are not feeling well or are experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms, we kindly ask that you excuse yourself from this session. This will not affect your program requirements or continued participation in the program. Someone from our team will contact you to be rescheduled.”⁶

SAMPLE CUSTOMER INTERACTION

- If a customer appears to be ill and did not excuse themselves from the session, they should be taken aside and respectfully asked to be rescheduled. Staff may utilize the following statement:
 - “You appear to be under the weather. In our effort to keep everyone healthy, would you mind excusing yourself from this session? This will not affect your program requirements or continued participation in the program. Someone from our team will contact you to be rescheduled.”
- If you are nearby or in an office where you hear an encounter with a customer escalating and you feel the associate is unable to react with a call for a supervisor, place the call on their behalf, using your name, and be prepared to brief the arriving manager(s) as to the situation. In all instances, if you feel the situation is past being resolved by a management intervention, **CALL 911** immediately. Staff not involved in the situation should make note of what was said, a description of the customer and time and place of the incident. Further incident reports should be completed by following the center’s protocol.⁷

⁶ Signage example and communication to customers appearing ill was adapted from Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation.

⁷ Protocol for reporting an escalated situation with a customer was adapted from the Northern Middle Tennessee Local Workforce Development Board.

ATTACHMENT 2 – SAMPLE SCREENING PROCEDURES AND QUESTIONS

SAMPLE CUSTOMER SCREENING FOR APPOINTMENTS

- Screen customers via phone to assess illness or exposure when scheduling appointments in addition to displaying the CDC standard protocol questions on prior exposure to COVID-19 and current health on the entrance doors. Upon entry, identified welcome staff must verify or conduct screening questions upon entry to the building. Masks will be offered to customers for their use at this time. The questions should include but are not limited to:
 1. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
 2. Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
 3. Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
 4. Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
- If any questions result in a Yes, the customer will be asked to leave and be rescheduled for a future appointment. The customer should be informed that this will not affect their program requirements or continued participation in the program. Someone from the team will contact them to be rescheduled or virtual services will be offered.

SAMPLE STAFF SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

- All American Job Center staff and partners will be screened by their designated supervisors using the same above questions. If an employee answers yes to any of the above questions, they must immediately inform their supervisor, supervisors will notify the one-stop operator and be informed they should seek medical attention and not be allowed in the center until cleared by a medical professional.
 - The one-stop operator shall then follow CDC guidelines concerning future operations of that center. All health information collected must remain confidential.
- In the case of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the following CDC protocol should be followed.
 - The affected center will close for 24 hours or the length of time it takes to deep clean and disinfect all areas.
 - Once the center has been disinfected, it will re-open (all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards and remote controls must be disinfected).
 - If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary; however, regular cleaning protocols must resume to maintain a healthy environment.

ATTACHMENT 3 – SAMPLE OF DESIGNATED STAFF FOR SAFETY WHEN REOPENING

American Job Center staff shall be trained and prepared to ensure safety measures are implemented within the center. In many workforce centers, the one-stop operator is best suited to work with partners to identify staff that will fill roles to enforce safety protocols, whether these are new or current positions. Examples follow.

SAMPLE JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES⁸

- **One-Stop Operator or Designee serves as the Supervisor(s):** Oversee all operations, including:
 - Oversee and coordinate policies and procedures with the Safety Officer.
 - Oversee the physical building and conduct readiness assessments of all agency office spaces and safety protocols such as:
 - Ensure that office and workspace configurations meet the social distancing guidelines.
 - Post and update signage related to social distancing and other procedures or regulations.
 - Ensure the physical security of staff and the public at the American Job Center.
 - Ensure physical barriers are installed where appropriate.
 - Ensure appropriate professional cleaning is done regularly and as needed following IDPH guidelines.
 - Develop protocols with required partners for communicating a possible or known risk of infection in the center.
 - Implement an agency contact tracing plan based on IDPH guidance⁹.
 - Follow IDPH protocol if a known risk arises or if an individual tests positive for infection.
 - Guide the completion of safety forms and reviewing forms with affected employees.
 - Guide the Safety Officer in implementing social distancing measures in accordance with this plan and any applicable safety forms.
 - Review and address incidents of non-compliance in coordination with the Safety Officer.
 - Review and approve social distancing exceptions with the Safety Officer and employees.
 - Develop and update as needed a telework/work remote policy.
 - Review technology and equipment needs and verify access to the local network.
 - Determine who needs to physically be at the center pending any office reconfigurations.
 - Develop or update a flexible work schedule policy as needed.
- **Safety Officer:** Ensure social distancing and personal protection measures are followed. Coordinate with the Supervisor to develop and implement safety policies and procedures in the local social distancing plan. Specific responsibilities of the Safety Officer include:

⁸ Sample job duties were adapted from the City of Chicago's plan for reopening city buildings as well as CMS' COVID-19 Safety Coordinator Checklist.

⁹ The Illinois Department of Public Health has released a Contact Tracing Interest Form that can be accessed at <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=KWKJL93TM7>

Attachment 3 – Sample of Designated Staff for Safety When Reopening (Continued)

- Report to and coordinate with the One-Stop Operator or designated Supervisor to implement safety policies and procedures.
- Assist in completing any applicable forms related to safety and implement social distancing guidance recommendations.
- Where social distancing is not possible, review and approve social distancing exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
- Conduct daily walkthroughs of the facility and/or interview employees to ensure social distancing guidelines are maintained. Make immediate corrections if possible.
- Document instances of non-compliance for resolution with the One-Stop Operator or designated Supervisor.
- Prepare and distribute training materials to employees on social distancing guidelines.