

August 20, 2020

Re: Requirements for face coverings and social distancing

Dear Liquor Licensee:

The purpose of this letter is to review the requirements for face coverings in licensed establishments and reiterate your duty to help protect the health and safety of our community. I understand that these have been trying times, and I recognize the struggle that our businesses have faced during this pandemic. I appreciate your efforts to do your part to protect our community in the face of this unprecedented time.

Through the administrative rule making process, the State of Illinois now requires the **use of face coverings in businesses when customers are not eating or drinking. The rule also prohibits gatherings of more than 50 people (or, if the building occupancy is less than 50 people, 50% of the occupancy).** The rule sets out **penalties for businesses** that fail to enforce these requirements and can be found at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/governor-pritzkers-executive-orders-and-rules>.

As a liquor licensee in the City of Bloomington, you have the legal duty to follow the law. In addition to the penalties under the Public Health Department's emergency rule, a failure to abide by health regulations and other laws **may result in the revocation or nonrenewal of your liquor license**, as well as the imposition of fines. The City will respond appropriately to violations, as compliance with the rules is not only our best hope of keeping people safe, but also our best hope for being able to keep businesses within our community open.

Please note that if you have an off-premise agreement with the City, violation of the emergency rules would also be cause for revocation of that agreement.

The COVID-19 virus continues to be a significant public health risk. As of Wednesday, the Illinois Department of Public Health was reporting a total of 211,899 cases, including 7,806 deaths, in Illinois. Public health experts say that face coverings and social distancing are essential in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Until a vaccine is available, face coverings and social distancing are our most effective tools in stemming the pandemic and saving lives.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and your dedication in keeping Bloomington safe and prosperous.

Sincerely,



Tari Renner
Liquor Commissioner