

ICCTA Legislative Report

April 26, 2020

CAPITOL UPDATE

Illinois House Cancels Session This Week: The Illinois House of Representatives has cancelled its session days scheduled for April 28-30. The deadline for House bills to move out of committees, which had previously been rescheduled for April 30, will be extended to May 7. The 3rd Reading deadline for House bills, which had previously been rescheduled for May 8, will be extended to May 15.

State Withdraws Emergency Workers Compensation Rule: The Illinois Workers Compensation Commission is withdrawing a [controversial rule](#) that would grant benefits to essential employees who become ill from COVID-19, even if the workers cannot prove they got the virus while on the job. This follows an April 23 ruling by a Sangamon County judge, who granted a [temporary restraining order](#) in response to a lawsuit filed by a coalition of business groups (including the Illinois Manufacturers Association and the Illinois Retail Merchants Association). The plaintiffs had alleged that the Commission exceeded its statutory authority by enacting substantive changes through a rule change, rather than through the legislative process. The Governor's office indicates that the Commission will reissue a revised emergency amendment at a later date.

Electronic Submission of Construction Bids Allowed: In response to concerns expressed by community colleges regarding compliance with the Illinois Public Community College Act ([110 ILCS 805/3-27.1](#)), Gov. JB Pritzker included Section 15 in his [Executive Order 2020-31](#) on April 24. Section 15 of the EO states:

Section 15. The provision of the Illinois Public Community College Act, 110 ILCS 805/3-27.1, prohibiting bids for construction purposes from being submitted electronically, is suspended.

COVID-19 Update

Stay-At-Home Order Extended Through May 30: On April 23, Gov. Pritzker announced that he would extend the state's stay-at-home order through May 30. The new order leaves most restrictions in place but loosens some restrictions in areas with very low risk of viral transmission. The Governor also warned that if crowds develop and people increasingly violate the order, restrictions will be reinstated.

The new Executive Order, which will be formally issued this week, will include the following modifications:

OUTDOOR RECREATION: State parks will begin a phased re-opening under guidance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Fishing and boating in groups of no more than two people will be permitted. A list of parks that will be open on May 1 and additional guidelines can be found on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website. Golf will be permitted under strict safety guidelines provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and when ensuring that social distancing is followed.

NEW ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES: Greenhouses, garden centers, and nurseries may re-open as essential businesses. These stores must follow social distancing requirements and require that employees and customers wear a face covering. Animal grooming services may also re-open.

NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL: Retail stores not designated as non-essential businesses and operations may re-open to fulfill telephone and online orders through pick-up outside the store and delivery.

FACE COVERINGS: Beginning on May 1, individuals will be required to wear a face-covering or a mask when in a public place where they cannot maintain a six-foot social distance. In addition, face-coverings will be required in public indoor spaces, such as stores. This new requirement applies to all individuals over the age of two who are able to medically tolerate a face-covering or a mask.

ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES AND MANUFACTURING: Essential businesses and manufacturers will be required to provide face-coverings to all employees who are not able to maintain six feet of social distancing, as well as follow new requirements that maximize social distancing and prioritize the well-being of employees and customers. This will include occupancy limits for essential businesses and precautions such as staggering shifts and operating only essential lines for manufacturers.

SCHOOLS: Educational institutions may allow and establish procedures for pick-up of necessary supplies or student belongings. Dormitory move-outs must follow public health guidelines, including social distancing.

The Illinois Department of Public Health will also be issuing guidance to surgi-centers and hospitals to allow for certain elective surgeries for non-life-threatening conditions, starting on May 1. Facilities will need to meet specific criteria, including proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), ensuring that enough overall space for COVID-19 patients remains available, and testing of elective surgery patients to ensure COVID-19 negative status.

Illinois Supreme Court to Conduct Oral Arguments via Videoconference: According to the National Center for State Courts, Illinois will join 26 other states in using videoconferencing to conduct oral arguments. This is the first time such technology has ever been embraced by the state's seven Supreme Court justices. The Court is scheduled to hear 11 cases this session: four on May 12, four on May 13, and three on May 14. Attorneys and members of the court will use Zoom to conduct oral arguments; members of the public can watch on the Supreme Court's YouTube page.

FEMA Issues Guidance on PPE Use in Non-Healthcare Settings: Recent [guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) summarizes how organizations should consider and manage their PPE needs while ensuring the protection of workers during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

For community college-specific information on the COVID-19 crisis, visit the Illinois Community College Board's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates and Resources](#) page.

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