

MEMORANDUM

March 8, 2022

to: Members of the Illinois House of Representatives
from: Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House
re: **Updates re: COVID-19 Guidance**



Pursuant to the House Rules, the following protocols will be in place immediately:

House Chamber and Adjoining Hallways and Passages

- Face coverings in the House chamber and adjoining hallways and passages will be optional. Members, staff, press, and visitors who wish to continue using face coverings are allowed and encouraged to do so.
- Social distancing of six feet will not be required, but members, staff, press, and visitors are encouraged to respect others' space and socially distance when possible.
- Temperature checks at the House chamber entrances will not be required.
- Capacity limits will be in place for the House chamber. Pages and outside guests to the House floor will be limited to three per caucus. A 50% capacity limit for the House gallery will be in place.

House Committee Hearings

- Some committee hearings will now be hybrid (in-person/virtual) with individuals able to attend in person in Room 114 of the Capitol or remotely via Zoom. Due to limited hybrid capabilities, all other committee hearings will continue to be held virtually via Zoom.
- Face coverings in Room 114 will be optional. Members, staff, press, and visitors who wish to continue using face coverings are allowed and encouraged to do so.
- Social distancing of six feet will not be required, but members, staff, press, and visitors are encouraged to respect others' space and socially distance when possible.
- Temperature checks will not be required.
- Capacity limits will be 50%.

Some members, staff, and others who visit our Capitol are immunocompromised or unable to be vaccinated or live with an individual or child who is immunocompromised or unable to be vaccinated. Those individuals may ask others in close contact to wear a mask or practice social distancing. As always, I ask that we all be respectful of these requests.

SHIELD Illinois COVID-19 testing continues to be available to all members, staff, lobbyists and members of the press on Mondays (9 am – 1 pm; 4 pm – 9 pm), Wednesdays (11 am – 6 pm) and Fridays (9 am – 1 pm) in the B-Section of the Stratton Office Building.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 data and will make any needed adjustments in the future in consultation with Minority Leader Durkin.

If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Tiffany Moy, at 217-782-6360.