

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING•HEATING•COOLING•CONTRACTORS

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RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

Office of the Governor
JB Pritzker

May 5, 2020

**Complete
Article
Inside
Page 6-14**

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CONTENTS

President's Thoughts	4
COVID-19 Resources for the p-h-c Industry	5
Illinois Department of Labor Certified Payroll Portal	5
Restore Illinois	6-14
Plumbing Codebook Order Form	15
Guidance for Reopening Building Water Systems	17-19
IAPMO Makes Standards Free to Aid Fight Against COVID-19.	20
OSHA ALERT: COVID-19 Guidance for the Construction Workforce.	21
Milwaukee Cleaning of Tools to Help Prevent Spread of Covid-19	9
Risk Management: Working in Heat.	23
Power Meeting 2020 Recap: Attendees Learn How to Be Heard...Loud and Clear	24
Federated Insurance Companies Announce COVID-19 Client Relief Credit	26

ADVERTISERS

Bradford White	2
Connor Company	27
Federated Insurance	16
Hodes	5
H.R. Stewart	19
Rheem	25
Test Gauge	Back Cover
Torvac	4



PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Mike Ehret
Illinois PHCC President

As my term comes to an end, I need to thank Bev and Shelley. They have made this entire term pretty painless. They have made excellent decisions and I'm confident that the association is in very good hands with their hard work and continued direction.

I hope everyone stays safe through COVID19 so that we can meet in the future.

For the last time,

Mike



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COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR THE P-H-C INDUSTRY

CHECK OUT THE PHCC COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER. WANT ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES REGARDING THE PANDEMIC? Visit www.phccweb.org/preparedness/ for all the latest information and tools.

As our Industry deals with issues related to COVID-19, we suggest that you also visit the sites listed below for information, resources and guidance.

- IAPMO Coronavirus Guidance for Plumbers https://www.iapmo.org/media/23453/coronavirus_guidance_for_plumbers.pdf
- IDES Unemployment Website <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/default.aspx>
- CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html)

[ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html)

- IDPH Coronavirus FAQ <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>
- Department of Commerce <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOC/bulletins/28177d9>
- Small Business Administration Loan Resources https://www.sba.gov/page/guidance-businesses-employers-plan-respond-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery




ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR CERTIFIED PAYROLL PORTAL

Pursuant to Public Act 100-1177, the Illinois Department of Labor is charged with developing and maintaining an online portal for prevailing wage construction contractors to file their certified payrolls with the department. Currently, the IDOL portal will only accept manual submissions.

If a contractor uses a software program to track, run, and file their certified payroll – we would encourage you to continue your normal practice and file with the public body in charge of the project until further notice from the Department of Labor. **If a prevailing wage contractor does not use a software program to file their certified payroll - they must file in the IDOL portal.** We are working on the ability to upload large amounts of data for payrolls, but it is not ready yet.

Please check back here for any updates. <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/CONMED/Pages/prevailing-wage-act.aspx>

Questions regarding this new online portal can also be directed to the IDOL by calling 217-782-1710 or 312-793-1585. 



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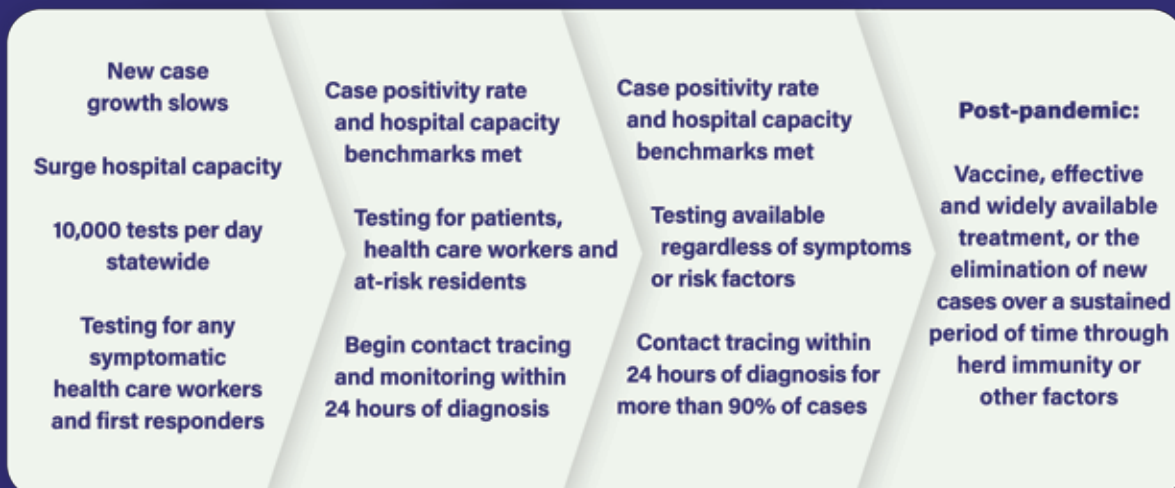
Faucets and External Trim

Internal Faucet Repair

RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

Phase 1 Rapid Spread	Phase 2 Flattening	Phase 3 Recovery	Phase 4 Revitalization	Phase 5 Illinois Restored
<p>Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place, and only essential businesses remain open.</p> <p>Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.</p>	<p>Non-essential retail stores reopen for curb-side pickup and delivery.</p> <p>Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating & fishing while practicing social distancing.</p>	<p>Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions.</p> <p>Gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed.</p> <p>Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</p>	<p>Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health.</p> <p>Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</p>	<p>The economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing.</p> <p>Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures.</p>



An Introduction



From the beginning of the new coronavirus pandemic, Illinois' response has been guided by data, science, and public health experts. As community spread rapidly increased, Governor Pritzker moved quickly to issue a Disaster Proclamation on March 9, restrict visitors to nursing homes on March 11, close bars and restaurants for on-site consumption on March 16, move schools to remote learning on March 17, and issue a Stay at Home order on March 21. This virus has caused painful, cascading consequences for everyone in Illinois, but the science has been clear: in the face of a new coronavirus with unknown characteristics and in the absence of widespread testing availability and contact tracing, mitigation and maintaining a 6-foot social distance have been the only options to reduce the spread and save as many lives as possible.

Millions of Illinoisans working together by staying at home and following experts' recommendations have proven these mitigation and social distancing measures effective so far. The result has been a lower infection rate, fewer hospitalizations, and lower number of fatalities than projected without these measures. Our curve has begun to flatten. Nevertheless, the risk of spread remains, and modeling and data point to a rapid surge in new cases if all mitigation measures were to be immediately lifted.

Now that Illinois is bending the curve, it is vitally important that we follow a safe and deliberate path forward to get our Illinois economy moving. That path forward is not what everyone wants or hopes for, but it will keep Illinoisans as safe as possible from this virus as our economy is reopening.

Restore Illinois is about saving lives and livelihoods. This five-phased plan will reopen our state, guided by health metrics and with distinct business, education, and recreation activities characterizing each phase. This is an initial framework that will likely be updated as research and science develop and as the potential for treatments or vaccines is realized. The plan is based upon regional healthcare availability, and it recognizes the distinct impact COVID-19 has had on different regions of our state as well as regional variations in hospital capacity. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has 11 Emergency Medical Services Regions that have traditionally guided its statewide public health work and will continue to inform this reopening plan. For the purposes of this plan, from those 11, four health regions are established, each with the ability to independently move through a phased approach: Northeast Illinois; North-Central Illinois; Central Illinois; and Southern Illinois.

The five phases for each health region are as follows:

Phase 1 – Rapid Spread: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital is high or rapidly increasing. Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place and only essential businesses remain open. Every region has experienced this phase once already, and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.

Phase 2 – Flattening: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital beds and ICU beds increases at an ever slower rate, moving toward a flat and even a downward trajectory. Non-essential retail stores reopen for curb-side pickup and delivery. Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating and fishing while practicing social distancing. To varying degrees, every region is experiencing flattening as of early May.

Phase 3 – Recovery: The rate of infection among those surveillance tested, the number of patients admitted to the hospital, and the number of patients needing ICU beds is stable or declining. Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions. Gatherings limited to 10 people or fewer are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

Phase 4 – Revitalization: The rate of infection among those surveillance tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital continues to decline. Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

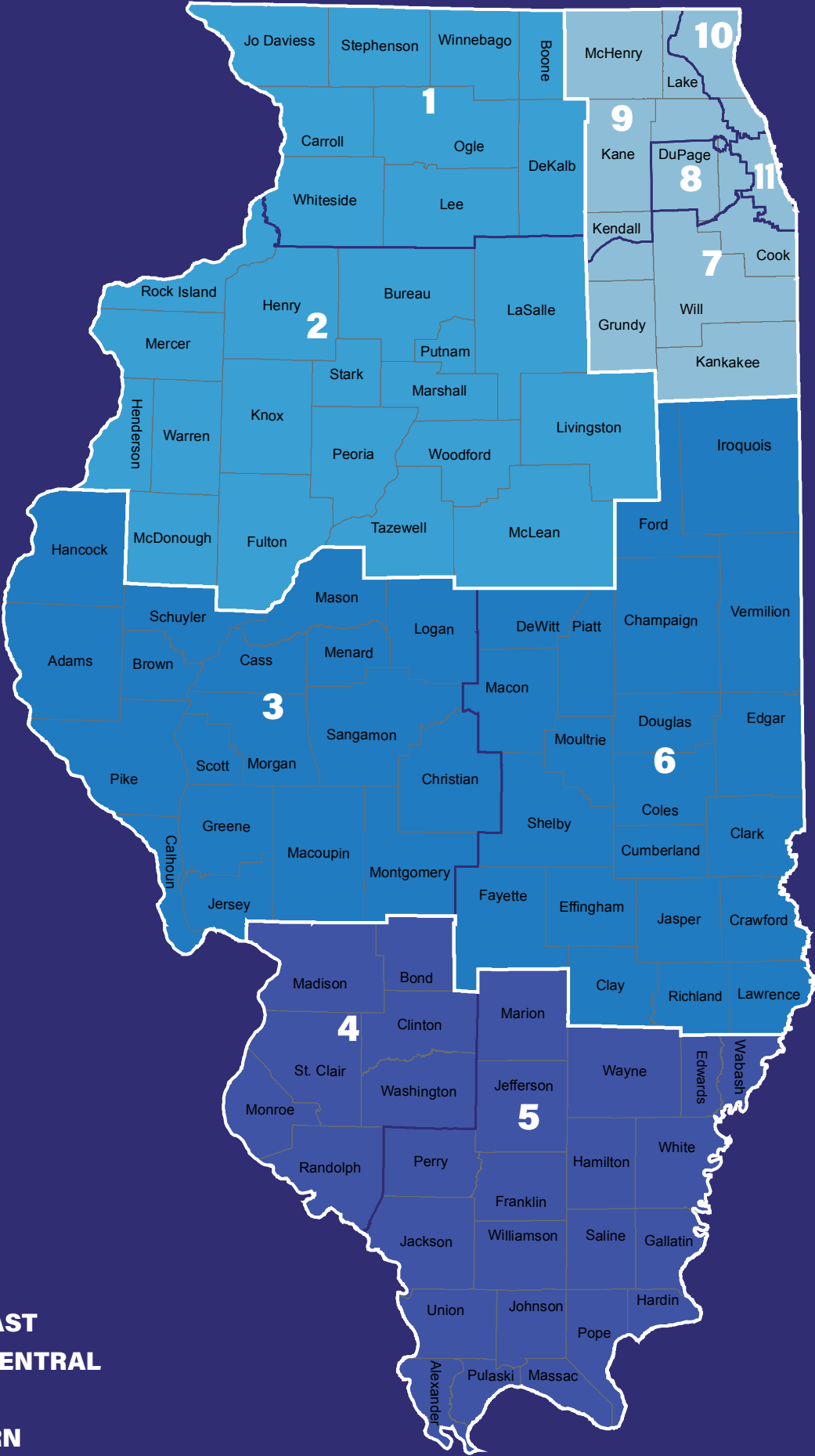
Phase 5 – Illinois Restored: With a vaccine or highly effective treatment widely available or the elimination of any new cases over a sustained period, the economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing. Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures in place reflecting the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Until COVID-19 is defeated, this plan also recognizes that just as health metrics will tell us it is safe to move forward, health metrics may also tell us to return to a prior phase. With a vaccine or highly effective treatment not yet available, IDPH will be closely monitoring key metrics to immediately identify trends in cases and hospitalizations to determine whether a return to a prior phase may become necessary.

*All public health criteria included in this document are subject to change.
As research and data on this novel coronavirus continue to develop, this plan
can and will be updated to reflect the latest science and data.*

RESTORE ILLINOIS HEALTH REGIONS

Continued



Phase 1: Rapid Spread

WHAT THIS PHASE LOOKS LIKE

COVID-19 is rapidly spreading. The number of COVID-19 positive patients in the hospital, in ICU beds, and on ventilators is increasing. The public health response relies on dramatic mitigation measures, like stay at home orders and social distancing, to slow the spread of the virus and prevent a surge that overwhelms the health care system. With a Stay at Home order in place, only essential businesses are in operation and activities outside of the home are limited to essentials, like grocery shopping.

WHAT'S OPEN?

Gatherings: Essential gatherings, such as religious services, of 10 or fewer allowed; No non-essential gatherings of any size

Travel: Non-essential travel discouraged

Health care: Emergency procedures and COVID-19 care only

Education and child care: Remote learning in P-12 schools and higher education; Child care in groups of 10 or fewer for essential workers

Outdoor recreation: Walking, hiking and biking permitted; State parks closed

Businesses:

- **Manufacturing:** Essential manufacturing only
- **"Non-essential" businesses:** Employees of "non-essential" businesses are required to work from home except for Minimum Basic Operations
- **Bars and restaurants:** Open for delivery, pickup and drive-through only
- **Entertainment:** Closed
- **Personal care services and health clubs:** Closed
- **Retail:** Essential stores are open with strict restrictions; Non-essential stores are closed

HOW WE MOVE TO THE NEXT PHASE

Cases and Capacity:

- Slowing of new case growth
- Availability of surge capacity in adult medical and surgical beds, ICU beds, and ventilators

Testing:

- Ability to perform 10,000 tests per day statewide
- Testing available in region for any symptomatic health care workers and first responders

Phase 2: Flattening

WHAT THIS PHASE LOOKS LIKE

The rise in the rate of infection is beginning to slow and stabilize. Hospitalizations and ICU bed usage continue to increase but are flattening, and hospital capacity remains stable. Face coverings must always be worn when social distancing is not possible. Testing capacity increases and tracing programs are put in place to contain outbreaks and limit the spread.

WHAT'S OPEN

Gatherings: Essential gatherings, such as religious services, of 10 or fewer allowed; No non-essential gatherings

Travel: Non-essential travel discouraged

Health care: Emergency and COVID-19 care continue; Elective procedures allowed once IDPH criteria met

Education and child care: Remote learning in P-12 schools and higher education; Child care in groups of 10 or fewer for essential workers

Outdoor recreation: Walking, hiking, and biking permitted; Select state parks open; Boating and fishing permitted; Golf courses open; All with IDPH approved safety guidance

Businesses:

- **Manufacturing:** Essential manufacturing only
- **"Non-essential" businesses:** Employees of "non-essential" businesses are required to work from home except for Minimum Basic Operations
- **Bars and restaurants:** Open for delivery, pickup, and drive through only
- **Personal care services and health clubs:** Closed
- **Retail:** Essential stores are open with restrictions; Non-essential stores open for delivery and curbside pickup

HOW WE MOVE TO THE NEXT PHASE

Cases and Capacity: The determination of moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3 will be driven by the COVID-19 positivity rate in each region and measures of maintaining regional hospital surge capacity. This data will be tracked from the time a region enters Phase 2, onwards.

- At or under a 20 percent positivity rate and increasing no more than 10 percentage points over a 14-day period, AND
- No overall increase (i.e. stability or decrease) in hospital admissions for COVID-19-like illness for 28 days, AND
- Available surge capacity of at least 14 percent of ICU beds, medical and surgical beds, and ventilators

Testing: Testing available for all patients, health care workers, first responders, people with underlying conditions, and residents and staff in congregate living facilities

Tracing: Begin contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis

WHAT COULD CAUSE US TO MOVE BACK

IDPH will closely monitor data and receive on-the-ground feedback from local health departments and regional healthcare councils and will recommend moving back to the previous phase based on the following factors:

- Sustained rise in positivity rate
- Sustained increase in hospital admissions for COVID-19 like illness
- Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities
- Significant outbreak in the region that threatens the health of the region

Phase 3: Recovery

WHAT THIS PHASE LOOKS LIKE

The rate of infection among those surveillance tested is stable or declining. COVID-19-related hospitalizations and ICU capacity remains stable or is decreasing. Face coverings in public continue to be required. Gatherings of 10 people or fewer for any reason can resume. Select industries can begin returning to workplaces with social distancing and sanitization practices in place. Retail establishments reopen with limited capacity, and select categories of personal care establishments can also begin to reopen with social distancing guidelines and personal protective equipment. Robust testing is available along with contact tracing to limit spread and closely monitor the trend of new cases.

WHAT'S OPEN

Gatherings: All gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data & guidance

Travel: Travel should follow IDPH and CDC approved guidance

Health Care: All health care providers are open with DPH approved safety guidance

Education and child care: Remote learning in P-12 schools and higher education; Limited child care and summer programs open with IDPH approved safety guidance

Outdoor recreation: State parks open; Activities permitted in groups of 10 or fewer with social distancing

Businesses:

- **Manufacturing:** Non-essential manufacturing that can safely operate with social distancing can reopen with IDPH approved safety guidance
- **"Non-essential" businesses:** Employees of "non-essential" businesses are allowed to return to work with IDPH approved safety guidance depending upon risk level, tele-work strongly encouraged wherever possible; Employers are encouraged to provide accommodations for COVID-19-vulnerable employees
- **Bars and restaurants:** Open for delivery, pickup, and drive through only
- **Personal care services and health clubs:** Barbershops and salons open with IDPH approved safety guidance; Health and fitness clubs can provide outdoor classes and one-on-one personal training with IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Retail:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance, including face coverings

HOW WE MOVE TO THE NEXT PHASE

Cases and Capacity: The determination of moving from Phase 3 to Phase 4 will be driven by the COVID-19 positivity rate in each region and measures of maintaining regional hospital surge capacity. This data will be tracked from the time a region enters Phase 3, onwards.

- At or under a 20 percent positivity rate and increasing no more than 10 percentage points over a 14-day period, AND
- No overall increase (i.e. stability or decrease) in hospital admissions for COVID-19-like illness for 28 days, AND
- Available surge capacity of at least 14 percent of ICU beds, medical and surgical beds, and ventilators

Testing: Testing available in region regardless of symptoms or risk factors

Tracing: Begin contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis for more than 90% of cases in region

WHAT COULD CAUSE US TO MOVE BACK

IDPH will closely monitor data and receive on-the-ground feedback from local health departments and regional healthcare councils and will recommend moving back to the previous phase based on the following factors:

- Sustained rise in positivity rate
- Sustained increase in hospital admissions for COVID-19 like illness
- Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities
- Significant outbreak in the region that threatens the health of the region

Phase 4: Revitalization

WHAT THIS PHASE LOOKS LIKE

There is a continued decline in the rate of infection in new COVID-19 cases. Hospitals have capacity and can quickly adapt for a surge of new cases in their communities. Additional measures can be carefully lifted allowing for schools and child care programs to reopen with social distancing policies in place. Restaurants can open with limited capacity and following strict public health procedures, including personal protective equipment for employees. Gatherings with 50 people or fewer will be permitted. Testing is widely available, and tracing is commonplace.

WHAT'S OPEN

Gatherings: Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data and guidance

Travel: Travel should follow IDPH and CDC approved guidance

Health care: All health care providers are open

Education and child care: P-12 schools, higher education, all summer programs, and child care open with IDPH approved safety guidance

Outdoor Recreation: All outdoor recreation allowed

Businesses:

- **Manufacturing:** All manufacturing open with IDPH approved safety guidance
- **"Non-essential" businesses:** All employees return to work with IDPH approved safety guidance; Employers are encouraged to provide accommodations for COVID-19-vulnerable employees
- **Bars and restaurants:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Personal care services and health clubs:** All barbershops, salons, spas and health and fitness clubs open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Entertainment:** Cinema and theaters open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Retail:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance

HOW WE MOVE TO THE NEXT PHASE

Post-pandemic: Vaccine, effective and widely available treatment, or the elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time through herd immunity or other factors.

WHAT COULD CAUSE US TO MOVE BACK

IDPH will closely monitor data and receive on-the-ground feedback from local health departments and regional healthcare councils and will recommend moving back to the previous phase based on the following factors:


- Sustained rise in positivity rate
- Sustained increase in hospital admissions for COVID-19 like illness
- Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities
- Significant outbreak in the region that threatens the health of the region

Phase 5: Illinois Restored

WHAT THIS PHASE LOOKS LIKE

Testing, tracing and treatment are widely available throughout the state. Either a vaccine is developed to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, a treatment option is readily available that ensures health care capacity is no longer a concern, or there are no new cases over a sustained period. All sectors of the economy reopen with new health and hygiene practices permanently in place. Large gatherings of all sizes can resume. Public health experts focus on lessons learned and building out the public health infrastructure needed to meet and overcome future challenges. Health care equity is made a priority to improve health outcomes and ensure vulnerable communities receive the quality care they deserve.

WHAT'S OPEN

- All sectors of the economy reopen with businesses, schools, and recreation resuming normal operations with new safety guidance and procedures.
- Conventions, festivals, and large events can take place. 


MANDATORY SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING Now Available

Public Act 101-0221 (commonly referred to as the Workplace Transparency Act), requires Illinois employers to provide sexual harassment prevention training to their employees on an annual basis, regardless of the size of the company.

Under this law, Illinois employers have until **December 31, 2020**, to train employees on sexual harassment prevention. The Act provides minimum standards that must be included in the training. To assist your business in complying with this new law, the Illinois Department of Human Rights has posted the following information on its website:

- A FAQ for Sexual Harassment Prevention Training
- Minimum Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Standards for All Employers

Employers must either develop their own sexual harassment prevention training program that equals or exceeds the minimum standards for sexual harassment prevention training outlined in Section 2-109(B) of the Illinois Human Rights Act, or they may use the model training provided by the IDHR. **The IDHR has released the model sexual harassment prevention training that can be used by Illinois employers.** The model training program can be downloaded by visiting <https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Training/Pages/State-of-Illinois-Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Training-Model.aspx>

For more information please visit IDHR's website at www.illinois.gov/dhr/training. 

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Referrals to this independent attorney network are normally reserved for Federated Insurance clients, but are available to all IL PHCC members during this time of crisis. If you and your family an/or business partners are interested in scheduling one of these video conferences, contact Ben Cox by e-mail btcox@fedins.com or phone 612-889-6554.

*Please note that these services are provided by third parties wholly independent of Federated with the understanding that neither Federated nor its employees provide legal or other expert advice.





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Dan Bonetti (left) and
Ray Bonetti (right)



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GUIDANCE FOR REOPENING BUILDING WATER SYSTEMS

As buildings such as schools, government offices, churches, factories, and retail outlets that have been shuttered due to COVID-19 begin to reopen, special attention should be given to the water systems within those facilities. These shutdowns have created prime conditions for growth of waterborne pathogens like legionella that cause Legionnaire's disease. The low (or no) flow of water through these water systems, coupled with the lack of chlorinated water and irregular temperature changes, have created conditions prime for the bacteria growth.

Health officials say that as locations consider reopening, any commercial facility vacated or underutilized for more than three weeks is at risk for a Legionnaires' outbreak. The water distribution systems, fixtures, and devices need to be properly flushed and sanitized.

Illinois licensed plumbers are water experts and should educate themselves on how and what needs to be done, and then proactively reach out to the owners and managers of closed facilities to offer your expertise.

You may want to review ASSE 12000, *Infection Control Risk Assessment for All Building Systems*. This standard addresses the need for construction and maintenance personnel to become proficient in identifying and managing potential situations where they may be exposed to pathogens, diseases and hazards. This standard series also enhances the ability of personnel to protect occupants and operations from infections; especially within healthcare facilities. Making this standard even more encompassing and valuable than the previous edition, ASSE Series 12000 now defines general knowledge requirements for developing and implementing water systems risk management programs and sets minimum criteria for training and certifying employers, plumbers, pipefitters, HVAC technicians, and sprinkler fitters.

The 12010, 12020, 12030 and 12040 standards (all of which are included in the Series 12000) are infection control standards that directly address the spread of pathogens including viruses like COVID-19. You can access ASSE 12000, free of charge, at the http://epubs.iapmo.org/ASSE_Standards/12000-2018/




The following are recommendations from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention related to building water systems.

8 Steps to take before your business or building reopens

1. Develop a comprehensive water management program (WMP) for your water system and all devices that use water. Guidance to help with this process is available from CDC and others.
 - a. Water Management Program Toolkit:
This toolkit is designed to help people understand which buildings and devices need a *Legionella* water management program to reduce the risk of Legionnaires' disease, what makes a good program, and how to develop it.
<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/index.html>
 - b. Preventing Legionnaires' Disease: A Training on *Legionella* Water Management Programs (PreventLD Training)
Take this training from CDC and partners on creating a water management program to reduce risk of Legionnaires' disease. PreventLD Training aligns with industry standards on managing risk of *Legionella* bacteria.
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/elearn/prevent-LD-training.html>
 - c. Hotel Guidance:
Considerations for Hotel Owners and Managers: How to Prevent Legionnaires' Disease
<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/hotel-owners-managers.html>
 - d. Operating Public Hot Tubs for pool staff and owners
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/operating-public-hot-tubs.html>
 - e. From Plumbing to Patients
Water management programs in healthcare facilities are an important way to help protect vulnerable patient populations as well as staff

and visitors.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/environment/water.html>

- f. Preventing Occupational Exposure to *Legionella*
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2019-131/default.html>
2. Ensure your water heater is properly maintained and the temperature is correctly set
 - a. Determine if your manufacturer recommends draining the water heater after a prolonged period of disuse. Ensure that all maintenance activities are carried out according to the manufacturer's instructions or by professionals.
 - b. Make sure that your water heater is set to at least 120°F
 - c. Higher temperatures can further reduce the risk of *Legionella* growth, but ensure that you take measures to prevent scalding if your water heater is set to >130°F
3. Flush your water system
 - a. Flush hot and cold water through all points of use (e.g., showers, sink faucets)
 - i. Flushing may need to occur in segments (e.g., floors or individual rooms) due to facility size and water pressure. The purpose of building flushing is to replace all water inside building piping with fresh water.
 - b. Flush until the hot water reaches its maximum temperature
4. Clean all decorative water features, such as fountains.
 - a. Be sure to follow any recommended manufacturer guidelines for cleaning
 - b. Ensure that decorative water features are free of visible slime or biofilm
 - c. After the water feature has been re-filled, measure disinfectant levels to ensure that the water is safe for use
5. Ensure hot tubs/spas are safe for use
 - a. Check for existing guidelines from your local or state regulatory agency before use
 - b. Ensure that hot tubs/spas are free of visible slime or biofilm before filling with water
 - c. Perform a hot tub/spa disinfection procedure before use
 - i. CDC Guidance (follow Steps 4–9 and 12–13): <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/downloads/hot-tub-disinfection.pdf> 
 - ii. Facilities may decide to test the hot tub/spa for *Legionella* before returning to service if previous device maintenance logs, bacterial testing results, or associated cases of Legionnaires' disease indicate an elevated level of risk to occupants. All *Legionella* testing decisions should be made in consultation with facility water management program staff along with relevant public health authorities.
6. Ensure cooling towers are clean and well-maintained
 - a. Ensure that cooling towers are maintained (including start-up and shut-down procedures) per manufacturer's guidelines and industry best practices
 - b. Ensure that the tower and basin are free of visible slime or biofilm before use
 - i. If the tower appears well-maintained, perform an online disinfection procedure
 - Guidance on disinfection procedures from the Cooling Technology Institute: <http://www.cti.org/downloads/WTP-148.pdf>  
7. Ensure safety equipment including fire sprinkler systems, eye wash stations, and safety showers are clean and well-maintained
 - a. Regularly flush, clean, and disinfect these systems according to manufacturers' specifications.
8. Maintain your water system

- a. Consider contacting your local water utility to learn about any recent disruptions in the water supply. This could include working with the local water utility to ensure that standard checkpoints near the building or at the meter to the building have recently been checked or request that disinfectant residual entering the building meets expected standards.
- b. After your water system has returned to normal, ensure that the risk of *Legionella* growth is minimized by regularly checking water quality parameters such as temperature, pH, and disinfectant levels.
- c. Follow your water management program, document activities, and promptly intervene when problems arise.

- Cooling Technology Institute Legionellosis Guideline 2008 (WTP -148)pdf
<http://www.cti.org/downloads/WTP-148.pdf>
- Cooling Technology Institute Legionellosis Guideline 2019 (GLD 159)
<https://cti.org/pub/cticode.php>



Additional Resources

- CDC Model Aquatic Health Code
<https://www.cdc.gov/mahc/index.html>
- CDC Healthcare Water System Repair and Recovery Following a Boil Water Advisory or Disruption of Water Supply
<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/watersystemrepair.html>
- ASHRAE Standard 188: Legionellosis Risk Management For Building Water Systems
<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/bookstore/ansi-ashrae-standard-188-2018-legionellosis-risk-management-for-building-water-systems>
- ASHRAE Guideline 12: Minimizing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems
https://www.techstreet.com/ashrae/standards/guideline-12-2000-minimizing-the-risk-of-legionellosis-associated-with-building-water-systems?gateway_code=ashrae&product_id=232891



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IAPMO MAKES STANDARDS FREE TO AID FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

In order to help plumbing and mechanical professionals perform their essential duty — protecting the public's health and safety — without incurring unnecessary financial hardship, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) has made some critical standards available free of charge.

"Because we know the challenges many in our industry now face include financial uncertainty, IAPMO is temporarily providing free remote access to the standards most vital in dealing with such viral threats as COVID-19," said IAPMO CEO GP Russ Chaney. "IAPMO understands we are all working together to combat COVID-19; access to codes and standards should not represent a roadblock in that battle."

The standards and codes available support the services essential to responding to COVID-19 and include performance and installation requirements for plumbing and mechanical systems. By granting free access, IAPMO hopes to enhance public understanding of how the proper functioning of these systems protects the health of the people they serve.

They are available at: **www.iapmo.org/code-standard-development/covid-19-resources**

Available standards and codes include:

- *ASSE 1044, Trap Seal Primer-Drainage Types and Electric Design Types*
- *ASSE 1072, Barrier Type Floor Drain Trap Seal Protection Devices*
- *ASSE 6000, Infection Control Risk Assessment for All Building Systems*
- *ASSE 12000, Infection Control Risk Assessment for All Building Systems*
- *ASSE 13000, Service Plumber and Residential Mechanical Services Technician*
- *ASSE 15000, Inspection, Testing and*

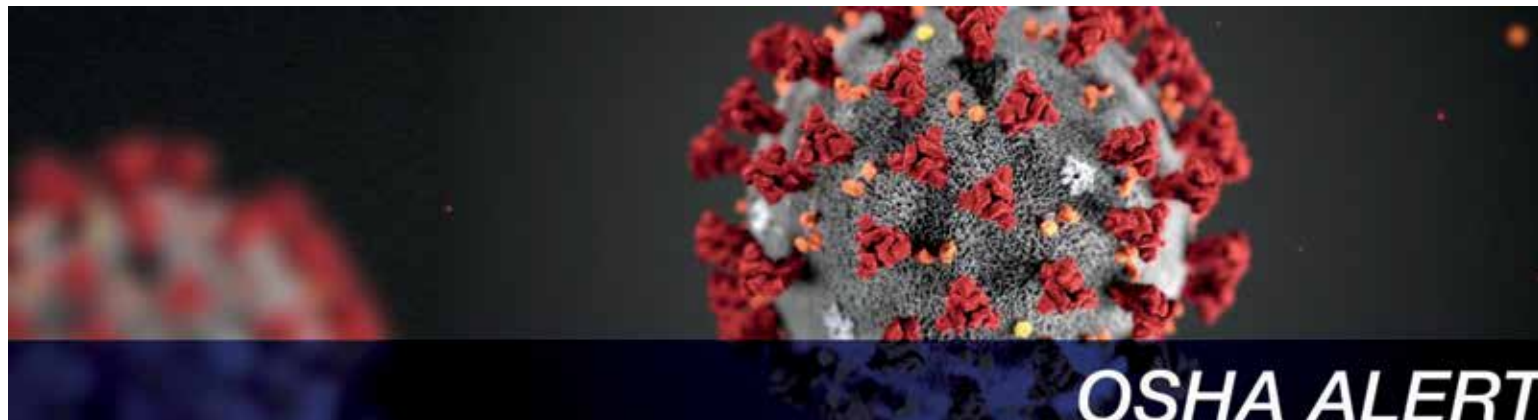
Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems

- *ASSE 16000, Inspector and Plans Examiner*
- *IGC 127, Combined Hand-Washing Systems*
- *IGC 156, Wash Fountains and Lavatory Systems with or without Water Closets*
- *IGC 278, Concealed Type Waterless Urinals*
- *IGC 289, Portable Sealed Personal Showering Systems*
- *IGC 305, ABS and PVC Horizontal Backwater Valves with Lifting Devices*
- *IGC 316, Self-Cleaning Water Closets*
- *IGC 361, Flexible Corrugated Drain Connectors for Lavatories and Sinks*
- *Uniform Plumbing Code*
- *Uniform Mechanical Code*
- *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code*

The White House and the Department of Homeland Security identified plumbing industry professionals as indispensable in their Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response. IAPMO published a guidance for plumbing professionals working under the threat of COVID-19 authored by Peter DeMarco, Executive Vice President of Advocacy and Research for The IAPMO Group: **www.iapmo.org/media/23453/coronavirus_guidance_for_plumbers.pdf**

For more information on IAPMO and its proactive initiatives in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, direct your web browser to **www.iapmo.org/ibu/whats-new/coronavirus-resources**.





COVID-19 Guidance for the Construction Workforce

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times. The agency will be issuing a series of industry-specific alerts designed to keep workers safe.

When working in the construction industry, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Allow workers to wear masks over their nose and mouth to prevent them from spreading the virus.
- Continue to use other normal control measures, including personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary to protect workers from other job hazards associated with construction activities.
- Advise workers to avoid physical contact with others and direct employees/contractors/visitors to increase personal space to at least six feet, where possible. Where work trailers are used, all workers should maintain social distancing while inside the trailers.
- Train workers how to properly put on, use/wear, and take off protective clothing and equipment.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Promote personal hygiene. If workers do not have immediate access to soap and water for handwashing, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency-approved cleaning chemicals from [List N](#) or that have label claims against the coronavirus.
- To the extent tools or equipment must be shared, provide and instruct workers to use alcohol-based wipes to clean tools before and after use. When cleaning tools and equipment, workers should consult manufacturer recommendations for proper cleaning techniques and restrictions.
- Keep in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limit the number of workers in attendance, and use social distancing practices.
- Clean and disinfect portable jobsite toilets regularly. Hand sanitizer dispensers should be filled regularly. Frequently-touched items (i.e., door pulls and toilet seats) should be disinfected.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/coronavirus or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

*OSHA issues alerts to draw attention to
worker safety and health issues and solutions.*



CLEANING OF TOOLS TO HELP PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19

Should a tool need to be cleaned that does not have blood or visible bodily fluids on it, Milwaukee® recommends the following protocol. This protocol is subject to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”), OSHA, and those of State and Local health departments. Please follow applicable guidelines of these agencies.

- People handling tools should wash their hands or use a proper hand sanitizer before and after use to help prevent contamination.
- People handling tools should be properly trained and protected using necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Clean tools with mild soap, a clean damp cloth, and, as needed, an approved diluted bleach solution only. Certain cleaning agents and solvents are harmful to plastics and other insulated parts and shouldn't be used.
- Milwaukee® does not recommend cleaners that have conductive or corrosive materials, especially those with ammonia. Some of these include gasoline, turpentine, lacquer thinner, paint thinner, chlorinated cleaning solvents, ammonia and household detergents containing ammonia.
- Never use flammable or combustible solvents around tools.

CLEANING OPTIONS:

1. MILD SOAP & REST

- If no blood was present on the product, it can be **cleaned with mild soap and a damp cloth to remove the fluids and then left to rest for 3 days**. This is based on CDC advisement that the virus may live on plastic surfaces for up to 72 hours, which suggest that the virus would no longer be harmful after the resting period. After this, the tool can be cleaned again.

*Recommended for batteries

2. MILD SOAP & DILUTED BLEACH SOLUTION

- If no blood was present on the product, it can be **cleaned with a mild soap and damp cloth to remove dirt and grease and then decontaminated with a diluted bleach solution**, which is consistent with CDC advise. The full diluted bleach cleaning procedure can be found below.

*Not recommended for batteries

PROCEDURE

1. Clean the product surface with mild soap and water to remove dirt and grease.
2. Dip a clean cloth into the dilute bleach solution.
3. Wring out the cloth so it is not dripping wet.
4. Gently wipe each handle, grasping surfaces, or outer surfaces with the cloth, using care to ensure liquids do not flow into tool.
5. No other cleaning material should be used as the diluted bleach solution should never be mixed with ammonia or any other cleanser.
6. Allow the surface to dry naturally.
7. The cleaner should avoid touching their face with unwashed hands and should immediately wash their hands after this process.

A properly diluted bleach solution can be made by mixing:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water; or
- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

NOTE: If blood was on the product, advance cleaning is needed. Follow established Bloodborne Pathogen protocols for your business. Under OSHA requirements, anyone required to perform this type cleaning should be trained in Bloodborne Pathogens and the use of the necessary PPE for this work.

Working In Heat

After a long, gray winter, the sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and the mercury is rising — and rising, and rising. For several weeks in the spring, outdoor work is going to be comfortable — even preferable to indoor work. But by mid- to late June, the temps will begin to take their toll.

The Dangers of Heat

Preparing for and handling working in heat and humidity can provide protection from potentially deadly conditions. Your body is designed to cool itself and normally does a good job. But if you're exposed to extreme heat for too long, sweat a lot and don't rehydrate, your cooling system may fail. A heat-related illness can start slowly — you may not even realize it's happening — but it can quickly get worse if it's not treated.

While anyone spending time in high temperatures is susceptible to a heat-related illness, some conditions can make you more likely to develop a heat-related injury, including:

- High levels of humidity
- Obesity
- Fever
- Dehydration
- Prescription drug use
- Heart disease
- Poor circulation
- Sunburn
- Alcohol use

Know the Warning Signs

Major warning signs of heat-related illness include muscle cramps, nausea or vomiting, weakness, headache, dizziness, and confusion. If you notice any of those symptoms, you might have one of the following:

Heat cramps — Just like they sound, these charley horses can be an indicator of a heat-related illness.

Heat exhaustion — Symptoms include increased body temperature, clammy skin, fatigue, nausea, headache, low blood pressure, and faintness. Untreated, it can lead to heatstroke.

Heatstroke — This condition is life-threatening and can cause brain damage, organ failure, or death. Body temperature goes over 104°F. The victim may stop sweating even though his/her skin may be hot, and could also become confused or irritable. Medical attention is critical.

Avoiding the Dangers

Not everyone reacts to excess heat exposure the same way. If you work in hot conditions, familiarize yourself with the related risks and preventive measures to help protect yourself. Practicing basic precautions can help make working in hot weather more bearable and less dangerous.

- Don't overdo it. Pace yourself when working in the heat.
- Hydrate with plenty of water or sports drinks, but no alcohol or caffeine.
- Dress appropriately — light-colored, lightweight, loose fitting clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat, if possible.
- Stay out of the midday sun if you can. Do the harder work during the cooler parts of the day.
- Wear sunscreen. A sunburn makes it harder for your body to cool itself.
- Keep an eye on co-workers. You might notice symptoms before they do.

If you or a co-worker experience symptoms of heat-related illness, stop work immediately, get out of the sun, and notify a supervisor or seek medical attention. A bright day could quickly turn dark if you don't recognize the risks of working in the heat.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice.

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POWER MEETING 2020 RECAP: ATTENDEES LEARN HOW TO BE HEARD...LOUD AND CLEAR

By Dave Chic, Program Director of QSC

Power Meeting 2020 in San Diego, California, was unlike any other. Taking place in early March, COVID-19 was just starting to wreak havoc on U.S. businesses, requiring the 143 registrants to attend to their employees' needs quickly and remotely over the 2½-day event and forcing some organic stops and starts during the Power Meeting programs.

Even with challenges, the show went on. Keynote Speaker Connie Podesta inspired the audience with her unbridled energy, enthusiasm and humor as she walked Power Meeting attendees through the psychology of hearing and the process for making sure they were being heard – the overarching theme of the event. “Having the tools to communicate is great,” said Podesta, “but making sure you are being heard is imperative when implementing them.” Podesta’s presentation – titled “Life Would Be Easy If It Weren’t for Other People” – provided the perfect entrée to the event. Preliminary speaker reviews indicate that Podesta might be one of Power Meeting’s favorite keynote presenters ... ever!

Meeting Highlights

In addition, Power Meeting 2020 offered valuable lessons on leadership, digital marketing, and hiring, retention and firing processes. Led by industry experts – Dr. Michael Hennelly with Strategyblitz, LLC, Eddie Hill with Prosperous Internet Marketing, and Andy Wilson with Kimbel – these sessions provided attendees with information that could be implemented immediately upon returning to their businesses. QSC Business Coaches Les Hanks and Franc Exley also provided open forum education and discussions during a Power Meeting favorite: a “QSC Coaches’ Corner and Qlist Live” session highlighting

plumbing and HVAC topics. An additional discussion group was held regarding the utility of a QSC Commercial Service Peer Group.

A Look Inside QSC



Power Meeting also offered attendees a unique opportunity to learn about the newest products and services offered by QSC Industry Partners and Sponsors. In addition to the educational sessions, the networking, socializing and mixing-and-mingling have contributed to Power Meeting’s reputation as a highly effective forum ... and are among the most highly valued reasons that QSC members attend each year.

This year, QSC premiered its “Power Meeting Match Game,” giving contractor members an opportunity to learn more about the Industry Partners’ businesses ... as well as offering up some little-known personal facts about these folks, too. Power Meeting 2020 also was marketed to all PHCC members extensively in hopes of attracting new coaching clients.

Non-QSC member attendees found the Power Meeting experience to be just what they needed to confirm that joining – especially during these trying times – will provide value to them and to their businesses. QSC’s updated benefits and attention to clients’ needs continue to provide satisfaction to all who are part of this most valued **PHCC Enhanced Service Group**.

For information on QSC and the benefits of Business Coaching, contact Program Director Dave Chic at chic@naphcc.org or via 800-533-7694.



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FEDERATED INSURANCE COMPANIES ANNOUNCE COVID-19 CLIENT RELIEF CREDIT

We hope that you, your employees, and family are remaining safe and healthy. We wanted to provide you with an update on Federated Insurance and what actions we have taken and are planning to take as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federated Insurance remains committed to helping you and your business as our nation unites to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are proud to be able to serve you and your business, especially during these times, as you represent the American Dream as a successful business owner. For over 116 years through major events in our nation's history, we have stood proudly, shoulder-to-shoulder with our now 38,000+ clients and over 500 association partners coast-to-coast. We recognize the business hardships you and your business are facing during this uncertain time.

To that end, during this tumultuous time we are taking additional actions to help further support you and your business:

- COVID-19 Client Relief Credit – from March 15 to June 15, we will be providing you a 15% credit based on your Business Auto premium, Auto Dealer/Garage Coverage Part premium, and your Businessowners Policy (BOP) premium. Policies must be in force at the time relief credit is applied. Credits will appear on your future invoices. Please note, these actions are subject to regulatory approval.
- In addition, attached is a link to our Client COVID-19 Resources for your review that summarizes many additional areas of support we are providing during this unprecedented time.
- As a reminder, we do have potential billing options that can be requested by contacting our Client Contact Center at 1-888-333-4949.
- If you need to make adjustments to payroll and sales figures to reflect today's environment, please contact your Federated marketing representative.

COVID-19 Resources for Clients

We exist for you. As a mutual insurance company, we believe our value is measured by the success of our clients. Please know that your Federated team continues to stand beside you and your business during these uncertain times. If we can be of any assistance, please contact your Federated marketing representative or Federated support team.

Jeff Fetters
Chairman and CEO

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