



STIC Daily Summary
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Open Source Daily
Ending at 0600 on May 22, 2020

Illinois COVID-19 Open Source Reporting

Pritzker clearing the way for outside activities, including dining

Saying the coming summer provides an opportunity to move toward normality, Gov. J.B. Pritzker today announced he's going to loosen his stay-home order to allow more outside activities, including visiting outdoor restaurants and bars, when the entire state moves into Phase 3 of its recovery plan, expected to happen next week. Under the new plan, restaurants will be able to serve patrons outside if they follow capacity and social-distancing rules. Indoor and outdoor tennis courts can reopen, and small-group athletic activities of up to 10 people, such as golf foursomes, will be permitted as long as participants either stay at least six feet from each other or wear masks.

Source: <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/greg-hinz-politics/pritzker-clearing-way-outside-activities-including-dining>

Pritzker Withdraws Emergency Rule to Enforce Stay-at-Home Order

Gov. J.B. Pritzker reversed course Wednesday, withdrawing a recent emergency rule that allowed for businesses to face Class A misdemeanor charges if they opened in violation of the state's ongoing stay-at-home order. Pritzker said his administration withdrew the rule "in order to pursue legislation with the same intended mechanism in a phased manner in line with the Restore Illinois plan." "Enacting this measure through legislation will allow us to have these tools throughout the Restore Illinois plan versus an emergency rule that would be withdrawn and rewritten at the start of phase three and then phase four," Pritzker said during his daily coronavirus press briefing.

Source: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/coronavirus/pritzker-withdraws-emergency-rule-to-enforce-stay-at-home-order/2275422/>

Illinois' New Jobless Claims Remain High, Push total since COVID-19 to nearly 1.1M

New U.S. Department of Labor data shows an additional 72,816 Illinoisans filed for unemployment the week ending May 16, bringing total new jobless claims to 1,095,516 since COVID-19 began shutting down the economy. Gig economy workers, independent contractors and freelancers were just allowed to file for unemployment in Illinois starting May 11, seven weeks after Gov. J.B. Pritzker first issued a stay-at-home order. The governor also said 44,000 of these workers filed for unemployment benefits on May 11, meaning the bulk of new claims came from workers who have likely been idled for nearly two months.

Source: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/illinois-jobless-claims-spike-as-self-employed-idled-by-covid-19-begin-filing/>

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Illinois COVID-19 remote learning yields some nearly empty online classrooms

When the I-Team discovered that both Illinois and Chicago education officials were unable to provide any data showing whether students are actually logging in to online remote learning during the pandemic, they launched an investigation and found some nearly empty virtual classrooms. "We're doing whatever we can to make sure that students are constantly learning but it is definitely heartbreaking and overwhelming to see the lack of participation, like do my students love me?" said CPS teacher Andrea Parker. Parker and other teachers at Fulton Elementary took their teaching outreach to the streets last week, leading school parade through Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood.

Source: <https://abc7chicago.com/education/illinois-covid-19-remote-learning-yields-some-nearly-empty-virtual-classrooms/6200331/>

National COVID-19 Open Source Reporting

U.S. orders 300 million doses of potential COVID-19 vaccine

The U.S. government has ordered 300 million doses of a potential COVID-19 virus being developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and hopes first doses can be made available by October, the Department of Health and Human Services said on Thursday. "This contract with AstraZeneca is a major milestone in Operation Warp Speed's work toward a safe, effective, widely available vaccine by 2021," HHS Secretary Alex Azar said in a statement.

Source: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-astrazeneca-hhs-idUSKBN22X0V0?taid=5ec66892fd929f0001f0d760&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter

Coronavirus 'does not spread easily' on contaminated surfaces: CDC

The uncertainty surrounding coronavirus has been a huge source of anxiety throughout this pandemic, as scientists have struggled to uncover not just a treatment for the disease, but also basic facts about its existence. Though many have been concerned about infection through items like groceries or mail deliveries, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently issued updated guidance saying that coronavirus "does not spread easily" from touching surfaces or objects.

Source: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-coronavirus-pandemic-chicago-illinois-news-20200521-5btzmvqbsjbo5nlro2ac2q76yq-story.html>

Bogus COVID-19 test kits seized at U.S.-Mexico border

Federal agents are warning against the smuggling of bogus COVID-19 test kits and other health-care related supplies at the US-Mexico border. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, agents confiscated 1,000 fake COVID-19 test kits being smuggled by a 36-year-old man into Mexico from New Mexico. In El Paso, a 62-year-old woman was found with 1,000 face masks, nearly 3,000 mask filters and dozens of bottles of hand sanitizer. None of the items complied with FDA regulations, CBP stated.

Source: <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/bogus-covid-19-test-kits-seized-at-us-mexico-border>

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CDC estimates that 35% of coronavirus infections are asymptomatic

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted new guidance on its website that estimates that about a third of coronavirus infections are asymptomatic. The agency also says its “best estimate” is that 0.4% of people who show symptoms and have COVID-19 will die, and it estimates that 40% of coronavirus transmission is occurring before people feel sick. In the guidance, intended for modelers and public health officials, the CDC outlines five potential scenarios. Four represent “the lower and upper bounds of disease severity and viral transmissibility.” The fifth is the CDC’s “current best estimate about viral transmission and disease severity in the United States.”

Source: https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-22-20-intl/h_8e29f8b27b2051381abe4d1d49cce666

CDC: We could be wearing masks for another year

Dr. Jay Butler is the COVID-19 response incident manager for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We asked him how long face mask requirements could be in place. “It’s going to depend on how the pandemic plays out and how many people are potentially infected and infectious at any given time,” said Butler. “Do you think until there’s a vaccine? Do you think there could be another year where this is commonplace?” asked FOX 5’s Lindsay Watts. “It very well could be,” said Butler.

Source: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/cdc-we-could-be-wearing-masks-for-another-year>

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