



# ROAD to RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

LEE and OGLE COUNTY

## PURPOSE

In support of Governor Pritzker's "Restore Illinois" plan released May 5, 2020, the Lee and Ogle County Executive Leadership Team is submitting a proposal for a pilot program created by local authorities to assist with planning in their counties. This plan has been created by local health departments and medical professional experts in conjunction with local community leaders in Lee and Ogle County.

The government system across our entire country is founded in local control with support and guidance from state and federal government agencies. This local control system is based on the recognition that local authorities are better positioned to gauge local conditions in real time than is logistically possible in state-wide planning. The Lee and Ogle Executive Leadership Team is confident this pilot program will responsibly navigate Lee and Ogle counties through this pandemic and will serve as a road map for other areas of Illinois going forward.

It is widely recognized and accepted that communities across Illinois are impacted at significantly different levels by COVID-19 and have different levels of readiness. There is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to this problem. Leaders in Lee and Ogle County are united with other leaders across the state who believe the entire State of Illinois should not be restricted by best practices appropriate for and necessary in larger urban areas, rather local authorities should be empowered to create evidence-based solutions for recovery utilizing established criteria from the Center for Disease and Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

## BACKGROUND

Lee and Ogle County are neighboring rural counties in northwest Illinois with a total population of 84,739 (Lee – 34,096 / Ogle – 50,643). Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the issuance of Governor Pritzker's "Stay at Home" executive order, Lee and Ogle County have implemented best practices established by the CDC and IDPH through unified command systems. Additionally, Lee and Ogle County leadership have worked closely together, especially at the public health and hospital level for a coordinated response. Both counties have sufficient PPE and hospital capacity and are rapidly expanding plans to increase COVID-19 testing. Both counties have achieved significant voluntary cooperation with the executive order and have well established communication plans for their communities.

# LEE and OGLE COUNTY RECOVERY PROPOSAL

In recognition of diverse and complex factors impacting regions across the State of Illinois, the Lee and Ogle County Executive Leadership Team believes implementing a regional, phased approach to reduce restrictions enacted during the “Stay at Home” executive order are essential to the health and safety of our communities and the health of small business and local commerce. This regional, phased approach is founded on scientific and measurable community indicators and places health and safety as the highest priority.

Decisions made in conjunction with this bi-county plan will be based on criteria listed in the “Restore Illinois” plan as outlined in specific criteria defined in Phases 1 through 5. Social gatherings of groups of more than 10 will not be permitted until Phase 4 criteria of the “Restore Illinois” plan have been achieved. Additionally, this team will utilize strategies that are evidence-based, fiscally responsible, socially tolerable, and politically supportable by local and state leadership. Significant emphasis and compliance will be attained regarding wearing of face masks and social distancing. Additionally, systems for contact tracing will be given the highest priority.

The team recognizes that depending on red flags or other indicators, such as an upward trend of new cases or diminished health care occupancy capacity, there may be a need to revert back to prior phases, and the team is prepared to respond to change at a moment’s notice.

When determining the appropriate phases of our regional plan, the Lee and Ogle County Executive Leadership Team will take the following factors into consideration:

- Percent of population tested and expanding capabilities for testing;
- Local COVID-19 trend data;
- Local hospital surge capacity;
- Satisfactory level of PPE for healthcare professionals, first responders, and vulnerable populations;
- Ongoing assurance of best practices that significantly reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19; and
- Coordinated community education plans.

## TEAM MEMBERS

The Lee and Ogle Executive Leadership Team will make phase decisions based on the totality of the circumstances. Ultimate authority and responsibility will be placed with the county health department administrators. The team consists of the following organizations/persons:

- Lee County Health Department
- Ogle County Health Department
- KSB Hospital
- Rochelle Community Hospital
- City of Dixon
- City of Rochelle
- City of Oregon
- A minimum of one first responder representative each from Lee County and Ogle County
- Lee County State's Attorney
- Ogle County State's Attorney
- One member each of the Chambers of Commerce from Lee and Ogle County
- Sauk Valley Community College
- Kishwaukee College
- One representative of the school districts in Lee and Ogle County
- State Representative Tom Demmer



COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

## PHASE 0: PLANNING

Planning phase with a focus on creating measurable data and outcomes required to elevate through all 4 phases. This phase will create best practice recommendations and training in compliance with CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health related to business operation and social interaction.

Specifically, this phase will be used to educate and ensure best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in businesses deemed “essential” by the executive order. Proper use of employee screening, PPE, social distancing, disinfecting of high touch surfaces, and employee training on employee and customer interaction will be the focus of this phase. Additionally, businesses will be asked to contact their local health department in the event they have employees who are symptomatic, test positive, or have been exposed to someone positive, so guidance can be provided.

This phase will identify best practices to open and operate “non-essential” businesses in this two-county region. The leadership team recognizes that the majority of businesses deemed “non-essential” are small businesses with fewer than 5 employees who generally have a limited customer base in their physical store location at any moment in time. Additionally, capacity for these businesses will be limited to 25% of fire code regulations, and these businesses will be required to keep a list of all customers who have entered their physical location. Training, at a minimum in the form of written documents, will be provided to all non-essential businesses that are allowed to open. Those businesses found to be in non-compliance with the regional rules will be subject to closure by the governing health department until compliance is attained.

Proper public relations and communication strategies will be created and regional social media, print media, radio media, and TV media utilized to reach residents within the region.

The leadership team will continue to suggest the most stringent recommendations for those with multiple co-morbidities or those over 65 years of age with compromising medical conditions and increased risk factors related to COVID-19. Current support services to this population will be inventoried with an eye toward ensuring that needed assistance is available to facilitate adherence to the guidelines (for example, home delivered meals, shopping / delivery assistance, social support, and operational support for long-term care and assisted living facilities).

The leadership team recognizes and embraces the fact that large scale festivals, concerts, or other events that draw people from outside of the region should remain canceled until further notice and will rely on the Governor’s Office to provide direction in this area.

## PHASE 0 WORK PLAN

- Establish a list of businesses via local Chambers of Commerce that are currently operating to include:
  - Person in charge contact information
  - Number of employees
  - Levels of PPE
  - Plans for social distancing, cleaning, and other mitigation
  
- Create materials for local businesses:
  - PPE use
  - Employee monitoring
  - Customer tracking
  - Signage about COVID-19 safety
  
- Create RFP for local “non-essential” businesses to enter reopening process:
  - Electronic survey for voluntary participation
    - Business name
    - Person in-charge
    - Commitment to comply with guidance
      - Customer communications
      - Mitigation strategies
      - Employee PPE use
      - Enforcement of PPE for customers by business
      - PPE needs of local business
    - Submission of plan for COVID-19 business operational process
  
- Categorize business by type, size, and identified risk based on response from RFP
  
- Identify risk, clusters, hot spots, or outbreaks with local health departments making recommendations about these issues:
  - Share information with leadership team on local issues
  - Plan for response to identified issues
    - Tracking
    - Enforcement (SA & law enforcement)
    - Closure procedure for non-compliance

## PHASE 0 WORK PLAN cont.

- Create communications plan
  - Press release
  - Call in number for FAQ
  - Align social media messaging
  
- Create a Lee / Ogle PPE Plan
  - Track local PPE availability
  - Identify potential sources of PPE
  - Set PPE need metrics
  - Ensure PPE availability in long-term care and other group residential settings
  
- Increase Testing Capacity to include symptomatic and asymptomatic
  - Create mass testing plans that will improve access consistent with appropriate medical guidance from CDC
  - Use protocol IgG and PCR (RNA) testing
  - Align Rochelle Community Hospital and KSB Hospital testing with mass testing plan
  
- Create metrics based on testing result findings
  
- Review the adequacy of county-wide programs to support “at risk” persons as they “stay at home”
  - Meals on Wheels or other home delivered meal options
  - Shopping / delivery service / home pharmacy availability
  - Social connection programs
  
- Align the Executive Order, local laws and public health code
  - Review current Executive Orders
  - Review Illinois Administrative Codes for Communicable Disease
  - Understand the need for new resolutions or ordinances to be passed specific to COVID-19

## PHASE 1: RE-OPENING OF NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES / PLANNING FOR PHASE 2

- This phase will implement the aforementioned plans created and approved by health department administrators in the region.
- It will not cover non-essential manufacturing companies.
- It will not apply to bars or change current regulations pertaining to restaurants.
- Non-essential businesses will limit occupancy to 25% of Fire Code regulation and ensure proper social distancing as defined in the Request for Participation (RFP).
- This phase will identify best practices related to reducing social interaction limitations currently in place through the “Stay at Home” order.

## PHASE 2: REDUCING RESTRICTIONS ON SOCIAL INTERACTIONS IN SMALL GROUPS

### (2-3 week evaluation phase)

- This phase will begin to reconnect citizens socially in small group settings such as household gatherings or cookouts. Small groups are defined as fewer than 10 people. Proper social distancing, wearing of face masks, and documenting who participated in the small social gathering will be required.

## PHASE 3: INCREASE LIMITATIONS OF SOCIAL GATHERINGS WITH APPROPRIATE CAPS

### (2-3 week evaluation phase)

- This phase will include increased social gatherings, such as for youth sports with appropriate social distancing guidelines.
- This phase would allow for eat in restaurants to create occupancy plans with the regional team with strict guidelines that maintain social distancing.
- This phase will consider opening health clubs with appropriate restrictions.

## PHASE 4: NORMAL OPERATIONS (TIMELINE UNKNOWN)

- This phase will return the Lee and Ogle region to normal operations while continuing high standards for hygiene and social distancing with recognition this virus could re-emerge in the fall or winter.

## CHAIN OF COMMAND

The health department administrator in each county will be the incident commander for their county. They will utilize a unified command approach and use the team outlined in this document to make decisions for their specific county.

While the Lee and Ogle County Executive Leadership Team will work to make decisions consistent throughout both counties, it is recognized that specific circumstances or incidents could occur that would cause one county to move to a different phase. Communication and coordination will be paramount if this situation should arise.