

From: [Neukirch, Ghida](#)
To: [All Users](#)
Cc: [Taub, Emily](#)
Subject: City Buildings Reopening Plan & Other Important News
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:55:58 PM
Attachments:

Colleagues,

I hope you and your families are doing well. It's been fourteen months since we suspended walk-in services to our municipal buildings and shifted our entire administrative operation to predominately online and mail services. The City's actions have been made with extreme care and consideration for the safety of our employees and the public, and based on guidance and information provided by public health officials from the IDPH and CDC. As we have reported, Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health confirmed the entire state will move into the Bridge Phase of the Restore Illinois reopening plan tomorrow, Friday, May 14th. The [Bridge Phase](#) is the final step before the full reopening of Phase 5. Under Bridge Phase, there are expanded capacity limits for businesses, dining, offices, events, conferences and gatherings. Barring any significant reversals in key COVID-19 statewide indicators, including increasing hospitalizations, Illinois could enter Phase 5 as soon as Friday, June 11th.

The City's Municipal Buildings will reopen for walk-in service effective June 1, 2021. Please read the [Reopening Plan](#) which sets forth guidelines as we reopen our buildings for walk-in service, facility enhancements and the City's face covering policy. As you likely know, the CDC reported today that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local agencies, or other laws and regulations apply. We are communicating with State and local health agencies pertaining to this matter and will advise when modifications to the reopening plan are advanced.

The June 1 reopening date was selected based on the COVID-19 State metrics for our region and the surrounding area, the opportunity for our employees and families to be vaccinated, and a transition period for employees to make child care and other family arrangements. Please note that the Fire Stations remain closed for walk-in service (except by appointment only), and the Police Department Training Room remains closed as public meeting space. City Council, Commission, Committee and Board meetings will continue to be held virtually until at least Phase 5.

Please also review the [Flexible Work Schedule Pilot Program](#) which provides for continued flexibility for employees to work remotely based on position responsibilities, and business and organizational needs.

This pandemic has reinforced the important work of local government professionals, and I am so proud of the manner in which our organization has responded to the demands, challenges and opportunities. I applaud you for your level of commitment and professionalism, and working to ensure our priorities and objectives are met, in a safe, responsible and efficient manner.

As always, if you have any questions or recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me or your department director.

Respectfully,

Ghida S. Neukirch, CM
City Manager



1707 St Johns Avenue
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Direct: 847.926.1003
gneukirch@cityhpil.com

