

Chicago Shared Streets

Frequently Asked Questions



What are Shared Streets?

Chicago's Shared Streets are part of the Covid-19 response to facilitate moving around while maintaining proper physical distancing. Shared Streets allow people to walk, bike, run, and roll in the street. Vehicular traffic is restricted to local traffic only, meaning that you can still park on your street and get deliveries, but passing through in your car is not allowed. People driving must drive slowly and always stop for anyone in the roadway. Emergency vehicles are permitted.

Am I allowed to walk, bike, jog, or roll in the street?

Yes. On Shared Streets, people walking, biking, running, or rolling are encouraged to use the full street to maintain proper physical distance from other people. Getting outside for exercise and fresh air is considered essential and important for maintaining your physical and mental well-being.

Remember to always keep a face covering with you for times when you are not able to maintain 6-foot distance from others.

What activities are allowed and not allowed on Shared Streets?

Shared Streets have been reprioritized for people, whether they are walking, biking, running, or rolling. Shared Streets are meant for movement and are NOT places for people to congregate, crowd, or socialize.

Who is allowed to use Shared Streets?

Anyone walking, biking, running, or rolling is allowed in the street as is local traffic and deliveries for residents who live on a Shared Street. City services and emergency vehicles are also permitted on these streets. All modes, including people biking, running, and rolling, should proceed slowly and yield to people walking.

Why are Shared Streets necessary? Why can't people just use the sidewalks like before?

Many sidewalks throughout the city do not allow for the minimum 6-foot distancing required by health authorities. In some neighborhoods, the sidewalks are becoming crowded and people are using the street to maintain proper distance from others. Other neighborhoods lack access to ample green space for recreation or to get a breath of fresh air. Shared Streets provide wide, comfortable space for people to walk, run, and roll to get outside and stay healthy.

I live on a Shared Street. Am I still allowed to drive and park on my street?

Yes. Local traffic is still allowed as are delivery vehicles and access to residential parking. Through traffic, or motorists whose destination is not on that particular block, is prohibited. If your typical vehicular route uses a Shared Street, please plan to take an alternate route. If you live on a Shared Street and must use the street, please drive slowly and yield for your neighbors.

Will emergency services, garbage pick-up, and deliveries still be able to use the street?

Yes. Only through traffic for private vehicles is prohibited. All city services will continue to operate as normal but are expected to drive slowly and yield to people on the street.

How were these streets selected?

Shared Streets were selected based on a variety of factors including: community input and coordination with local officials, residential streets that had existing pedestrian and bicycle amenities, dense neighborhoods with limited access to green space, and streets with no active CTA routes.

How can I get a Shared Street in my neighborhood?

To provide feedback on how COVID has impacted your community and to let us know where you think other Shared Streets should be located, visit chicago.gov/covidmobility. There, you will find a link to a short survey where you can provide more information. We will continue to evaluate requests with aldermen and community groups to gauge feasibility and support.

Are these changes permanent?

No. Shared Streets are a temporary installation to facilitate safe movement and social distancing. Each Shared Street will initially be installed for 30 days during which time we will gather community feedback, collect data, and conduct observations to evaluate how each street is working. We will work with local aldermen and neighbors to determine whether a Shared Street should be extended an additional 30 days or not.

What should I do if I see a problem on a Shared Street?

If you observe a problem with equipment on a Shared Street (i.e. a barrel or barrier broken, missing, or misplaced), please call 311 and provide the intersection or address. For an emergency, always call 911. If you have other thoughts or feedback about Shared Streets, you can contact covidmobility@cityofchicago.org.