

Overview

McHenry County Chairman Jack Franks, on behalf of the McHenry County Board, along with the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC), would like to thank the members of the Resume McHenry County Task Force for their leadership, ideas and contributions.

As we move into Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan for reopening the state, the Resume McHenry County Task Force has outlined recommendations and actions that fall under six broad themes, which include: **Safety, Metrics/Measures, Mental and Behavioral Health, Critical Communications, New Tools and New Strategic Planning.**

This report concludes the initial work of the Resume McHenry County Task Force. The group will continue to serve as a resource to businesses as needed and as the County continues to transition into the additional phases of reopening.

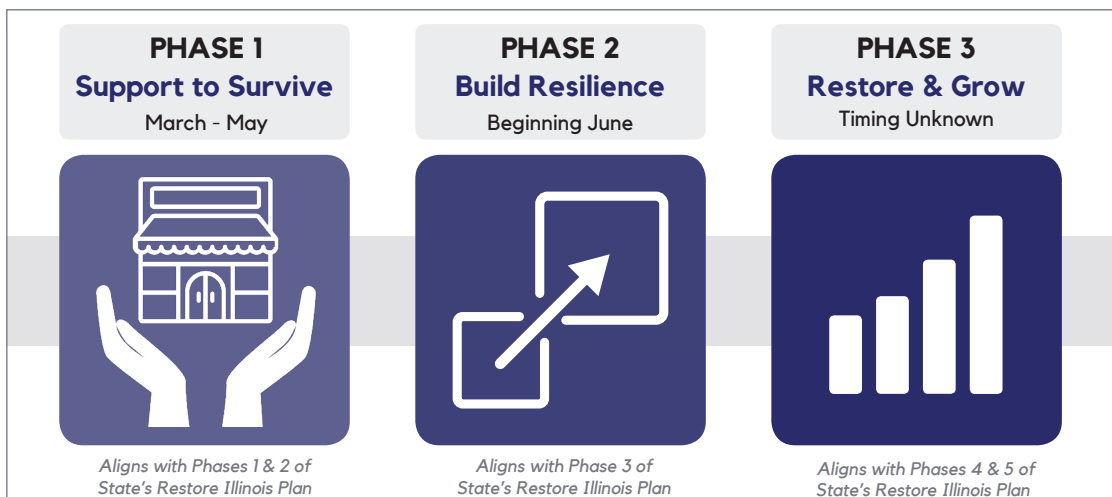
McHenry County and the MCEDC will work in partnership to share these outcomes with businesses and stakeholders and put these actions into place.

Background

In April 2020, McHenry County Board Chairman Jack Franks created the Resume McHenry County Task Force to recommend strategies that support local businesses and protect both employees and customers as McHenry County and Illinois reopen businesses. The group consists of local business, industry and health professionals who met weekly from late April through the end of May.

Task Force Members

Patrick Kenneally, McHenry County State's Attorney
 Jim McConoughey, President, McHenry County Economic Development Corp.
 Chuck Ruth, Owner, Alliance Contractors, Inc.
 John Cain, Chairman and CEO, Scot Forge
 Steven Slack, President & CEO, Home State Bank
 John Rung, CEO, Shaw Media
 Kay Rial Bates, President, McHenry Chamber of Commerce, County Board member
 Nick Rave, Northwestern Medicine
 Bill Linardos, McHenry County Restaurant Association
 Melissa H. Adamson, MPH, Public Health Administrator, McHenry County Department of Health



Task Force Findings and Recommendations

Safety

- Identify key business safety advisories from pandemic-related issues for returning and existing workforce.
- Identify and communicate key business safety recommendations for interactions with customers.
- Identify and communicate key business safety recommendations for interactions with suppliers, business visitors, logistics providers and commuters.
- Identify and communicate key safety recommendations for interactions for the faith-based community and recreational/cultural opportunities.
- Identify businesses with best in class examples of current safety standards as examples for others to model.

Metrics/Measures

- Identify key metrics for measuring localized impact of COVID-19 on healthcare delivery system.
- Monitor ICU capacity and ventilators.
- Assess readiness, through healthcare providers on non-COVID -19 related healthcare services (surgeries, regular doctor visits).

Mental and Behavioral Health

- Identify key services capacity for increased anxiety caused by Covid-19 and “return to work” or “restart the economy” factors.
 - The McHenry County Mental Health Board is very aware and involved.
- Explore telemedicine opportunities to potentially offer greater access and confidentiality. Need to help those that feel anxious about re-opening and return to work.

Critical Communications

- Contract with a communications agency to accurately, authentically, and transparently communicate with the public and business community regarding the activities of restoring our economic prosperity while adhering to safety recommendations to lessen the potential of a greater outbreak of COVID-19.

- Message and communicate on various platforms and media delivery systems for greater access to the citizens and businesses of McHenry County.
- Centralize informational resources (federal, state, and local) at one location and link to all communications outlets that want to join.
- Explore centralized “one stop resource center” for recovering businesses. Center must be reasonably centrally located and offer a broad range of services.

New Tools

- Explore a local revolving loan fund, or a “fund of last resort” to assist businesses that are in critical short-term need of working capital and may not be eligible for traditional financing.
- Explore centralized location for business to acquire needed Personal Protection Equipment in such supply to alleviate difficulties in providing a safe working and customer environment.
- Design and make recommendations to “relax” some McHenry County and municipal ordinances that keep t he public safe while enhancing business opportunities. For example, relaxed temporary sign ordinances, expanded café seating for restaurants, temporary parking for curb-side pickup, etc.

New Strategic Planning

- Create a short and intermediate term strategic plan with stakeholder input, identifying key actionable steps that help to protect the public and business from current/further pandemic situations.
- Identify and amplify key business practices (delivery, curb side pick-up, better online/electronic ordering that help build a greater market and business services.
- Make recommendations to public policy officials on potential changes that could facilitate these new consumer markets.



RESUME

McHENRY COUNTY

We all play a role in restoring and strengthening McHenry County's economy and communities!

PHASE 1

Support to Survive

March - May



Aligns with Phases 1 & 2 of State's Restore Illinois Plan

GOVERNMENT

- Listen & respond
- Gather & share information
- Provide resources & assistance

BUSINESSES

- Address immediate challenges from the crisis
- Access information & resources

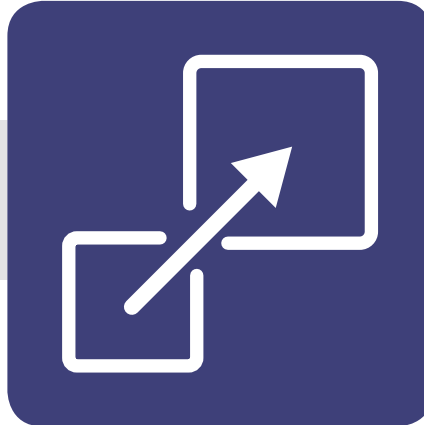
PUBLIC

- Patronize & shop local

PHASE 2

Build Resilience

Beginning June



Aligns with Phase 3 of State's Restore Illinois Plan

GOVERNMENT

- Leverage lessons learned as we move into "interim normal"
- Continue to support businesses
- Roll-out countywide multi-sector recovery plan

BUSINESSES

- Transition from reacting to reinventing
- Address near-term cash-flow challenges
- Put protection and safety measures in place

PUBLIC

- Shop and patronize locally
- Build trust and confidence in safety measures

PHASE 3

Restore & Grow

Timing Unknown



Aligns with Phases 4 & 5 of State's Restore Illinois Plan

GOVERNMENT

- Support and respond to business needs
- Build confidence in safely returning to our lifestyles

BUSINESSES

- Adapt and adjust to new business model(s)

PUBLIC

- Shop and patronize locally: What stays local, grows local.
- Get back to the lifestyle we love in McHenry County with trust and confidence!

