



Phase 4, Tiers 1 & 2 Mitigations, & School Activities

As COVID-19 positivity rates fall and other metrics continue to improve, EMS Regions are beginning to shift into less restrictive enhanced mitigation tiers and even back to the Phase 4 baseline mitigations. In recently issued Executive Order (EO) 2021-03, Governor Pritzker extended EO 2020-43, affirmed that the State remains in Phase 4 of Restore Illinois Plan, provided that enhanced tier mitigations will continue to be applied on a regional basis. The Governor reiterated the criteria for moving between Tiers 1-3 and Phase 4. He also reiterated the enhanced tier mitigations applicable to various activities.

1 What do the Phase 4, Tier 1, and Tiers 2 mitigations entail?

At this time, a majority of the State is operating under the Phase 4 baseline restrictions, or Tier 1 enhanced mitigations. Schools in an EMS region operating under Phase 4 restrictions, without additional tiered mitigations, should follow the ISBE/IDPH [Part 3 Joint Transition Guidance](#) under which they opened the school year. The guidance emphasizes:

- The use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- Prohibiting more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Six feet of social distancing, to the extent practicable;
- Symptom screenings and temperature checks must be conducted upon entry; alternatively, individuals may self-certify that they are free of symptoms; and
- An increase in school-wide cleaning and disinfecting.





2 How are school sports affected by the Phase 4 restrictions and Tier mitigations?

A school operating under Phase 4, Tier 1, or Tier 2 may conduct interscholastic sports pursuant to the All Sports Guidance set forth at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/sports-safety-guidance>. The nature of the restrictions depends on an individual sports risk designation (Lower, Moderate, Higher) and in some cases whether it takes place outdoors or indoors. School should remember that Phase/Tier designations may change immediately before a sport's season starts, or during the season, and should be prepared accordingly.

3 How are school board meeting affected?

EO 2020-43 specifically exempts governmental functions from the Phase 4 restrictions. However, school districts operating under Tier 1 mitigations should adhere to the 25 person/25% room capacity limit. School districts operating under Tier 2 mitigations should adhere to the 10 person limit. Moreover, the current Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, issued on January 8, 2021, extended the emergency declaration for an additional 30 days and specifically found that for Open Meetings Act purposes, public health concerns make meetings of more than 10 people at the regular meeting location.

4 Do meeting size restrictions apply to staff meeting, IEP meetings, or professional development?

Yes. Meeting limits apply to non-instructional activities, such as staff meetings, IEP meetings and professional development gatherings. Phase 4 restrictions, as set forth in the ISBE/IDPH Part 3 Joint Guidance limits meetings to 50 people per space, with appropriate social distancing. Tier 1 mitigations limit meeting size to the lesser of 25 people or 25% of room capacity. Tier 2 mitigations limit meeting size to 10 people.