



**COVID-19 Public Health  
GUIDANCE FOR BLOCK PARTIES**

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**Issued: August 13, 2021**

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Pursuant to Village of Oak Park Resolution 20-120 dated March 13, 2020, the Oak Park Village Board declared an emergency affecting the public health due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease pursuant to Section 8-10-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/8-10-5, and Sections 2-6-10, 2-27-9 and 20-1-6(Z) of the Oak Park Village Code through April 6, 2020. Said emergency was extended or reinstated as follows: (1) through May 5, 2020 by Village Resolution 20-124; through June 1, 2020 by Village Resolution 20-128 dated April 27, 2020; (2) reinstated on July 27, 2020 through September 14, 2020 by Village Resolution 20-184; (3) reinstated on November 2, 2020 by Village Resolution 20-232 through February 16, 2021; and (4) extended on January 19, 2021 by Village Resolution 20-43 through June 15, 2021. Pursuant to these resolutions and Section 20-1-6(BB) of the Oak Park Village Code, which was adopted by the Village Board on January 19, 2021 by Ordinance 21-8, the Village's Public Health Director has the authority to make "reasonable rules, regulations and orders . . . as may from time to time be deemed necessary . . . due to the outbreak of COVID-19 disease in the State of Illinois" which has been extended through November 15, 2021 by Ordinance 21-47.

**GUIDANCE**

Block parties are a way to build community spirit, meet neighbors and have fun. The Village of Oak Park ("Village") began accepting petitions from residents to hold block parties on May 1, 2021 and the State of Illinois is currently in Phase 5 of Governor JB Pritzker's Restore Illinois Plan in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 disease in the State of Illinois, effective June 11, 2021.

1. The State of Illinois has announced that suburban Cook County, including the Village of Oak Park ("Village"), can move to Phase 5 of Governor JB Pritzker's Restore Illinois Plan in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 disease in the State of Illinois, effective June 11, 2021 due to twenty-eight (28) days of declining COVID-19 case rates.
2. The Village has experienced a 750% increase in COVID-19 cases in July 2021 as compared to June 2021. Therefore, additional mitigation measures are recommended under Phase 5 to protect the public health.
3. People shall stay home and not participate in a block party if they:

- Show COVID-19 symptoms.
  - Have tested positive for COVID-19 and are still within a required isolation period.
  - Have been in close contact with someone infected with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
4. Tables and chairs should be set up at least six (6) feet apart.
  5. Participants should maintain a six (6) foot distance from each other outside of a participant's household. Face coverings are recommended to be worn by participants at all times during the block party if a six-foot social distance from other individuals outside of the same household is not possible. Face coverings may be removed to eat or drink. Participants should maintain a six (6) foot distance from individuals outside of the same household when eating or drinking.
  6. Participants who are not from the same household should not share foods and/or beverages during the block party. Self-service of shared foods, including hot bars, cold bars, and buffets is discouraged. Pot-luck style food sharing, where each participant brings a food dish to share with other participants is discouraged.
  7. Shared tables, chairs or frequently touched surfaces should be disinfected several times during the block party using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>.
  8. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content should be made available for participants' use.
  9. Bouncy houses are prohibited.
  10. This Guidance shall supersede and replace the Block Party Guidance issued on April 26, 2021 by the Interim Public Health Director.

For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois' response and guidance, please call the Illinois Department of Public Health at 1-800-889-3931 or email [DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV). Further information can be found at the following web links:

- [Village of Oak Park COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: How to Protect Yourself](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

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