



TENNIS GUIDELINES

RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

PART OF PHASE 4 OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE IV | ISSUED ON JUNE 22, 2020 | EARLIEST EFFECTIVE DATE JUNE 26, 2020

The Revitalization Phase of the Restore Illinois public health approach to reopening the Illinois economy includes larger gathering sizes, additional businesses reopening and increased capacities. We must all continue to social distance, frequently wash our hands and cover our faces to maintain progress in overcoming COVID-19.

TENNIS FACILITY AND PLAYER SAFETY GUIDANCE

Effective Date: June 26, 2020

- With the precautions and operational restrictions outlined below, indoor and outdoor tennis facilities may resume operations, effective immediately. These guidelines can be used for pickleball and paddle tennis as well. In addition to the general social distancing standards set forth in the Stay at Home Order, tennis clubs and facilities should abide by the following controls:

PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS

i. Minimum guidelines

- All gates should be roped off or left open to prevent touching
- Players should come to the facility no more than 10 minutes before the time expected to play

ii. Encouraged best practices

- Avoid playing on adjacent courts when possible
- Players should not congregate in groups before or after playing tennis



TENNIS COURT FACILITY

i. Minimum guidelines

1. Clubhouses may reopen so long as they comply with [Restaurant and Bars](#) and [Health and Fitness](#) guidelines where applicable
2. Pro shops may reopen so long as they comply with the [Retail guidelines](#)
3. Restrooms shall be sanitized regularly
4. Employees should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when within 6-ft. of others and players should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth whenever not exercising
5. Locker rooms and showers should be configured with signage, tape, and other markings to ensure participants can maintain 6-ft. of social distance
6. Sanitization of locker rooms and showers should be completed at least every hour
7. All court gates and stair rails should be wiped down every two hours
8. All common area chairs and tables should be placed at least 6-ft. apart to allow for social distancing. If seats cannot be moved (e.g., permanent benches), venue operators should display visual markers (e.g., tape, cones) 6-ft. apart for seating and should limit the number of open seats
9. Hand sanitizer or wipes should be available at all main contact points



ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Encourage online or telephone court reservations and stagger booking times (odd courts start on the half hour; even courts on the hour)
2. All score tenders should be taken off the courts to prevent touching
3. Alternating courts should be reserved for play, if possible
4. A parent or guardian should accompany minors to the facility when possible

COACHING/LESSONS

i. Minimum guidelines

1. Individual lessons are permissible
2. Limit group sizes for small group lessons to allow for 6-ft social distance between players
3. Non-competitive activities (e.g., practices, drills, lessons) should be set up to allow for 6-ft. of distancing between participants whenever possible
4. If social distancing cannot be maintained during game play, participants should still maintain 6-ft. of distancing whenever not directly involved in gameplay
5. Limit the use of coaching equipment such as target cones

ii. Encouraged best practices

1. If a ball machine is used, balls should be picked by the coach using a basket
2. Coaches should use assigned hopper/baskets and mark them accordingly

PLAYER RESTRICTIONS

i. Minimum guidelines

3. Any players with any symptoms of COVID-19, should not play
4. Players shall maintain adequate physical distancing between each other whenever not directly involved in gameplay
5. Do not use the public ball cleaner
6. No handshakes at the beginning or end of the match

ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Club tennis match schedules should be pre-set before the match day to prevent gatherings of players awaiting assignment
2. Bring your own tennis racquet and tennis balls
3. Bring hand sanitizer with you and use during your match and at the end
4. Players should stay on their side of the court and avoid changing sides during match play
5. Playing singles is preferred, but not required

TENNIS BALLS

i. Minimum guidelines

1. Replace all balls if someone suspected to have COVID-19 comes in contact with them

ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Use new balls on a very regular basis
 - a. Although there is no specific evidence that tennis balls can spread COVID-19, we know that contamination by respiratory droplets does occur on hard surfaces, especially ones that are made of felt and therefore players should be mindful of their contact with tennis balls
2. Consider spraying tennis balls briefly with a disinfectant spray (e.g., Lysol or Clorox) at the conclusion of play
3. For private lessons that feature serving, customers should bring two cans of balls that only they handle for serving
4. Match play – Tennis players should each bring a new can of balls to a match, different brands or same brand/different numbers and only serve with your tennis balls. If playing pickleball, use different color balls
5. Encourage players to use their racquet/foot to push balls back and/or hit them to their opponent to avoid using hands and touching the balls



If you have questions or need additional support:
 Please call our hotline at 1-800-252-2923
 or e-mail us at ceo.support@illinois.gov
 or return to illinois.gov/businessguidelines

Additional Resources:

- [CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- [CDC Workplace Decision Tool](#)
- [IDPH Testing Guidance](#)
- [IDPH FAQs](#)
- [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)
- [IDHR FAQ for Businesses Concerning Use of Face-Coverings During COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- [CDC Guidance on Cleaning Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)
- [EPA Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)