

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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Mayor Joe Hogsett Announces New Tools, Supports for Reopening Businesses

Fast-track permitting and street closures to encourage social distancing, safe reopening

INDIANAPOLIS – Today Mayor Joe Hogsett and city leaders announced new measures aimed at helping restaurants and small businesses safely reopen. With Marion County Public Health Department orders allowing for outdoor seating at restaurants beginning May 22, the measures include fast-tracked permitting and limited street closures for five pedestrian-friendly areas with high concentrations of commercial activity.

“We are committed to helping ensure that as restaurants and businesses begin to reopen, the safety of employees, business owners, and patrons continues to be a top priority,” said Mayor Hogsett. “We recognize how critical small businesses are to the livelihood of our residents, of our economy, and of our character. We will clear as many obstacles as we can to make sure they can continue to be an integral part of the Indianapolis economy.”

Restaurants can learn more and get connected to the Dine Out initiative at indy.gov/dineout. Interested businesses **must** complete the application to begin operations on May 22. In addition, the city and the Indy Chamber will be hosting a webinar for establishments navigating the reopening at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon. To sign up and tune in, visit indychamber.com/events.

The Dine Out initiative is the result of extensive engagement with local restaurants and businesses, and includes staff and resources from multiple city departments. As the Indianapolis economy begins to reemerge from COVID-related closures, the city has worked with local establishments to put them in a position to recover and thrive upon reopening, while remaining safe for employees and customers alike.

During today’s announcement, Mayor Hogsett also discussed Monday’s news regarding the RESTART Grant Program, which will reimburse Marion County small businesses for personal protective equipment and other expenses related to reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program, a partnership between the city and the Indy Chamber, will provide up to \$5,000 to businesses with fewer than 150 employees. Businesses can sign up to learn more about the RESTART Grant Program at response.indychamber.com/restart.

More information, including FAQs and maps of street closures, is attached. Closures will begin May 22 and are expected to last through July 4 weekend in conjunction with the city’s Safe Summer reopening plan and Marion County Public Health Department orders.



Residents and businesses wanting to learn more about the Dine Out initiative can view the attached materials or go to indy.gov/dineout.

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Residents and affected workers impacted by COVID-19 restrictions should visit the city's resource guide, which can be viewed at indy.gov/covid. Spanish speaking residents can view the Resource Guide [here](#). Individuals who are unable to navigate the city's website can call 317-327-4MAC between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to talk to a customer service representative.

