

“Sign In to Dine In” Covid-19 Contact Tracing



Now that many restaurants are re-opening for outdoor dining, we will be entering a time of uncertainty. Dining outside, even with 6 foot social distancing has its risks. Cough or sneeze droplets can travel 30 feet in calm air. You can't wear a mask and eat. So 6 feet between tables may not be enough to protect you. **The Risks - Know Them - Avoid Them.**

Soon, we are expected enter [Phase 4](#) of the [Restore Illinois](#) plan and restaurants can open for inside dining with potentially even greater risks. Originally, in order for a region to move from [Phase 3](#) to [Phase 4](#), that region needed "contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis for more than 90% of cases."

[Contact tracing](#) is the process of identifying people who may have come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Both Governor Pritzker and Dr. Ezike, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, say that contact tracing is essential for opening the economy safely. On May 29 Gov. Pritzker said that contact tracing is only being done on about 30% of the known cases, far short of the 90% goal. Dr. Ezike said it is an "internal goal."

In the coming weeks, hundreds if not thousands of contact tracers will be hired. Here is a simple contact tracing idea that restaurants can adopt right now to help our contact tracers.

As we open for inside dining, it is likely that many of the people that will be testing positive for Covid-19 will have dined inside at one or more restaurants. Vacation season will also bring visitors from other cities, other states, and even other countries to our local restaurants We are currently seeing rapid increases of Covid-19 in states that may have opened too early. If a visitor stopping for a meal while passing through happens to be a super spreader, then we may have a new hot spot where few or no cases of Covid-19 had existed before.

If you dined inside at the same time as an infected person wouldn't you want to be notified so that you can take steps to protect you and your family?

Sign In to Dine In is a voluntary program that asks restaurants to voluntarily initiate a policy of asking people wishing sit down dining to have one person in a party sign in provide their contact information in a register before they are seated.



Help Stop the Spread of the Covid-19 Virus

Sign In to Dine In

We are asking all visitors to voluntarily provide contact information so that in the event that you or someone in your party may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, you can be promptly notified.

We are asking only one person per table to sign in with
Name, Address, and Phone Number

We Respect Your Privacy

- Your information will only be shared with public health officials and only if needed for contact tracing of the Covid-19 virus.
- Health officials will then contact you to explain the risk, answer questions, and provide necessary resources.
- **Sign In to Dine In** uses only paper records that are kept by the restaurant owner. Daily records will be destroyed within 60 days if they are not needed by local health officials for contact tracing.
- Your information will not be sold or used for any other purpose, including sales or marketing.

#SignInToDineIn

How you can we, as individuals, personally do to help in the effort to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

We all have a favorite mom and pop restaurant and we want to see those restaurants survive the pandemic. They are overwhelmed with just the tasks of re-opening.

So, I am asking each of you to help your favorite restaurant(s) out by making them a **Sign In to Dine In Guest Book:**

1. Take an ordinary 3 ring binder,
2. Download the [Contact Tracing Sign In sheet](#) attached,
3. Make at least 25 copies of the [Contact Tracing Sign In sheets](#),
4. Three hole punch the sheets.
5. Print the "Sign In to Dine In notice on page 2 on 8 ½ x 11 card stock.
6. 3 hole punch it on the right side
7. Stick them in binder as shown in the picture.

Done.

Note: In order to minimize customer inconvenience and assure legibility, the number of fill-in spaces is kept to a minimum. Email is not asked for because people are hesitant to trust email sender. Time seated is also not asked for since all of the entries are sequential. So it is pretty easy to determine the priority in which other diners need to be contacted.

You don't have to use my sample form. Create your own downloadable form with the name and logo of your organization on it and post it on your organization's website and social media. Show the community that your organization is an active participant in the fight to stop the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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What incentive is there for restaurants to adopt **Sign In to Dine In**? I can think of three:

1. Restaurants will be potentially be saving lives, possibly many lives should a super-spreader visit their restaurant.
2. Restaurants build a customer list. They can add an optional email line to the sheet so they can send customers coupons and specials.
3. As sure as death and taxes, there are vulture personal injury lawyers itching to sue restaurant owners if someone dies from Covid-19 and it is traced back to their restaurant.

Thank You!

Guest List

_____ (Date)

NAME (please print)	STREET ADDRESS or RR NUMBER	CITY, TOWN, or VILLAGE	PHONE NUMBER	ADULTS AT TABLE
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

We respect your privacy and we will not share your information with anyone other than health authorities and only for the purpose of notifying you in the event that you or members of your party might have been exposed to the Covid-19 virus by another patron of this establishment.