INDEMS
INDIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

This guidance is being issued as of April 10, 2020, from the Indiana Democratic Party for county party organizations, campaigns, and others who are seeking information about COVID-19 and necessary activities during the primary election season. We will continue to monitor this issue and will provide updates or further guidance as we can. For any health concerns, we encourage those impacted to continue to follow state and local health department guidelines.

Primary Season

The primary election has been moved to June 2. The deadline to register to vote has been extended to May 4.

For the first time in Indiana's history, every voter can vote by mail. To do this, everyone will have to fill out a vote by mail application and return it to their county clerk by May 21. Vote by mail ballots will be mailed to voters. County clerks must receive vote-by-mail ballots by noon on June 2.

The Indiana Election Commission has jurisdiction over many of these matters with regards to absentee voting, and county election boards are encouraged to begin talking about any processes or changes that could be relevant to ensure our primary election runs smoothly. Those with questions are encouraged to call Angie Nussmeyer, the Democratic Co-Director at the Indiana Election Division. She can be reached at 317.232.3939.

The Party is also working to address the State Convention on June 13. We're looking at all possibilities, including exploring a digital convention, delegate voting by mail, and even online voting.

What's our advice for county parties?

We're advising county parties limit gatherings by postponing all non-essential party events, until further notice. The State Party will work with any county party needing to conduct vital party business to set up a virtual conference call or other remote options. State Party staff will limit travel and conduct party business remotely.

What's our advice for campaigns?

We're advising candidates to conduct campaigns digitally and postpone any large rallies and other in-person political events. We're also advising campaigns to conduct voter contact via phone or other means virtually.

What is the CDC's current risk assessment?
● Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
● Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
● Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring are at elevated risk of exposure, with an increase in risk dependent on the location.
● CDC has developed guidance to help in the risk assessment and management of people with potential exposures to COVID-19.

Prevention

What precautions should be taken to slow and prevent the spread?
The best day-to-day preventative measures to avoid being exposed to this virus are as follows:
● Stay home and limit travel to essential activities only.
● Wear a cloth face mask to protect your nose and mouth in public places.
● Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
● Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
● Practice social distancing by remaining six feet away from others and limiting time in public places.
● Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
● Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  ● If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have useful advice on protecting yourself as well, which we recommend reading.

What can I do to keep myself and my community safe?
We recommend reaching out to local public health officials to help you determine what is appropriate. We advise that you stay at home and move to remote work. As leaders in your Party, please also try to share only science-based health information, ideally from our own in-state health organizations --emphasize the urgency of a proper and prepared response, without inciting a panicked reaction from members of your community.

If you are looking to give or receive a hand during this time, we have comprised a running list of

ways you can do that across the state here.

State of Indiana Department of Health: https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm
You can sign up for e-mail updates here from the State Health Department, get updates on case numbers and other information. Organizations are also encouraged to check in with their local county health departments.

Staff Travel

Each organization should take into account the information from our own state and county health officials. We strongly recommend following the stay-at-home order and conducting business from home.

Conducting Party Business

What else can parties do as they move to at-home work?
All on-site work has been limited to essential businesses. To find out which organizations are classified as essential businesses, please check the list here.

● Use video conferencing and teleconferencing systems;
● Set expectations around how you will manage remote work situations so that managers and staff have the tools they need to continue carrying forth our important mission;
● Ensure more casual check-ins and meetings are regularly scheduled so that all necessary attendees can plan to attend remotely if needed;
● Be sure that, as you are making plans for any future events, you are working with your venues and other vendors to include a COVID-19 clause that allows you to back out of your contract(s) with no /reduced penalty;
● Encourage staff to keep their phones nearby for any immediate issues that need to be addressed

Virtual Meeting Options

Zoom
Zoom is a video conferencing platform that allows a virtual meeting to occur with video capabilities. Zoom Meeting Hosts can individually mute and unmute participants, set limitations on participant chatbox capabilities, share their screen, conduct interactive polls, and choose to record the webinar or meeting. Zoom participants have a "hand-raising" ability as well as an in-call chatbox.

Other virtual meeting options:
● MaestroConference
● Go To Meeting
● Google Hangouts
● Skype

- FreeConferenceCall
- UberConference
- Facebook Live

Conducting Elections
- Google Forms
- Vote by Mail
- SMS Polling