

To whom it concerns:

2020 Covid19 and how it has affected my business. I usually come short on words, because it's almost too much to handle for this year and how much it has done to small businesses like mine. Luckily the first time around the weather was decent so outdoor service was more realistic. The 25% capacity was also quite difficult with a business as small as mine. Imagine trying to run a business at 25% capacity but still having to pay 100% rent, 100% utilities, 100% payroll, 100% taxes. The financial hardships are almost as awful as the mental hardships I've faced this year with the coronavirus. The stress of the unknown my staff is facing is also a giant stressor. Telling them we will be closed for who knows how long, and hope that get a job during the in between time but hope they want to come back when (if) we open again. I have pushed hard, thought outside the box and continued to promote Moline as a place to go. With all the new regulations that keep coming it's only becoming harder for the small to survive. The places that sit empty, the lack of travelers, the lack of walking traffic and the surge in working from home possibilities has changed a lot about the service industry. We made sure tables were six feet apart, had masks available for customers, cleaned surfaces often, supplied hand sanitizer in multiple locations throughout the business.

With it coming into the winter season and only being able to do outdoor service it truly almost puts a nail in the coffin for many. I can't imagine what small bars and restaurants without patios have gone through. Looking forward, I will continue to try to be as flexible and adaptable as possible. Re-learning all avenues of owning a small business that seems like the governor of Illinois wants to close up.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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