

Dead Poet's Inc.
Covid-19 Tier 1 Mitigation Impact Statement

The implications of the tier 1 mitigations as imposed by the state of Illinois have already in just a few days had a significant impact on our ability to serve customers and create revenue for ourselves and tax dollars for the city of Moline and the state of Illinois. Our sales were already down around 33% from people taking extra precautions due to the Covid-19 virus. Almost daily for the last seven months we receive phone calls asking whether we are open, do we have any indoor seating, do we have any outdoor seating, do we offer carryout options, do you still serve 'item x' from your menu, etc. Every one of these phone calls is someone who has stopped showing up until the time they called to ask whichever question. Now as the weather starts to turn to colder temperatures, without indoor seating we will be losing the last several months of buildup since we first had the indoor seating restored. It took until cooler days in September for our patrons to begin regularly sitting inside again, even though indoor seating was restored in the later part of June. They were, and still are, very cautious about what they do and how they do it. We had taken the summer to remind our customers they could now sit indoors when the weather was nice and our outdoor tables were full. Now as the outdoor is going to be all but shutdown due to the weather, we will have zero places for anyone to sit and have a cup of coffee with anyone, even someone from their own household. This has already in the few days negatively impacted our sales to be down nearly 50% instead of the previously mentioned 33%. It does not help to have less revenue coming in as the minimum wage in the state has already risen this year and will do so again come January 1, and every January 1 for several years. We have no way without our normal revenue to increase our funds to be able to keep our employees at the hours they have. This will lead to them having less money to spend back into our community at other local businesses for those businesses to do the same as well as less tax dollars again for the city of Moline and the state of Illinois. We have tried from the beginning to be compliant with everything so far and will continue to be compliant with everything laid out, not limited to telling people multiple times to sit at a table. We have told the same thing to multiple people telling them they will have to leave if they do not do so. We have signs set up about leaving tables and chairs where they are for the indoor and the outdoor. We have a sign set up about social distancing. We have a sign on all entries about needing a face covering to enter our establishment. This has turned potential customers away and lost us even more revenue for those that do not want to comply with state guidelines. We have kicked potential patrons out for refusing to wear a face covering of some sort. We know we need to in order to bring the numbers down to be able to return to the times before Covid-19 began its devastating reach across our nation and the world. We know we all have to do better, and we know we will do everything we can to keep it better, as well as to keep our business going in whatever capacity we are able. We hope this ends sooner rather than later, but we cannot continue to be in operation for long in this limbo status of never knowing what tomorrow may bring from both Covid-19 and whether we will have a decent day of revenue. Any and all help is appreciated to help us maintain our business in this community we have become a part of and enjoy being in.

x Charles Lahl
Charles Lahl, President of Dead Poet's Inc.