

# Lawson Bridge Studio News March 2021

Jerome "Jerry" Scholle, editor [lawsonbridgestudio@gmail.com](mailto:lawsonbridgestudio@gmail.com) 773-209-7089

In light of the Shelter-in-Place order and the reopening stages as well as the current surges in COVID-19 cases in Chicago, there will be no games scheduled until it is safe to hold them. Consider the following for reopening.

Thanks to those who are enjoying playing bridge online and designating Lawson Bridge Studio as their club to support.

**ACBL Reopening In-Person Games 2021 Timeline:** the following details from a timeline graph in the email sent to members as well as bridge club managers on how ACBL sees the reopening of in-person bridge games.

QUARTER 1 Jan. - Mar. Vaccinations begin; Majority online play; Tournaments canceled.

QUARTER 2 Apr. - Jun. Vaccinations continue; Online play continues; Club play may increase based on local vaccination/positivity rate and safety directives.

QUARTER 3 Jul. - Sept. Vaccination rates increasing; Online play continues; Club reopenings continue; Sectional tournament sanctions considered on a case-by-case basis.

QUARTER 4 Oct. - Dec. Vaccinations widely available; Online play continues; Broader club reopenings; Regional tournament sanctions considered on a case-by-case basis; NABCs resume.

**Re-opening our games:** Fran Spielman of the Chicago Sun Times reported on Feb 16, 2021 the following:

1. That restaurants are now allowed a maximum of 50 people in a restaurant.
2. The positivity rate was 3.4 which is low risk.
3. The maximum number of people at a table is 6.
4. Tables with people must be 6 feet apart. *In our normal playing space and using round tables, it looks like we can accommodate 8 tables and if we use the full restaurant the maximum would be 11 tables with may be 12.*

In light of the above, for us to open again the following conditions would be required:

- Based on the reopening of restaurants where people are eating and talking without masks, I think that we can reopen with **wearing masks at all times**. This means we would be at a very low risk for transmission as there is not even a zero risk in any action that we take in living or lives.
- We ask that you be cognizant of what the COVID-19 symptoms are, and to be aware that if you are feeling something that looks and feels like a COVID-19 symptom or have tested positive for the virus, to stay home as a precaution. It is preferable to stay at home with any type of sickness.
- The concern is our length of time of play which is typically about 3 hours. Most of our being amongst others is less than this time when out of our homes wearing masks.
  - My riding public transportation results in being next to a fellow rider often being apart about 1.5 ft the width of a seat for up to an hour. It is impossible to maintain the six feet (approximately 4 seats) in any form of transportation bus, train, or taxi (some taxis have a shield and others don't).
- Reservations will be required. Table set up will be to maximize the distance between players at the table. I would need to know (1) if physically handicapped needing to sit N/S, (2) if preference is N/S; this will be on a first come seating after handicap players, (3) if preference is E/W, and (4) no preference. If the number of players registering is greater than what we can accommodate you will be placed on a waiting list and called in a cancellation. If a single, I may be able to match you with another single registrant.
- Masks will be required for entering to play as we have players of all ages who may not be able to receive the vaccine until later this year.
- Masks covering the nose and mouth must be in place when speaking. This will prevent contaminating the cards as well as protecting your fellow bridge players. The biggest risk comes from the exhalation from breathing and speaking and not from touching.
- If you will put your masks back in place after a bite or drink intake, then, finger food or hot beverages could be available. Cold beverages with a straw would be available.
- Our \$12 base fee \$1 or \$2 extra fees would be as before the pandemic.,
- Having your own bidding boxes and card holders will reduce the possibility of surface transmission.