

Guidance for Reopening: Guidance for Museums and Theatres

Museums, theatres, and a few other places of assembly can become operational on 5/15/2020 at a 50% capacity with sanitization and social distancing requirements met. Interactive museums or museums that allow touch interactions and displays and live performance theatres cannot operate.

State Guidelines:

In the event a confirmed COVID-19 case is associated with a facility the facility should clean in accordance with CDC's facility environmental cleaning procedures for areas of the establishment frequented by patrons.

This guidance applies to non-tactile museums. Interactive museums or museums with sections that allow touch interactions with displays are not to be open under this guidance.

This guidance applies to non-live performance theaters such as movie theaters. Live performance theaters may not be open under this guidance.

General Guidance for theaters and museums

- Maximum number of attendees is 50 percent of normal capacity while maintaining 6 feet between non-family member groups.
- Signage must be posted with the following or substantially similar wording:
 - "Patrons with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using this facility."
 - Signs shall be positioned for effective visual observation by patrons, such as on the entry way door.
- Increase cleaning and sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces, including door handles, chairs and tables.
- Keep social distancing of at least 6 feet between non-family member groups or immediate party.
- Food vendors must follow applicable COVID-19 procedures for restaurants and retail food service. Vendors should be encouraged to use single-service items whenever possible, especially for condiments and similar foods.
- Facilities should try to control customer flow in a manner that maximizes social distancing such as signage or ropes and directing flow in one direction.
- Provide hand sanitizer or hand washing stations throughout the venue whenever possible.
- Each venue should create and implement a written COVID-19 response plan.
- Increase cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms to no less than every two hours whenever possible.
- Provide clear plastic shielding between workers and attendees whenever possible, such as event cashiers and food vendors.
- If possible do not use tables. Tables should be covered with single-use material and discarded between users, showings, performances or every two hours, whichever provides maximum spread protection.
- Train workers on COVID-19 symptom awareness and proper handwashing procedures.

Additional measures that apply to theaters

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- Increase cleaning time period between events, performances and showings. Ensure that commonly touched surfaces such as arm rests and railings are cleaned frequently.
- Ushers should monitor and enforce social distancing practices in theaters and encourage additional distance between guests as appropriate.
 - Ushers should limit the number of people in lines to no less than 6 feet between families or immediate party.

Additional measures that apply to museums

- Gift shops should limit entry to 50% capacity and clean commonly touched surfaces frequently.

Questions

- ☐ What is your level of comfort around reopening? (It is ok to delay reopening or reopen partially!)
- ☐ What are your biggest areas of concern for your facility?
- ☐ Do you need signage?
- ☐ Do you have a plan for:
 - ☐ Limiting Group Sizes?
 - ☐ Encouraging physical distancing?
 - ☐ Cleaning and Disinfecting?
 - ☐ Encouraging hand washing?
- ☐ Do you have a written plan that you can share with clients?
- ☐ Do you have any questions for us? Call the Health Department at 466-2562 if anything comes up.

Some Strategies You Could Use

Employee Health Considerations

- All staff and employees who are sick should NOT enter the facility
- Implement health screenings for employees.
- Consider phasing in-facility work based on roles and priorities, including temp workers if needed
- Consider alternating work weeks or staggered arrival/departure times.
- Create secured, designated storage areas for personal items.
- Prohibit the use of small shared spaces, like break rooms, utilize larger rooms with fewer employees.

Social Distancing Ideas

- Offer more show and museum times with limited occupancy to reduce gathering sizes.
- Rearrange seating to comply with social distancing (e.g. only allow seating in every other row).
- Remind patrons to only sit or gather near members of their household.
- Utilize online ticket purchasing and seat reservation systems.
 - Don't allow sales to exceed gathering capacity.
 - Ensure seat reservations allow for adequate physical distancing.
- Minimize the use of gathering and lobby areas.

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- Limit cash or in-person transactions.
 - Consider allowing guests to order and pay for concessions when they purchase their tickets online.
- Place markings in areas where lines may form to guide physical distancing.
- Allow seating in every other row.
- Consider offering alternate show and attraction times for higher risk populations.
- Install plexiglass shields as appropriate.
- Clearly communicate building protocols through signage and floor markings.
- Limit the use of touchscreens or pin pads for the public.
 - Provide disposable wipes for patrons to clean touchscreens before and after each use.
- Consider adding signage to encourage foot traffic in one direction.

Cloth Face Masks

- Implement the use of cloth face masks by all staff, if possible.
- Train staff on appropriate use of face coverings
 - Refrain from touching eyes, nose, and mouth while putting on and removing face masks.
 - Wash hands immediately after taking off facemasks.
 - Facemasks should be routinely washed depending on frequency of use.
- Encourage patrons to wear face coverings.
- Consider laundering facemasks for all employees

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Clean all “high touch” areas such as counters, doorknobs, tables, benches, chairs, weights, restrooms, dressing rooms etc. frequently.
 - Clean more often if surfaces become visibly soiled.
 - Clean rows of seating or areas of facility that receive increased traffic frequently.
 - Clean any surfaces that may have blood, body fluids, and or secretions on them.
 - Wear disposable gloves when cleaning surfaces.
 - Dishes and eating utensils should be cleaned with dish soap and hot water.
 - Use of a dishwasher also provides sufficient cleaning.
- Consider low-touch or no-touch switches, doors, drawers and other fittings.
- Provide cleaning supplies for employees to clean work stations before and after their shifts.

Provide Hand Washing for Patrons

- Hand sanitizer at entry of establishment.
- Hand sanitizer at check-out counter.
- Signs directing patrons to hand washing areas.