



A performance venue is a facility where performers are in a designated area, such as a stage, audience members remain in fixed or assigned seating during the performance, and seated dining service is not provided.

In accordance with [COVID – 19 Order no. 65](#) Advancing all Communities to Phase 3, Step 2 COVID -19 Safety Rules, Indoor Theaters and Performance Venues designated as a Phase 3 Step 2 enterprise may open.

Venues with capacities below 5,000 must following these Theaters and Performance Venues protocols and capacity limits.

Large capacity venues are defined as having capacities of 5,000 persons or more as specified in a certificate of occupancy or other, equivalent authorization and must follow capacity limits for Large Capacity venues.

Private events held at venues must follow the Indoor and Outdoor Events protocols and gathering limits.



SOCIAL DISTANCING AND CAPACITY LIMITS

MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS

Require face coverings for all workers and customers, except where unsafe due to medical condition or disability

- Audience members must wear face coverings while seated during the performance or movie unless unsafe due to disability or medical condition
- Audience members may remove face coverings while seated and eating or drinking but must otherwise wear face coverings

Indoor movie theaters must monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to:

- 50% of each individual theater or screening room's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder, and never more than 250 persons in a single enclosed, indoor space
- Venues for which no permitted occupancy limitation is on record may allow 10 persons per 1,000 square feet of accessible space, and never more than 250 persons in a single enclosed, indoor space

Indoor and Outdoor Theaters and Performance venues must monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to

- 50% of the venue's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder, but in no event shall the venue admit or host more than 500 persons
- Venues for which no permitted occupancy limitation is on record may allow up to 10 persons per 1,000 square feet of accessible space, and never more than 500 persons

All occupant counts and calculations for indoor and outdoor venues must include all customers, patrons and attendees but may exclude workers and performers.

For rehearsals, virtual performances, and other events without an audience, indoor and outdoor venues must limit occupancy at all times to 50% of the venue's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in the occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder, but in no event shall the venue allow more than 250 persons

Post clearly visible signage regarding the need to maintain 6 feet of social distancing and not to enter a room until that distancing can be maintained

Venues must put markers outside of the building to ensure 6 feet of distance for customers who are waiting outside to enter

Venues are encouraged to offer exclusive hours or other accommodations for those in high-risk populations as defined by the CDC

Ensure separation of 6 feet or more between individuals where possible:

- Close or reconfigure worker common spaces and high density areas where workers are likely to congregate to allow social distancing. Employers are encouraged to close break rooms or limit their use.
- Physical partitions must separate workstations that cannot be spaced out (partitions must be at least 6 feet in height)
- Install physical barriers for ticket stations where possible, otherwise maintain 6 feet distance where not possible
- Install visual social distancing markers to encourage customers to remain 6 feet apart (e.g., lines for equipment if applicable, checkout lines, lines to use the restroom)



MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS

SOCIAL

DISTANCING AND CAPACITY LIMITS

Establish directional pathways to manage visitor flow for foot traffic, to minimize contact (e.g., one-way entrance and exit to shows, one-way pathways). Post clearly visible signage regarding these policies

Reconfigure seating areas to ensure 6 feet distancing between customers not in the same group

- Distance shall be measured from the closest boundary of one customer recreation or seating area to the closest boundary of another customer recreation or seating area
- This may require blocking every other row of seats and staggered seating within rows

Limit group sizes to no more than 6 people per groups attending together for movie theaters and indoor and outdoor performance venues

Stagger lunch and break times for workers, regulating max number of people in one place and ensuring at least 6 feet of physical distancing

Contactless payment methods and / or digital ticketing are encouraged

Special protocols shall be followed for close contact between live performers:

- Performers are to wear face coverings during performances whenever feasible
- Performers should remain at least 6 feet apart even if wearing masks. Any activity requiring performers to be closer than 6 feet must be as brief as possible
- Activities that require prolonged direct contact (e.g. intimate scenes, fight scenes) are discouraged
- Prohibit direct interaction between performers and audience before, during, or after performances (including backstage and post-performance meet and greets)

For live performances, singing and the playing of brass and wind instruments is discouraged. Singing is not permitted in any indoor performances. For outdoor performances involving singing or indoor and outdoor performances involving brass or wind instruments, special distancing must be followed:

- At least 10 feet between performers
- At least 25 feet between performers and first row of the audience
- Plexiglass barriers cannot be used to reduce required distance between performers or between performers and the audience

Performances that are shorter in duration are encouraged

Encourage the use of electronic versions or no-touch displays in place of commonly touched physical materials (such as menus and playbills) where possible. All commonly touched physical materials must be discarded or sanitized between use

Any self-serve racks or containers for these materials should be removed, and instead all materials must be handed out individually by workers

Venues are encouraged to offer exclusive hours or other accommodations for those in high-risk populations as defined by the CDC

Contactless payment methods and / or digital ticketing are encouraged

Encourage the use of electronic versions or no-touch displays in place of commonly touched physical materials (such as menus and playbills) where possible



HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Disinfect shared equipment before use by another worker

Ensure access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water, wherever possible and encourage frequent handwashing; alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol may be used as an alternative

Supply workers at workplace location with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes)

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol should be made available at entrances, exits and throughout floor areas for workers, performers, and customers

Avoid sharing equipment and supplies between workers including performers

Post visible signage throughout the site to remind customers and workers of hygiene and safety protocols

Prohibit any mutual touching of customer or worker equipment without sanitation between uses



MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS



STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission, including:

- Social distancing, hand-washing, proper use of face coverings
- Self-screening at home, including temperature and symptom checks
- Importance of not coming to work if ill
- When to seek medical attention if symptoms become severe
- Which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting and suffering from a severe case of the virus

Venues must screen workers at each shift by ensuring the following:

- Worker is not experiencing any symptoms such as fever (100.0 and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Worker has not had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. "Close contact" means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19,
- Worker has not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official
- Workers who fail to meet the above criteria must be sent home

Adjust workplace hours and shifts (leverage working teams with different schedules or staggered arrival / departure) to minimize contact across workers and reduce congestion at entry point

Venues should maintain operating hours that allow for on-going off-hour sanitation and cleaning consistent with CDC guidelines for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting

Limit visitors and service providers on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas

Maintain a log of workers and visitors to support potential contact tracing (name, date, time, contact information)

Workers shall not appear for work or complete a shift if feeling ill

Workers who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home

Workers are strongly encouraged to self-identify symptoms or any close contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case to the employer

Encourage workers who test positive for COVID-19, to disclose to the employer of the office for purposes of cleaning / disinfecting and contact tracing. If the employer is notified of any positive case at the workplace, the employer must immediately shall notify the local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town where the workplace is located. Employers must assist the LBOH as reasonably requested with contact tracing efforts, including to advising likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine. Testing of other workers may be recommended consistent with guidance and / or at the request of the LBOH

Post notice to workers and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in the Commonwealth's [Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplace](#)

Stagger event times (such as theater showings) to avoid congregation of customers in different groups and to allow for thorough cleaning of the activity space (e.g., seating areas or tables) before new customers arrive

Workers should facilitate organized entrance and exit between events where audiences are arranged in rows or other large groups to prevent unnecessary congregation of customers

Facilities should develop a seating plan for which customers can reserve spots ahead of time and which is adjustable to the size of the booking party allowing couples and small groups to sit together while maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals/groups

Additional on-site amenities and services may only open and operate when those amenities or services would otherwise be authorized to operate under the Commonwealth's Phased Reopening Plan and then must adhere to all sector-specific safety protocols, available on the [Reopening Plan website](#), applicable to the amenity or service. Examples include:

- Restaurants/food service: Must follow the latest restaurant guidelines
- Gift shops: Must follow the latest retail guidelines
- Performer hair and makeup: Must follow the latest close contact business guidance
- Dancing and dance areas: Must remain closed until Phase 4. Only performers are allowed to dance for their performances
- Drive-In Performances must follow the Drive-In Theaters Standards including remaining in the vehicles during the performance

Reconfigure lobbies to discourage congregation of customers before, during, or after shows



MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS

Recommended Best Practices



STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Limit worker movement to discrete work zones to minimize overlap where possible

Workers who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home

Workers are strongly encouraged to self-identify symptoms or any close contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case to the employer

Encourage workers who test positive for COVID-19, to disclose to the employer of the office for purposes of cleaning / disinfecting and contact tracing

Encourage advanced reservations and digital ticketing where possible

Intermissions should be avoided in order to limit time of performance and to prevent congregating and close contact with other



CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Conduct frequent cleaning and disinfection of site (at least daily and more frequently if feasible)

Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning

Conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, bathrooms, seats, ticket counters, staff break rooms)

In event of a positive case, follow current CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting areas when someone has a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Disinfect seating areas and any other mutually-touched objects immediately after each use. At no point should customers come in contact with objects that others have touched without first being disinfected according to CDC guidelines

Open windows and doors to increase air flow where possible