Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Effective Date: May 4, 2020

Directive Regarding Large Outdoor Venues

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

This directive covers outdoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators, or a gathering of people are present, such as at concerts, plays, sporting events, rodeos, races, fundraisers, parades, fairs, livestock shows, auctions, carnivals, and festivals.

Examples of such venues, include theatres, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, auction houses, amusement centers, and fair grounds.

Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial, or sporting events.

This directive is not intended for gatherings of people in unconfined outdoor spaces, such as parks or athletic fields where physical distancing of at least six (6) feet can be easily achieved.

- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited in number to fifty (50) or fewer.
- An audience of fifty (50) people or fewer is allowed.
- Lines or cues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons must be marked or monitored for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain a 6-foot distance between members of the audience
- Family groups may sit together but 6 feet should be maintained between groups.
- Every other row seating should be unoccupied to provide for 6 feet of physical distancing.
- Face coverings are required for all persons present, except for children under 10 years of age, who are exempt.
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are12 feet from other persons.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if
    - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.
    - They have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.

- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if
    - They are 65 years of age or older.
    - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Hand sanitizer stations must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets, and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned periodically during the course of the event. Products with an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for these products. For a list of EPA-approved emerging pathogen sanitizers: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2.