Indoor and Outdoor Events, Services, and Business Guidance

Updated March 16, 2021

The below guidance is intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 and it is strongly recommended that all indoor and outdoor events, services, and businesses adhere to the following guidance.

It is important for businesses and event coordinators to work with their local health departments to institute changes to slow the spread of COVID-19 amongst their staff, patrons, and vendors. All counties in Nebraska have been issued a Directed Health Measure (DHM), which can be accessed at https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx. DHMs include specific requirements or restrictions that must be followed in each county and should be referenced, in addition to the following guidance, when planning. Depending on the county DHM, physical distancing may not be required but is highly encouraged. Additionally, venues, businesses, and facilities should promote and encourage the use of facial coverings by patrons and staff, especially when distancing cannot be maintained.

Current DHMs require **INDOOR** locations, venues, or facilities that have capacity to hold 500 or more individuals (1,000 or more individuals in counties over 500,000 population) submit plans to the local health departments and be approved prior to events (your local health department can be found at https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Local-Health-Departments.aspx). If a plan has been submitted previously and your locations, venues, or facilities are expanding capacity, the plan must be re-submitted to the local health department.

For the fully vaccinated:

The CDC has recently released recommendations for fully vaccinated people. ("Fully vaccinated" for this guidance means that it has been at least 2 weeks after receiving the second dose of the 2-dose series, OR at least 2 weeks after receiving the single-dose vaccine. The recommendations for those fully vaccinated are NOT intended for healthcare settings. For healthcare settings visit the CDC's website here.

Those fully vaccinated may:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease without wearing masks/face coverings or physical distancing
- Refrain from quarantine and testing after an exposure if asymptomatic

However, fully vaccinated should continue to take precautions in public like wearing masks and physical distancing, getting tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, and continuing to follow CDC and local health department guidance/recommendations.

A key way to keep you and your family safe is to properly wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing is not able to be maintained. The mask/face covering should have 2 or more layers of washable, breathable fabric; completely cover your nose and mouth; and fit snugly on all sides against your face (no gaps). For more details, refer to CDC guidance.

The following guidance is intended for venues, businesses, and facilities (not including healthcare settings).

Practical set-up for social/physical distancing:

- Instruct any employee, seller, or patron exhibiting symptoms of illness to remain home and request that anyone who is a member of a population of heightened vulnerability to avoid areas where people are gathering.
- Encourage face coverings at all times, especially if six (6) foot separation between parties or groups is not able to be maintained at all times (e.g. entry/exits, bathrooms).
- Special attention needs to be placed on reducing close contact at entry/exits or other areas of congregation and/or congestion (e.g. consider one-way route markings to encourage additional patron flow).
- Encourage households, families, or small groups to congregate together and limit co-mingling between groups as much as possible. Groups should maintain six (6) feet of physical distancing from other parties. This may be done through ticketing, event seating, or other means to further discourage co-mingling. Additionally, items should not be shared or distributed between different parties (e.g., shared serving utensils for buffets or collection plates).
- Anywhere there is potential for people to stand in a line, queue lines should be set up to control distancing and should be either a straight line or an "L" shaped line. Six (6) feet of distance should be marked in those queue lines (using tape, spray paint, flag rope, cones, etc.) Directional arrows can also be used to direct the flow throughout the facility/location.
  - Areas to consider include: registers, ticketing, restrooms, food stands, etc.
- Manage or stagger patron arrival and departures from events, services, etc. to limit/prevent interaction between parties. Appropriate steps should be taken to dismiss and pace the departure of patrons/attendees to limit interactions less than six (6) feet distancing.
- When possible, customer tables and chairs should be at least six (6) feet apart. Minimize additional guests or individuals remaining in lobbies/waiting areas. Consider implementation of partition walls to separate high traffic walking areas from tables and customers.
- Consider assigning additional staff to help regulate customer flow and ensure social/physical distancing.
- Clearly communicate and enforce your policies. Including signs/posters advising of policies.
- When possible, use technology to host virtual sales; video/streaming technologies; implement touchless payment or pay-at-table options; digital menu boards/tablets in lieu of paper menus.
- When possible, increase the physical footprint to reduce congestion and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk to staff or attendees (e.g. risk of falling or triggering asthma symptoms).
  - If portable ventilation equipment like fans are used, take steps to minimize air from equipment blowing from one person directly at another person to reduce the potential spread of any airborne or aerosolized viruses.
- If charging registration or entry fees, develop a flexible refund policy. Allow participants to stay home without penalty if they are sick or need to care for someone who is sick.

Staff:

- When possible, stagger shifts or practice physical distancing between staff. This may include:
  - Redesigning workflow
  - Designating tasks or workstations to a specific employee
  - Create "pods" or "cohorts" of staff to minimize comingling and maximize physical distancing
  - Stagger delivery schedules
- Enhance employee safety training, emphasizing hygiene etiquette (avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth), and proper hand hygiene including washing hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after, and after any sneezing or coughing, or after touching high touch

surfaces (e.g., door handles, chairs, and tables). Staff that come into physical contact with customers or clients (e.g. massage therapists) must wash hands prior to each procedure.

- Complete employee pre-screening (e.g. assess for any symptoms consistent with COVID-19) prior to starting work.
- All staff should wear face coverings, such as cloth masks that are washable, if not maintaining six (6) feet social distancing.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 (either lab-confirmed or clinical diagnosis) should notify their supervisor prior to the start of their work shift. The employer should consult with their local health department to assess whether there was an exposure to the family member at home (example: if the individual takes care of the sick family member) or if there is no exposure (example: individual resides in a separate room and bathroom) before determining if it is appropriate to come into work or needs to self-quarantine. Continue to monitor employee health during their shift for COVID-19 symptoms (including, but not limited to: fever, cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell.) If an employee becomes sick at work, send them home immediately and then clean and disinfect surfaces in their workplace. Other employees and customers at the facility with close contact (within six feet) of the sick employee during this time should be considered exposed. Instruct sick employees to stay home and follow the CDC's What to Do If You Are Sick precautions and consult with their local health department on additional guidance.
- Create a response plan for any instance of an employee with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. If needed, consult your local health department for additional guidance.

Hygiene and Disinfection:

- Provide ample opportunities for staff, vendors, and patrons to wash hands with soap and water. Consider providing additional hand sanitizer or hand washing opportunities throughout the facility or event such as portable sanitizer or hand washing stations.
- Clean and sanitize or disinfect tables, door handles, or other frequently touched surfaces on a regular basis including restrooms and restock often with soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.
- For restaurants, bars, and similar establishments:
  - Disinfect all tables and chairs after each customer use using an EPA-registered disinfectant.
- When appropriate:
  - Allow staff to handle products and encourage customers to shop with their eyes and wait to touch the products until after they are purchased.
  - Use vinyl or plastic table covers for easy disinfecting.

Food and Beverages (including concessions):

- All food code regulations must still be followed. Please contact your local health department or Department of Agriculture for more information.
- Create and implement an enhanced cleaning/sanitizing schedule for all food contact surfaces, and cleaning/disinfecting of non-food contact surfaces using an EPA-registered disinfectant. Increase disinfection frequency of commonly touched surfaces throughout entire facility (both front and back-of-house) such as door handles, credit card machines, bathrooms, etc. Although the food code does not emphasize front-of-house sanitation, COVID-19 requires enhanced cleaning/disinfection of any frequently touched but non-food contact surface, in addition to enhanced sanitization of food contact surfaces.

- For events:
  - Do not allow the sampling of products at booth, table, tents, etc. or selling of drinks in open containers (e.g. by the cup). For events selling food products, follow the concession guidance below.
    - Markings should be placed on the ground to ensure individuals waiting are spaced six (6) feet apart.
    - Clean and sanitize high touch surfaces regularly.
    - Staff should serve food directly to customers and when possible, remove self-serve condiment stations (e.g. provide condiment packets upon request).
    - Whenever possible, practice social/physical distancing between staff.
    - All employees directly interacting with customers should wear face coverings.
    - Employees should wash hands frequently; provide hand sanitizer for customers.

Sporting Practices and Games:

- For rodeos and racetracks:
  - All draws should be posted outside the rodeo/racetrack office or online to reduce individuals inside the rodeo/racetrack office.
  - Chute and pit personnel should be limited to essential personnel only. Face coverings should be worn for these individuals when feasible and when six (6) foot separation is not able to be maintained at all times.
  - For racetracks, ensure additional spacing between teams in the pits and limit the number of pit crew members per team.
- Limit paper materials at the event (i.e. programs, weigh cards, etc.)
- Players, coaches, and staff showing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (fever over 100.4F, sudden onset of cough or sudden onset of shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell) shall not participate.
  - For contact sports or sports in which players are routinely within six (6) feet throughout practices or games it is highly recommended to actively screen players, coaches, and staff prior to practice or game for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Dugout and bench use is allowed. Players should have designated spots to place their personal items. When possible, spread out players further through use of bleachers or other physical means.
- Participants and staff shall not congregate and should follow social/physical distancing guidelines. Participants should wear face masks when not competing.
- All staff and event personnel including officials should consider face coverings when feasible and when six (6) foot separation is not able to be maintained at all times.
- Players should use their own protective equipment including gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
  - When protective equipment is needed to be shared, it should be disinfected between players use. Coaches are encouraged to rotate equipment when possible.
  - Coaches must disinfect shared equipment before and after each practice or game.
- Players should wash their hands before and after each practice or game, especially for sports that contact between players or players handling/touching the same object(s) like a ball, mat, bats, etc.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring social/physical distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing catch, during drills, game, or while waiting to participate. It is encouraged to use drills that do not require contact between players or players handling/touching the same object(s) like a ball, mat, bats, etc., as much as possible.
- Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after practice or games. No shared drinking fountains or coolers.
- Players must bring their own snacks to consume during and after practice or games. No shared/communal snacks.
  - The use of sunflower seeds, tobacco products, and spitting while practicing or playing is discouraged.
- Teams to play next must be provided designated areas for player warm-ups that provide for necessary physical distancing.
- Post-game handshakes or interaction between teams are discouraged.

- When games end, the leaving team must sanitize the dugout or bench area. No post-game talks at the field or court are permitted. Fans and players should leave the playing area and return to their cars immediately after the game.
- The team to play next should remain in their designated warm up area until the prior team has finished disinfecting and is completely out of the dugout or off of the court/field.
- Fans for upcoming games should remain in their cars during player warm ups. They will be permitted to come to the field/court once the team they are there to watch enters the playing area.
- Restrooms must be cleaned and disinfected regularly (at least every 2 hours) while players and fans are present. Markings should be placed on the ground to ensure individuals waiting to use the restroom are spaced six (6) feet apart.