



Preserving, protecting, and promoting public health in our community

Guidance for Entertainment/Recreation Venues

Reopening During COVID-19 Pandemic

It will be the responsibility of the business owner to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their employees as well as their customers/participants. There is much to learn about the novel coronavirus or COVID-19, but it is known to be transmitted from person-to-person most frequently among close contacts (within 6 ft.). This type of transmission occurs via respiratory droplets transmitted by an uncovered cough or sneeze. Current evidence suggests that COVID-19 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. This would be why business owners are encouraged to frequently clean and disinfect common areas and frequently used surfaces. Also, it is unknown how long the air inside a room occupied by someone with confirmed COVID-19 remains potentially infectious. Business owners may need to consider factors such as the size of the room and the ventilation system. Taking measures to improve ventilation in an area or room where someone was ill or suspected to be ill with COVID-19 will help shorten the time it takes respiratory droplets to be removed from the air.

Maintaining social distancing of 6 ft. and practicing good hygiene and respiratory etiquette are vital to protecting employees and others. Individuals performing job duties that require contact with other people closer than 6 ft., should take enhanced precautionary measures to stop the risks of contracting or spreading COVID-19 (e.g., wearing a mask, cleaning/disinfecting areas, washing hands, etc.).

Aquatic facilities, community centers, fitness centers, libraries, organized athletics, movie theaters, bowling alleys, businesses with coin operated machines, and camps will require adjustments to stop the risks of contracting or spreading COVID-19 between employees and patrons. The modifications may be limiting the number of participants, modifying the specific activities, restructuring programs, and increasing sanitization measures for facilities and participants.

High touch or high traffic areas such as playgrounds are considered to be high risk areas as the equipment is not regularly cleaned or disinfected and can harbor germs and viruses. Things to consider when visiting parks, playing on the playground equipment, or other outdoor sites are to avoid overcrowding, maintain the 6 ft. social distancing between children and adults, and clean/disinfect the playground equipment surfaces before and after playing on it. Also taking other precautionary measures (e.g., wearing a mask, washing hands, etc.) would be recommended.

Social distancing should be followed when attending an event at a large venue, stadium, or movie theater. This does apply to amusement parks and attractions, concerts, funerals, museums, school graduations, and weddings.

A strategic “reopening” of Webster County will not be successful without proactive steps being taken to stop the resurgence of COVID-19. The Webster County Health Unit recognizes the individuality and uniqueness of every organization, and understands that not all of the recommendations herein are applicable to everyone. Business owners and community leaders are encouraged to put in place as many of these recommendations as possible to safeguard themselves, their employees, customers, and the community at large.

Manage Employee Health –

- Prepare to implement basic infection prevention measures.
- Employees should be prepared to have temperatures taken and monitored for symptoms when reporting to work everyday.
- Employee(s) should stay home if sick, except to get medical care.
- If an employee becomes sick at work, send them home and clean and disinfect his/her workspace.
- If employee is tested for COVID-19, notify other employees of possible exposure while maintaining confidentiality. The employee who was tested, should be under self-isolation until the results are received.
- Employees should wear a mask or face covering according to CDC recommendations.
- Employees should practice social distancing from other co-workers and customers whenever possible.
- Assure employees are routinely washing their hands for at least 20 seconds and/or using hand sanitizer.
- Remind employees to not touch their eyes, nose and mouth.
- If an employee coughs or sneezes encourage them to use a tissue, dispose of the tissue and wash hands immediately for at least 20 seconds or apply hand sanitizer.
- Employees should be discouraged in using co-workers’ phones or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- Modify physical workspace to maximize social distancing as well as alternating shifts may be necessary.

Manage Operations –

- Wash, rinse, and sanitize any food contact services every 15 minutes to 2 hours.
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, countertops, and touch pay pads, computers, etc.
- Clean and sanitize tables and chairs after each customer use or every 15 minutes to 2 hours whichever is conducive to the operations of the day.
- Clean and sanitize bathrooms every hour.
- Discontinue self-service food that require customers to use utensils or dispensers. Convert these areas to where staff are preparing and serving food for the customer (e.g., butter dispenser for popcorn).
- Clean and sanitize common and high-traffic areas such as entrances, breakrooms, locations where there is high-frequency interaction between everyone.

- Designate 6 ft social distancing space for people waiting in line to check out. It would be recommended to only have one person from the group wait to pay while everyone else either waits at the table or in the car.
- Encourage customers to increase spacing between movie seating to allow for the 6 ft social distancing Missouri Statewide Order 20-09 requirement.
- Tables for weddings should be spaced to accommodate the social distancing of 6 ft. The table spacing may be greater than the 6 ft. in order to allow for the actual seating of the wedding guests.
- No more than ten (10) people at a single table.
- Assure adequate supply of soap and water and/or hand sanitizer are available for all to use at any given time.
- The health of individuals attending events, stadiums, funerals, and weddings who appear ill ask them to please leave the event and clean and sanitize areas that were touched.
- Increase the space between aisles and/or adopt signage/markings where the next person should stand while waiting to be seated, served, or interact with in order to accommodate the 6 ft. social distancing requirement.