

Responsible RestartOhio



Sports Venues

The primary purpose of permitting sports spectators is to allow and encourage the family and household members and loved ones of players, coaches, team staff members, officials, and other event participants (band, honor guard, etc.) to observe and share in the experience. Sports venues include all locations and facilities, whether indoor or outdoor, that host sports events, including but not limited to stadiums, arenas, playing fields, tracks, speedways, golf courses, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts and open-air courses. The maximum number of individuals gathered in any outdoor sports venue is 30% of fixed, seated capacity. For indoor facilities, the maximum number of individuals gathered in any entertainment venue shall be 25% of fixed, seated capacity. However, physical separation must be maintained throughout the venue, and seating must be arranged and assigned to allow for 6 feet of space between groups of: a) no more than four spectators, or b) members of one household, i.e., parent(s) and dependent children. If attendance at a particular venue is governed by a current order from the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, that specific order shall control over this general order.

Mandatory

Spectator Pathway

- Venues must develop a spectator pathway that allows for physical distancing as patrons move from parking, through box office lines, ticket scanning and security screening, and to their seats.
- Establish one-way entry, exits and aisles; patrons to enter and exit gates or doors closest to assigned seats.
- Use markings or signage to indicate social distancing in lines and throughout venue.
- Elevators and escalators must be monitored by attendants to ensure compliance with social distancing standards.
- If not already in place, install glass partitions between ticketing staff and patrons at box office/will call windows.
- Develop an egress plan to allow for social distancing when patrons leave, including in the case of inclement weather for outdoor venues.
- Seating must be assigned in groups of no more than four people. Members of a single household may be seated together.
- Each seating group must be separated from next group by at least 6 feet in each direction.
- Seating groups must be assigned in staggered rows and sections to prevent contact between groups.
- Spectators must sit in the assigned seats or spaces.
- General admission (e.g., lawns, standing room, infields) is allowable only to the extent physical distancing between groups of spectators can be marked and strictly maintained.
- Venues must limit entrance to hospitality suites to ensure that physical separation can be maintained for both indoor and outdoor viewing sections.
- Develop a plan, in conjunction with local health officials, to ensure at least 12 feet between participants and spectators.

Recommended Best Practices

- Use contact-free ticketing to eliminate box office congestion.
- Use assigned arrival times.
- Block off unused seats.
- Block off the front rows of the venue to avoid contact between participants and spectators.
- Block off the last row of each section and aisle seats to prevent contact between seated spectators and people walking to and from seats.

Signage and Education

- Communicate with spectators before each event ("know before you go"):
 - Importance of staying home if sick, face covering requirement, and need to maintain physical separation.
- Install signage concerning hygiene, physical separation, and face covering.
- Communicate physical separation, face covering, hygiene, and health symptom reminders with public announcements throughout the event.

Mandatory

Recommended Best Practices

Facial Covering

- Employees, staff, and volunteers must wear a cloth face covering at all times.
- Spectators must wear a cloth face coverings at all times.
- The only exceptions to facial coverings requirement are the reasons stated in the Director's Order for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio signed July 23, 2020, or as it may thereafter amended.
- Players are not required to wear facial coverings while playing.

- Reinforce face covering requirement with signage and announcements throughout the venue/event.

Cleaning and Hygiene

- Frequently clean high-touch areas (railings, ATMs, elevators, restrooms).
- Allow adequate time between events to allow for cleaning
- Develop a procedure for cleaning and disinfecting if a COVID-19 case is identified at the venue.
- Use all available restrooms with one-way entry and exit to allow for frequent handwashing without crowding.
- Make hand sanitizer readily available throughout the venue.

- Promote hand hygiene through signage.
- Consider using every-other sink in restrooms to allow for physical separation.

Handling Sick/Symptomatic People

- Any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be advised to return home or taken to a dedicated isolation area.
- Develop a plan for handling sick/symptomatic individuals covering how the following will be addressed:
 - Immediate isolation of the sick person.
 - Referral to medical care.
 - Notification of the local public health department.
 - Cooperation with local health department in contact tracing.

Flexibility and Accountability

- Each venue is required to have a written plan for safe reopening, prepared in consultation with the local health department.
- The organizer of an event is responsible for ensuring and enforcing compliance with the venue's reopening plan, the mandates and guidelines of the organizing entity, if any, and all current orders of the Ohio Department of Health.
- Sport facilities/venues must designate an individual responsible for the compliance with COVID-19 safety requirements.
- Venue operators must cooperate with the local health department related to any case investigation.
- Failure to comply may result in a venue being shut down.

Concessions and Retail Vendors

- Follow [Responsible RestartOhio Guidance for Bars & Restaurants](#).
- Follow [Responsible RestartOhio guidance for Consumers, Retail, Services & Entertainment](#).

Indoor Venues

Mandatory

- For facilities, that are not otherwise addressed in a Director of Health Order, the maximum number of individuals gathered in any indoor entertainment venue shall be 25% of fixed, seated capacity.
- Spectators shall be seated in a socially distanced manner, consistent with the requirements for outdoor seating.
- Limit the number of people in lines and use cues/floor markings to assist with social distancing of 6 feet.
- Increase frequency of cleaning and sanitizing per CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection guidance on high contact areas/hard surfaces, including snack counters, door handles/hinges, etc. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>.
- Increase cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms.
- Sanitize seats and flat surfaces, including tray tables, between uses of the facility.
- Make available additional opportunities throughout the facility for persons to reduce the spread of the virus through hand washing or sanitizing stations.
- Train, implement, and enforce hygiene and handwashing with staff.
- Spectators must wear a mask.
- Facilities are expected to employ filtration of MERV 13 or higher as soon as practicably possible.

Recommended Best Practices

- It is recommended that, if possible, ushers should actively monitor social distancing practices and encourage additional distance between spectators as appropriate.
- Increase the times between use of the facility from one event to another to allow for more thorough cleaning of individual areas, as well as staggered arrivals/departures of spectators.
- It is recommended that, if possible, optimize HVAC to blend additional outside air and open fire doors and loading doors so that outside air can circulate.
- It is recommended that, if possible, facilities offer partial event tickets, for example, for youth events that have tickets for a particular game or meet during a day that has multiple events. Have a recess or intermission between games or events to allow spectators to leave the spectator area and permit the area to be cleaned before a new group of spectators enters.
- It is recommended that indoor venues follow [American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers \(ASHRAE\) guidance and resources](#).