



## Health and Safety Guidance for Indoor and Outdoor High-Touch Amusement and Recreation Activities July 4, 2021

This document presents best practices for facilities that have opened their premises to the public. These standards are intended for establishments operating high-touch amusement and recreation activities. Examples of establishments falling into this category include amusement parks, theme parks and water parks. They include outdoor and indoor facilities.

Water parks must also review the Health and Safety Standards for Pools and Aquatic Recreation Facilities.

These facilities are now permitted to operate at full capacity, per Executive Orders No. 239 and 242.

Executive Orders No. 241 and 242 also amended masking requirements. Individuals are no longer required to wear masks in these public settings, though unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to do so.

### **Promote Healthy Behaviors**

- Educate staff and patrons about when they should stay home (if exposed to COVID-19) or isolate (if ill or infected with that virus that causes COVID-19) and when they can return to the venue.
- Entities are encouraged, but not required, to abide by the following practices:
  - **Note: where a facility elects to institute social distancing measures, exceptions must be made to rescue a distressed swimmer; perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), or to provide first aid.**
  - Anticipate lines forming for attractions, rides, and at points of sale consider separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.

- Adjust seating on amusement rides to accommodate 6 feet of distance (e.g., seating every other ride vehicle, except in the case of same family/household groupings, limiting capacity on a ride to allow for space between unrelated family groups).
- Implement social distancing signage, floor decals or ground markings, and/or video/audio announcements, particularly where individuals may form a line. Consider alternative queuing methods where possible to manage crowds and facilitate social distancing.
- For venues operating parking lot trams, use modified seating arrangements to allow for appropriate social distancing.
- Face Masks
  - Encourage unvaccinated individuals to wear masks in indoor and outdoor areas.
  - Advise staff and patrons wearing face masks not to wear them in the water. A wet facemask can make it difficult to breathe and likely will not work correctly. Encourage everyone to bring a second (or extra) cloth mask in case the first gets wet.
- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
  - Hand sanitizer stations should be installed throughout the facility. Hand sanitizer, containing at least 60% alcohol, should be provided.
  - Encourage handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Supplies for proper handwashing should be available include soap and water, a way to dry hands (paper towels or air hand dryers), no-touch trash cans.

## Maintain Healthy Environments

- Ventilation in Buildings
  - Keep doors and windows open where possible and utilize fans to improve ventilation.
  - Inspect and evaluate the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) unit to ensure that the system is operating within its design specifications.
  - Conduct routine maintenance as recommended by the manufacturer or HVAC professional.
  - Within the design specification of the HVAC unit:
    - Increase the volume of outdoor air to the maximum capacity while the facility is occupied.

- Reduce the volume of recirculated air being returned to the indoor spaces
    - Increase the volume of air being delivered to the indoor spaces to the maximum capacity
    - Select maximum filtration levels for the HVAC unit.
    - Run the HVAC unit continuously while the facility is occupied.
    - Run the HVAC unit for at least two hours before and two hours after the facility is occupied.
  - Consider installing portable air cleaners equipped with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter to increase the amount of clean air within the facility.
- Cleaning and Disinfection
  - Maintain documented procedures for the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces **at least daily**.
  - Shared equipment for staff should be routinely cleaned.
  - Ensure safe and effective use and storage of cleaning and disinfectant products by reading and following label directions. This includes not mixing chemical products and applying them at directed concentrations for directed amount of time and storing them securely away from children and animals.
  - Use disinfectants from [EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2\(COVID-19\)](#). Consult with the manufacturers to decide which EPA- approved disinfectants are best for shared objects and surfaces.
- Consider the following modified layouts to encourage physical distancing:
  - Establish a "guest flow" plan, including managing queues and making walkways or stairways one-way or clearly divided for bi-directional travel. Include appropriate directional signs/markers. Address high-traffic intersections to maximize physical distance between persons.
  - Assign separate entrance and exit points to encourage everyone to move in one direction (while maintaining appropriate availability of emergency/fire exits), when possible. Consider the use of multiple single direction entrances and exits to discourage crowds forming. Anticipate lines forming and consider separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.
  - Consider adjusting equipment layout and/or close/restrict access to equipment to maintain appropriate social distancing among customers.

- Restrooms
  - Individually partitioned showers or communal showers are permitted at facilities. Consider installing barriers/partitions in communal showers.
  - Locker rooms are permitted for general use, subject to the protocols outlined herein.
  - Consider staggering use of shared spaces (such as limiting the number of people within bathroom, shower and locker rooms) to allow for staff and guests social distancing.
  - Ensure restroom exhaust fans are functional and operating at full capacity when the building is occupied.
- Facilities are strongly encouraged to install physical barriers ("sneeze guards") at ticket windows and point of sale stations; clean such barriers regularly especially when visibly soiled. Consider assigning one person to each Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal.
- Consider using touchless payment methods, reservation and cancellation systems where possible (e.g., advance purchase online or by phone, or no-sign credit card payment). Encourage advance ticket sales or other such purchase options wherever possible.
- Entertainment
  - Any music or other entertainment offered by the establishment involving a live performance that is otherwise permitted at the facility are encouraged to maintain at least six feet of distance between performers and their performance team and the audience. Physical barriers may be used in addition to social distancing.
- Communication Systems
  - Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., at entrances, in restrooms, on televisions) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs, such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering. Provide signs and messages in multiple languages.
  - Establishments should broadcast regular announcements about reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA systems where available.
  - Ensure protocols established are followed and communicated to all vendors.

### **Prepare for When Someone Becomes Sick**

- Make sure that staff and guests know that they should not come to the facility when ill

and that they should notify amusement park operators if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive, or have been exposed to a confirmed case.

- If the employer is notified of a positive case of a worker or patron, the facility shall notify the local health department (LHD) in the city or town where the facility is located and assist the LHD as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to self-quarantine.
- Establish health/safety protocol for the venue should a customer or employee become ill while at the attraction. Immediately isolate the ill person and have the person wear a mask. Ensure the procedure includes the transport of a sick individual.
- First aid stations should be established and protocols for the isolation and removal of ill persons developed for the care of those who become symptomatic while on-site.

## **EMPLOYEES**

Establishments are recommended to follow the following health and safety protocols outlined in Paragraph 1, to protect their employees, customers, and other visitors at the worksite, which require establishments to abide by the following requirements:

- Provide sanitization materials, such as hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol and sanitizing wipes that are approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for SARS-CoV-2 virus to employees, customers, and visitors at no cost to those individuals;
- Ensure that employees practice regular hand hygiene, particularly when such employees are interacting with the public, and provide employees break time for repeated handwashing throughout the workday and access to adequate hand washing facilities. Employers may adopt policies that require employees to wear gloves in addition to regular hand hygiene. Where an employer requires its employees to wear gloves while at the worksite, the employer must provide such gloves to employees;
- Routinely clean and disinfect all high-touch areas in accordance with DOH and CDC guidelines, particularly in spaces that are accessible to employees, customers, or other individuals, including, but not limited to, restrooms, hand rails, door knobs, other common surfaces, safety equipment, and other frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment, and ensure cleaning procedures following a known or potential exposure are in compliance with CDC recommendations;
- Prior to each shift, conduct daily health checks of employees, such as temperature screenings, visual symptom checking, self-assessment checklists, and/or health questionnaires, consistent with CDC guidance, including latest CDC guidance regarding COVID-19 symptoms, consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the ADA, NJLAD

and any other applicable laws, and consistent with any guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) and the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights;

- Immediately separate and send home employees who appear to have symptoms, as defined by the CDC, consistent with COVID-19 illness upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day. Employers subject to the New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Law, New Jersey Family Leave Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11D-12 and/or federal leave laws must continue to follow the requirements of the law, including by allowing individuals to use accrued leave in the manner permitted by law and employer policy, when requiring employees to leave the workplace in accordance with the provisions of this subparagraph;
- Promptly notify all employees of any known exposure to COVID-19 at the worksite, consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the ADA and any other applicable laws, and consistent with guidance from the EEOC;
- Clean and disinfect the worksite in accordance with CDC guidelines when an employee at the site has been diagnosed with COVID-19 illness; and
- Continue to follow guidelines and directives issued by the New Jersey DOH, the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as applicable, for maintaining a clean, safe, and healthy work environment.