

# COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Guidance: Requirements for Outdoor Venues

05/13/2021

This guidance applies to all business and places of public accommodation (“businesses”)—as defined by Executive Order 21-11, as amended by Executive Order 21-21 (“EO”)—operating events and venues in outdoor settings, including but not limited to sporting events, concerts, theaters, fairs, festivals, and amusement parks. This guidance applies from Friday, May 7, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) through May 27, 2021. The EO requires all businesses to have and implement a written COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that addresses EO requirements and applicable [Stay Safe Industry Guidance \(https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp). For more information about Plan requirements, see the [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities webpage \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp).

Outdoor venues with indoor space must follow the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Guidance for All Indoor Businesses and Entities found on the [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp) webpage in all indoor spaces.

This guidance has been updated to align to EO 21-21 requirements and recommendations (05/06/2021 update) and with a CDC transmission of COVID-19 update (05/13/2021 update).

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## Recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19

COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can be breathed in by other people; land in their eyes, nose or mouth; or land on surfaces that people touch. The risk of COVID-19 transmission increases when people gather with other households. Several key strategies can reduce the risk of getting sick or transmitting COVID-19:

- ✓ Get vaccinated. Vaccination is one of the best things you can do to prevent getting or spreading COVID-19. For more information about what you can do when vaccinated, visit [COVID-19 Vaccine \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/index.html).

## OUTDOOR VENUES

- ✓ Wear a well-fitting face covering. Visit [Frequently Asked Questions About the Requirement to Wear Face Coverings \(health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html\)](https://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html).
- ✓ Keep at least 6 feet of physical distance from other households and wash hands often.
- ✓ Get tested. Visit [COVID-19 Testing \(health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/index.html\)](https://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/index.html) for information about who should get tested and how to get a test.
- ✓ Stay home if you are sick. Visit [If You Are Sick: COVID-19 \(health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sick.html\)](https://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sick.html).
- ✓ Stay home if you were exposed to someone who has COVID-19. People who are fully vaccinated may not need to quarantine. Visit [Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf).
- ✓ Work from home. Working from home is strongly recommended and businesses are strongly encouraged to allow employees to work from home when possible. Employers must provide reasonable accommodations as required under existing federal and state law. Employers are strongly encouraged to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with one or more members of their household who have underlying medical conditions and who are unable to be vaccinated.

## Definitions

### Indoors

A space is “indoors” if the space is:

- Between the ground or other natural surface or a floor or similar surface and an overhead barrier, including but not limited to: a canopy, cap, awning, ceiling, roof, retractable barrier, or similar structure, whether opened or closed, and
- Bounded by a physical barrier, including but not limited to walls, partitions, retractable dividers, doorways, garage doors or windows, whether opened or closed, that cover more than 50% of the combined surface area of the vertical planes constituting the perimeter of the space.

Indoor spaces may be temporary or permanent, finished or unfinished. A physical barrier bounding a space may be made of natural and manufactured materials. A 0.011 gauge window screen with an 18 by 16 mesh count is not a barrier. Examples of spaces that are or can be indoor spaces include, but are not limited to, buildings, towers, stadiums, arenas, theaters, rotundas, domes, tents, pavilions, gazebos, igloos, trailers, and other enclosures.

### Venue

A “venue” is a physical space or area used to perform activities or conduct events. A venue may be space or area that is public or private, indoors or outdoors, with defined or undefined perimeters and accessible with or without a cost to an attendee. A physical space or area is a venue if the actions, conduct, or decisions of a business or other entity, including an event organizer, result in members of the public assembling or gathering in a space or area for a common or collective activity or event.

## Required Plan Sections

1. [General requirements and recommendations](#)
2. [Use of face coverings](#)

### 1. General Requirements and Recommendations

#### Requirements

- ✓ Indoor venues, or venues with indoor spaces, must follow the indoor venue requirements on the [Stay Safe Guidance for Entertainment and Meeting Venues webpage \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/entertainment.jsp\)](#).
- ✓ Outdoor venues, or the outdoor spaces of venues, are not subject to requirements or restrictions unless expressly identified in the EO, this document, or the COVID-19 Universal Guidance for Outdoor Businesses and Entities on the [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities webpage \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](#).

#### Recommendations

- ✓ Implement and maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet between all persons or groups.
  - Require or recommend social distancing between households, or consider requiring or recommending that patrons arrive in small groups (e.g., 10 people) and maintain social distancing between members of other groups.
  - Reduce occupant capacity to allow for sufficient space for persons or groups outdoors to maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet, and ensure that patrons maintain social distancing.
  - Assign seats or seating locations to promote social distancing between persons or groups of people.
  - Identify and manage congestion areas, choke-points, and bottle-necks to allow for social distancing between persons.
  - Use queuing or signage to manage pathways, lines, waiting areas, and other areas of congestion to promote social distancing between persons.
  - Assign a number of ushers, monitors, or security personnel necessary to facilitate orderly entry, navigation, seating, unseating, and exit throughout the venue.
- ✓ Manage occupancy and arrival.
  - Establish a perimeter and control access of persons into the venue to manage occupancy.
  - Consider advanced ticketing and reservations to manage occupancy.
  - Schedule arrival times for longer than their typical duration to minimize the congregation of patrons waiting.
  - Establish “drop off” areas to allow for patrons within groups of up to 6 people to be dropped off at their designated entrance to the venue to minimize the number of persons walking through parking ramps, parking areas, sidewalks, and walk-ways.

## OUTDOOR VENUES

- Enhance security protocols for entry to allow for more efficient security-checks of patrons, minimize face-to-face interaction between security personnel and patrons, and minimize wait-times (e.g., metal-detectors, scanners, transparent baggies for personal items, limit pat-down checks).
- ✓ Additional recommendations.
  - Provide additional hand-washing stations and sanitizer throughout the venue for patrons to encourage hand-washing and minimize crowding, congestion, and lines.
  - Use app-based ordering to minimize patrons having to wait in line, linger and congregate in concession and merchandise areas.
  - Consider delivering concessions directly to designated seating areas, as opposed to providing concessions at concession stands, provided that workers can be protected.
  - Limit menu items to those items which can be readily retrieved or quickly prepared to minimize congestion, lingering, and waiting. Consider “pre- assembled” order-groupings or orders to simplify ordering and minimize ordering and wait-times.
  - For additional recommendations, see the [COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Guidance for All Indoor Businesses and Entities \(PDF\)](https://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_indoor_venues.pdf) ([dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID\\_19\\_preparedness\\_plan\\_requirements\\_indoor\\_venues.pdf](https://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_indoor_venues.pdf)) and [CDC Guidance for Organizing Large Events and Gatherings](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html) ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html)).

## 2. Use of face coverings

### Requirements

- ✓ Require workers and patrons to wear face coverings at all times whenever indoors, subject to the exemptions and allowances for temporary removal of face coverings in Executive Order 20-81 (as amended by Executive Order 21-11 and 21-21).
  - More information about face covering requirements and exemptions is available on the MDH website at [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html) ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html)) and [Frequently Asked Questions About the Requirement to Wear Face Coverings](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html) ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html)). These resources also include requirements and recommendations on how to properly wear face coverings (i.e., choose a covering that is made of at least two layers of fabric with a snug fit that covers the mouth and nose).
  - Businesses must take reasonable steps to ensure that workers, customers, clients and visitors wear face coverings in accordance with Executive Order 20-81, and conspicuously post face covering policies for workers, customers, clients and visitors. Cloth face coverings are NOT a substitute for maintaining a social distance of 6-feet from other people.
- ✓ Workers must wear face-coverings outdoors when social distancing of at least 6 feet from other persons cannot be maintained.

## OUTDOOR VENUES

- ✓ All persons, including patrons and workers, must also wear face coverings whenever outdoors at a venue with more than 500 patrons in attendance.
- ✓ Establish procedures to ensure patrons are wearing face coverings and actions that will be taken if patrons refuse offered reasonable accommodations.

### Recommendations

- Even in situations where face coverings are not required, face coverings are strongly recommended in situations where it is difficult or impossible to maintain social distancing from others.

