



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

Effective Date: May 18, 2020

Phase 2 Revision Effective: June 15, 2020

Changed February 26, 2021 from Directive to Guidance

Revision converting mask requirement to guidance, effective April 1, 2021

Guidance for Casinos during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. CodeAnn. §20-7-109--110. **Community spread of COVID-19 remains active within the State. Therefore, the Arkansas Department of Health makes the following recommendations for how to best prevent transmission of COVID-19 at casinos in Arkansas.**

A casino should have a detailed plan for how they will conduct their operations to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within their facility. The plan should include the following considerations:

- Facility capacity should not exceed the ability of attendees to maintain six (6) feet physical distance between individuals or household groups. Consider tracking attendees for possible use in contact tracing should an outbreak occur.
- Screen staff for illness or exposure to COVID-19 and exclude persons who are ill or who have been exposed to an ill person in the last 14 days.
- Customers or members of the public entering a facility should be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering to reduce the potential for introducing COVID-19 into the facility.
- Signs should be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if they have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, or if they have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days and they themselves have not been fully vaccinated. An example can be found here: https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/COVID-19_No_Entry.pdf
- Maintain six (6) feet physical distance between people.
- Manage lines or queues at entrances, exits, points of purchases, or other areas to maintain six (6) feet distancing between people.
- Arrange seating to maintain six (6) feet physical distance.
- Provide easy access to sinks and sanitizer to promote good hand hygiene of staff and customers.
- ADH strongly recommends all persons in the facility wear face coverings in accordance

with the [Face Coverings Guidance](#).

- Maintain physical distancing during shows or live performances.
- Food service should follow of the [Guidance on Restaurant Dine-In Operations](#).
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces to minimize possible spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Specify how an employee testing positive for COVID-19 will be reported to the Arkansas Department of Health and how the facility will assistance in contact tracing activities.