



# 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

Amended May 11, 2020  
Effective Date: May 18, 2020  
Revision Effective: June 15, 2020  
Revision Effective Date: January 2, 2021  
Revision Effective Date: February 15, 2021  
Converted to Guidance February 26, 2021  
Revision converting mask requirement to guidance, effective April 1, 2021

## **Guidance Regarding Indoor Venues**

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. Code Ann. §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 large indoor venues.** As of February 26, 2021, this document was changed from being a directive to guidance. This guidance covers, without limitation, indoor venues for commercial, community, civic, public or leisure events.

Examples of such venues include auditoriums, lecture halls, movie theaters, other theaters, museums, arenas, sports venues, racetracks, stadiums, gymnasiums, auction houses, amusement centers, barns, exhibit halls, convention centers, and recreational facilities.

This guidance is not intended to address the following, which are addressed under separate guidance:

- Places of Worship
- Retail Business
- Community or School Sponsored Sports
- Community-School Sponsored Music and Theater
- Casinos
- Restaurants and Bars
- Residences
- Barber Shops, Body Art Establishments, Cosmetology Establishments, Massage Therapy Clinics/Spas and Medical Spas
- Overnight Camps

Effective February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Directive for Indoor Venues is now guidance and events are not required to submit plans to ADH for review. However, events are strongly encouraged to continue to follow the Guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Events who wish to submit a plan for feedback on where COVID-19 prevention can be enhanced may send their plans to [adh.ehs@arkansas.gov](mailto:adh.ehs@arkansas.gov).

The following guidelines should be observed:

- Any performers/players/contestants should be separated from the audience by at least twelve (12) feet.
- Lines or queues for entrance, exit, purchases, or other reasons should be marked or monitored to maintain a distance of six (6) feet between people.
- All seating should be arranged to maintain six (6) feet distancing from occupied seat to occupied seat.
- Household groups may sit together, but six (6) feet should be maintained between groups.
- Those in attendance should wear face coverings in accordance with the [Face Coverings Guidance](#).
- 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.
  - They have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days unless they themselves are fully vaccinated.
- Signs should be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if:
  - They are 65 years of age or older.
  - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, or weakened immunity.
- Hand sanitizer stations should be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments should be served in accordance with the Restaurant Dine-in Operations Directive.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned periodically during the course of the event. Products with an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for these products. For a list of EPA-approved emerging pathogen sanitizers: <https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm>