



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

Amended May 11, 2020

Effective Date: May 4, 2020 for events for 50 people or less

Effective Date: May 18, 2020 for events up to 33 percent capacity

Phase 2 Revision Effective Date: June 15, 2020 for events up to 66% capacity

Amended: February 15, 2021

Converted to Guidance February 26, 2021

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

Guidance Regarding Outdoor 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 outdoor venues.** As of February 26, 2021, this document was changed from being a directive to guidance.

Examples of such venues include theaters, arenas, sports venues, racetracks, stadiums, auction houses, amusement centers, and fair grounds.

Gatherings subject to this guidance also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, or commercial events and activities where an audience, spectators, or a gathering of people are present, such as at concerts, weddings, plays, sporting events, rodeos, races, fundraisers, parades, fairs, livestock shows, auctions, carnivals, and festivals.

Effective February 26th, 2021, the Directive for Outdoor 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.

The following guidelines should be observed:

- The performers/players/contestants should be separated from the audience by at least twelve (12) feet.
- Lines or cues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons should be marked or monitored for maintaining 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](#).
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are twelve (12) feet from other persons.
- 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.
- 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 guidance on [Restaurant Dine-in Operations](#).
- 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>.

Other ADH Guidance documents can be found here:

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-health-guidances>