

COVID-19 Guidance for Voters



What should voters do to protect themselves and others from COVID-19?

The Arkansas Department of Health encourages the use of early voting or voting by absentee ballot if possible. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, you should apply through your county clerk's office as soon as possible. Early voting will be available beginning October 19th. For those who plan to vote in-person, the following measures are recommended:

- **Wear a cloth face covering or surgical mask** (gaiters or bandanas are less effective).
- **Practice Social Distancing** — Voters should be using appropriate social distancing practices. These include:
 - Maintain a 6-foot separation while waiting in line and voting
 - Cough into your sleeve or cover your mouth with a Kleenex or handkerchief when you sneeze or cough if you are not wearing a mask
 - Vote when there are smaller number of voters present if possible
- **Wash your hands often** and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when water and soap are not available
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

What are Poll Workers doing to protect Voters from COVID-19?

Poll workers will be practicing the same social distancing requirements as voters. They will be wearing facemasks, washing their hands/using alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and will be disinfecting the polling machines after each use. They will not come to work if they are sick. They will provide hand sanitizer or wipes for use after voting.

Can I still vote if I am feeling ill?

Yes, the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits federal and state governments from denying the right to vote to someone who is qualified to vote. Therefore, ill persons will be allowed to vote. However, the public health practices outlined above will be necessary to prevent the spread of illness.

Some polling sites are within facilities that require screening and/or masks. Voters are not required to comply with these requirements but must proceed directly to the voting area and depart promptly without using other areas within the facility.

Additional Resources:

Arkansas Department of Health COVID-19 website:

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus>

Arkansas Secretary of State website:

<https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections>

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html>

For more information contact:

Arkansas Department of Health
1-800-803-7847
ADH.CoronaVirus@arkansas.gov