



# 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

December 11, 2020

## **Elevator and Escalator Use Guidance during COVID-19 Pandemic**

Elevators are small, enclosed spaces with poor ventilation where people tend to crowd together. Likewise, escalators tend to lead to crowding. Such conditions risk spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19, even if people spend relatively short periods of time on elevators and escalators. Therefore, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has collaborated with the Elevator Safety Board of the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing to provide this guidance on the use of elevators and escalators.

- Face coverings/masks must be used in elevators in accordance with the state [Face Coverings Directive](#). Post signs reminding users of the requirement to wear a face covering. Ask elevator occupants to avoid speaking, when possible.
- Encourage occupants to take stairs when possible, especially when elevator lobbies are crowded or when only going a few flights. Place signs at the elevator entryway indicating the location of the stairwell so that the occupants who choose to take the stairs know where the closest stairwell access is.
- Where feasible, designate certain stairwells or sides of stairwells as “up” and “down” to better promote social distancing.
- Use floor markings in elevator lobbies and near the entrance to escalators to reinforce social distancing. Place decals inside the elevator to identify where passengers should stand, if needed.
- Use stanchions (for lobbies only; not inside elevators) or other ways to mark pathways to help people travel in one direction and stay 6 feet apart.
- Limit the number of people in an elevator to only that number that can safely maintain physical distancing. Leave at least 2 steps empty between passengers on escalators to maintain physical distancing. Post signs that clearly communicate this inside or close to the elevator or escalator to encourage compliance.
- Post signs reminding occupants to minimize touching surfaces. They should use an object (such as a pen cap) or their knuckle to push elevator buttons.
- Encourage elevator and escalator passengers to wash their hands and avoid touching their face after holding on to handrails or touching buttons.
- Consider adding supplemental air ventilation or local air treatment devices in frequently used elevator cars.