

# SEATED SPECTATOR EVENTS GUIDELINES



Illinois  
Department of Commerce  
& Economic Opportunity  
JB Pritzker, Governor

## RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

### PART OF PHASE 4 OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE IV | ISSUED ON JUNE 22, 2020

The Revitalization Phase of the Restore Illinois public health approach to reopening the Illinois economy includes gatherings of up to 50 people, additional businesses reopening and increased capacities. We must all continue to social distance, frequently wash our hands and cover our faces to maintain progress in overcoming COVID-19.

#### This document is applicable to businesses that meet the following criteria:

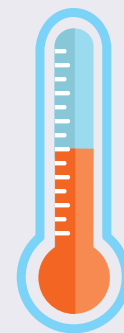
- Outdoor seated sports venues, arenas, stadiums, facilities, fields or courts engaged in showing live sports games
  - Examples of spectator sports include (non-exhaustive): auto race tracks, baseball fields, football fields
  - For golf tournaments, refer to [guidance on Golf](#)
  - For tennis matches, refer to [guidance on Tennis](#)
- These guidelines apply to outdoor spectator sports only; indoor spectator sports not permitted at this time
- These guidelines apply to ticketed events with seating available for all spectators; general admission shows and/or events without seating (e.g., standing room only) are not permitted at this time
- **Note:** organizations that operate across multiple workplace environments should refer to applicable Phase IV guidelines for guidance on those workplaces
- **Note:** As of release, outdoor spectator sports venues may operate at maximum of 20% of seating capacity for spectators. Capacity restrictions will be reassessed based on the latest science and public health metrics on an ongoing basis throughout Phase IV

#### Uniform guidelines across businesses, industries and nonprofits within the State of Illinois:

## GENERAL HEALTH

### i. Minimum guidelines

1. All employees who can work from home should continue to do so
2. Employees should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when within 6-ft. of others (cloth masks preferred). Exceptions may be made where accommodations are appropriate – see [IDHR's guidance](#)
3. Social distance of at least 6-ft. should be maintained between non-household individuals unless participating in activities permitted under Phase IV guidelines
4. Employers should provide hand washing capability or sanitizer to employees and if applicable, spectators
5. Frequent hand washing by employees, and an adequate supply of soap/ paper towels and/or disinfectant/ hand sanitizer should be available



## HR AND TRAVEL POLICIES

### i. Minimum guidelines

1. All employees and workers who perform work at the worksite (such as temporary or contract workers) should complete health and safety training related to COVID-19 when initially returning to work. Resources to design a training are posted on the [DCEO Restore Illinois guidelines website](#)
2. Employees should follow [CDC travel guidance](#) to protect themselves and others during business travel
3. Employees should not report to, or be allowed to remain at, work if sick or symptomatic (with cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever of 100.4 degrees or above, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or other [CDC-identified symptoms](#)), and sick or symptomatic employees should be encouraged to seek a COVID-19 test at a state or local government testing center, healthcare center or other testing locations
4. Employers should clearly explain all paid leave policies and make workers aware that they may be eligible for benefits if they are sick or symptomatic
5. Employers should be aware that the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and provisions of state law prohibit employers from retaliating against workers for raising safety or health concerns



### ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Provide reasonable accommodation for COVID-19-vulnerable employees, including but not limited to work from home (if feasible), reduced contact with others, use of barriers to ensure minimum distance between others whenever feasible or other accommodations that reduce chances of exposure

## HEALTH MONITORING

### i. Minimum guidelines

1. Employers should make temperature checks available for employees and encourage their use. Employers should post information about the symptoms of COVID-19 in order to allow employees to self-assess whether they have any symptoms and should consider going home
2. All employers should have a wellness screening program. Resources outlining screening program best practices are posted on the [DCEO Restore Illinois guidelines website](#)
  - a. Employers should conduct in-person screening of employees and athletes upon entry into workplace to verify no presence of COVID-19 symptoms
  - b. If employee shift is greater than 5 hours, employers should also conduct mid-shift screening of employees to verify no presence of COVID-19 symptoms (in person preferred, though virtually is permitted)
    - Mid-shift screening not applicable to athletes
3. If employee reports having any COVID-19 related symptoms, they should remain isolated at home for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset OR until feverless and feeling well (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 72 hours OR confirmed to not have COVID-19 via 2 negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with testing done at least 24 hours apart
4. If employee reports having any COVID-19 related symptoms, employers should encourage employee to contact their health care provider; if multiple employees report having any COVID-19 related symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, employers should notify their local health department within one day of being informed of the prevalence of COVID-19 symptoms in the workplace or positive test results
5. If an employee is identified as being COVID-19 positive by testing, CDC cleaning and disinfecting should be performed [according to CDC guidelines](#)
6. Where appropriate, notify employees who have been exposed. Employers should not identify an employee who tested positive by name
7. Any employee who has had close contact<sup>1</sup> with co-worker or any other person who is diagnosed with COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days after the last/most recent contact with the infectious individual and should seek a COVID-19 test at a state or local government testing center, healthcare center or other testing locations. All other employees should be on alert for symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath and taking temperature if symptoms develop



<sup>1</sup> Close contacts include household contacts, intimate contacts, or contacts within 6-ft. for 15 minutes or longer unless wearing N95 mask during period of contact.

## Guidelines specific to spectator sports:

**PHYSICAL WORKSPACE****i. Minimum guidelines**

1. Venue operators should [display signage](#) at entry with face covering requirements, social distancing guidelines, cleaning protocols, and any reduced capacity limit in multiple languages as needed
2. On website and digital ticket purchasing sites, venue operators should clearly indicate face covering requirements, social distancing guidelines, cleaning protocols, and any reduced capacity limit, in multiple languages as needed
3. Allow for 6-ft. spacing between occupied ticketing workstations OR if not practical, install an impermeable barrier between ticketing workstations
4. Venue operators should limit venue capacity to 20% for spectators and ensure at least 6-ft. between seats occupied by spectators that are not members of the same household or party. If seats cannot be moved, venue operators should limit number of open seats to ensure social distancing (e.g., zip tie unused seats, remove seat bottoms, cover unused seats)
  - a. If applicable, suites should have reduced capacity to allow for 6-ft. of distancing between occupied seats
5. All individuals (e.g., athletes, employees, coaches) should maintain 6-ft. of social distancing unless job duty cannot be performed without proximity (e.g., athlete during game play) and should wear face coverings if practical
  - a. If social distancing cannot be maintained during game play, athletes should still maintain 6-ft. of distancing while on the sidelines/ not directly involved in game play
6. Non-competitive activities (e.g., practices, warm-ups) should be set up to allow for 6-ft. of distancing between participants whenever possible
7. If a sporting facility has stations for individual activities (e.g., track and field), venue operator should ensure at least 6-ft. between stations. If stations cannot be moved, operator should limit number of open stations to ensure social distancing
8. If first row of spectator seating is within 6-ft. of field or athletes near the field, then any seating within 6-ft. of field or athletes should be closed OR impermeable barrier should be installed
  - a. If athletes are utilizing spectator seating while not in gameplay, any seating within 6-ft. of players and spectators should also be closed
9. Concessions must follow [Restaurant and Bar guidelines](#) for all food and beverage operations and must be one of the following:
  - a. Delivered by a server who takes orders from guests while seated with distancing requirements laid out in [Restaurant and Bar guidelines](#); OR
  - b. At outdoor kiosk, purchased pre-packaged via "grab and go" with queuing areas clearly marked to observe social distancing OR
  - c. At indoor quick service areas over 500 square feet, purchased pre-packaged via "grab and go" (no queuing permitted)
  - d. At indoor quick service areas 500 square feet and under, purchased pre-packaged via "grab and go" with queuing areas clearly marked to observe social distancing



10. Tailgating is not permitted
11. For any gift shops or retail locations, venue operators should refer to [Retail guidelines](#)
12. Locker rooms and showers should be configured with signage, tape, and other markings to ensure athletes can maintain 6-ft. of social distance
13. Medical tents/ training rooms should be configured with signage, tape, and other markings to ensure athletes can maintain 6-ft. of social distance
  - a. Social distancing is not necessary while medical professional examines injured athlete
14. Athletes should refrain from using communal sources of hydration (e.g. team water or sports drink jug) and sharing of water bottles

## ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Display visual markers 6-ft. apart at spectator queue points
2. If practical, designate doors as entry-only and exit-only to reduce likelihood of close contact and congestion points
3. Prepare a venue-specific emergency evacuation plan that allows for spectators to maintain 6-ft social distancing
4. If practical, designate one-way direction of movement around venue and display visual markers to regulate traffic flow and limit congregation of individuals
5. For events that have security, utilize walk-through magnetometers to allow security workers to maintain social distance and avoid patting down any spectators
  - a. If not practical, security workers performing pat-down searches wear appropriate face coverings and gloves and have access to a hand washing and/or sanitizing station
6. If practical, designate staging area for taxis and rideshare vehicles to drop-off and pick-up spectators
7. Where possible, eliminate common touchpoints (e.g. remove shared items in common areas, use touchless door pulls)
8. If practical, install impermeable barrier between employee and spectators at ticketing station, security, and any other checkout points
9. If practical, implement touchless transactions
10. If practical, utilize any additional available space (e.g., grassy areas) within venue to space out spectators while maintaining 20% capacity limit on existing seating
11. Where building management practices allow, increase air turnover rates in occupied spaces and increase outside make-up air to the maximum extent practical
12. Athletes should use their own equipment (e.g., helmet, bat, gloves) as much as practical
13. Athletes should place personal belongings at least 6-ft. away from others' personal belongings



## DISINFECTING/CLEANING PROCEDURES

### i. Minimum guidelines

1. Cleaning and disinfecting of premises should be conducted in compliance with [CDC protocols](#) on a weekly basis
2. Clean and disinfect common areas (e.g., restrooms, locker rooms) and surfaces which are touched by multiple people (e.g., entry/exit doorknobs, stair railings) frequently; every 30 minutes recommended for high-traffic areas
3. Clean and disinfect occupied tables and seats between use by different groups or parties, and again at closing time
4. Minimize sharing of high-touch equipment. If equipment is to be shared, equipment should be sanitized before and after use (see [EPA approved list of disinfectants](#)) and athletes are encouraged to wash or sanitize hands frequently
  - a. If applicable, game balls should be alternated and disinfected during game play and fully disinfected between games
5. If applicable, valet staff should perform cleaning of vehicle in compliance with [GSA protocols](#)
6. Sanitization of locker rooms and showers should be completed at the beginning and end of practice/ games at minimum
7. Sanitization of medical tents/ training rooms should be completed in line with [IDPH Health Care Provider guidelines](#)
8. Athletes should wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before game play
9. All required disinfecting, cleaning, or sanitizing activities to be conducted by employees should be within their normal workday or during otherwise compensated time



## STAFFING AND ATTENDANCE

### i. Minimum guidelines

1. Venues should operate at 20% of seating capacity for spectators. There must be at least 6-ft. spacing between spectators that are not members of the same household or party
2. Venue operators should design a plan to allow for social distancing within the venue and if needed, designate employee(s) to monitor capacity limits and social distancing
3. Venue operators should limit the occupancy of common areas/ break rooms to allow for social distancing of 6-ft. or greater by removing/ decommissioning furniture or staggering break times; this guideline is not intended to diminish employees break time requirements
4. Venue operators should have a plan to limit congregation during entry/ exit and throughout duration of the event
  - a. If practical, schedule staggered spectator arrival times, with email or mobile notification
  - b. If practical, allow spectators to select their entry time and location
  - c. If practical, limit number of unscheduled entries
  - d. If practical, designate specific point of entry for spectator based on seating location
  - e. If practical, release spectators by row, beginning with those closest to exits (use videoboard/ PA announcer to facilitate release)
  - f. If applicable, create plan to limit congregation in venue-owned parking lots and assign parking spaces to spectators during the digital sales process
5. Venue operators should develop a method to inform customers of available facility capacity before customers arrive at the venue (e.g. reservation system, overview of days/ times when venue is typically most crowded)
6. No handshakes at the beginning or end of games between athletes
7. No signatures, fan pictures, or close contact between spectators or athletes permitted
8. Post-game team meals should be individually packaged; no buffet style meals permitted



### ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Limit capacity in medical tents/ training rooms as much as possible to limit interactions between injured athletes
  - a. Athletes exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms are kept isolated and away from those with physical injury
2. If applicable, stagger shift start and end times to minimize congregation of employees during changeovers

## EXTERNAL INTERACTIONS

### i. Minimum guidelines

1. Before allowing external supplier or non-spectator visitor to enter, or while requiring them to wait in a designated area, venue operators should ask whether external supplier or non-spectator visitor is currently exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
  - a. If possible, venue operators should take external supplier or non-spectator visitor temperature using thermometer (infrared/ thermal cameras preferred, touchless thermometers permitted)
2. Venue operators should keep log of all external suppliers who enter premises
3. Suppliers and non-spectator visitors should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth except while seated within a venue and 6-ft. apart from others (exceptions can be made for people with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent them from safely wearing a face covering)



### ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Limit contact between spectators/ external suppliers/ non-spectator visitors and employees

## CUSTOMER BEHAVIORS

### i. Minimum guidelines

1. Spectators should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth, except while seated within a venue and 6-ft. apart from others outside of household or party (exceptions can be made for people with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent them from safely wearing a face covering)
2. Spectators should check for available capacity before going to the facility

### ii. Encouraged best practices

1. Before allowing entrance, venue operators should ask whether spectator is currently exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
2. If practical, implement touchless transactions/ registration for spectators upon arrival to the event (e.g. mobile ticketing/ check-in)
3. Spectators should be encouraged to purchase online tickets in advance of the show or performance





**If you have questions or need additional support:**  
Please call our hotline at 1-800-252-2923  
or e-mail us at [ceo.support@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.support@illinois.gov)  
or return to [illinois.gov/businessguidelines](https://illinois.gov/businessguidelines)

**Additional Resources:**

- [CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- [CDC Workplace Decision Tool](#)
- [IDPH Releasing COVID-19 Cases and Contacts from Isolation and Quarantine](#)
- [IDPH Testing Guidance](#)
- [IDPH FAQs](#)
- [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)
- [IDHR FAQ for Businesses Concerning Use of Face-Coverings During COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- [CDC Guidance on Cleaning Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)
- [EPA Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)