

# Guidelines for Safer Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

### Sector: Outdoor Performances and Events

*The following is intended as a plain language summary of rules for reopening during the COVID-19 Emergency and does not replace the need to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.*

During the Green Phase, outdoor stationary and mobile theaters and performances are permitted to operate provided that: (i) all applicable health and safety requirements and guidance are followed, including but not limited to physical distancing and mandatory face coverings for audience, staff, and for performers when feasible; (ii) and all applicable regulatory requirements are met, including but not limited to licensing and permitting requirements. Businesses must obtain any permits or other authorization, as required, to conduct outdoor performances. If food is offered as part of these performances, all applicable food regulations must be followed (see Restaurant and Mobile Food Vendor guidance).

#### Protections Needed

- **Face coverings**

- Performers should wear face coverings when feasible. These could be either masks or face shields. When not feasible, maintain at least 20 feet between performers and audience or use a barrier between performers and audience.
- Require attendees to mask while on site except only:
  - If watching from their own property (e.g. doorways, front stoops) and able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other audience members.

- **Barriers**

- If the performance includes the sale of tickets, install plastic barriers between staff and the public.
- Place barriers around stage to keep audience members from coming within 20 feet of the stage or performance site.

- **Isolate**

- Screen every staff member and/or performer for symptoms before every rehearsal, performance or shift and prevent them from remaining on site if they have cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, or new loss of taste or smell. Screen all staff and performers for recent exposure to COVID-19.
- It is not necessary to conduct onsite temperature measurement for staff, performers, or attendees. If you measure temperatures, use a no-touch thermometer, and do not allow anyone with a temperature of 100.4° or higher to remain onsite.
- Have sick leave policies in place so that employees excluded from the workplace do not lose earnings and ticket exchange policies (for ticketed events) to allow patrons who are symptomatic or have been exposed to exchange their tickets.
- If an employee develops COVID-19 infection or has a positive test, please contact the Montgomery County Office of Public Health at 610-278-5117.

- **Distance**

- Ask attendees to remain at least 6 feet from others not in their household group or (for mobile theaters) on their own property.
- Establish procedures to prevent crowding among persons waiting for tickets or to enter the performance venue.
  - Consider the use of sidewalk decals, chalked or painted circles, or other visual cues to encourage customers to stay at least 6 feet apart and at least 20 feet from performers during performances and events.

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- Use non-contact payment methods if possible.
- For drive-in events, ensure that cars remain at least 6 feet apart (window to window) and that attendees stay in their cars. Car windows may be open or closed.
- **Reduce crowds**
  - Limit attendees to 50 until further notice.
  - Do not permit lines of more than ten (10) customers to form for any reason.
  - Select performance pieces that require a small group of performers ( $\leq 10$ ) and cohort performance groups to minimize the total numbers of work-exposures experienced by staff and ensemble.
  - Plan for inclement weather. It will not be permissible for attendees to crowd together if it rains.
- **Handwashing**
  - Ensure that all performers and other staff wash hands or use hand sanitizer on arrival to rehearsals and performances and before and after breaks.
  - If food is offered, see handwashing rules for Restaurants and Mobile Food Carts.
  - Place hand sanitizer near payment counter for ticket sales, take-out and mobile carts.
- **Clean**
  - Continue to follow all Office of Public Health Food Safety regulations.
  - Clean high touch areas (e.g. ticket counter) between customers.
  - Avoid using disinfectants on surfaces with food contact.
- **Communicate**
  - Educate performers and other staff about symptoms and prevention of COVID-19.
  - Post prominent signs:
    - Asking people who are sick or have had contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days to stay at home.
    - Encouraging people to cover coughs or sneezes.
    - Mandating physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
    - Mandating that all attendees wear face coverings.

See also:

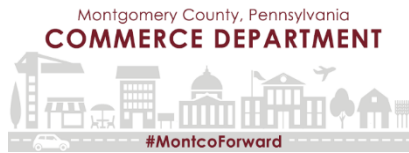
1) [PA Guidance for Businesses in the Restaurant Industry Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster](#)

*This Safety Checklist was originally developed by the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Department of Commerce and adapted by the County of Montgomery.*



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[Montgomery County Data Hub](#)

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610-631-3000

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