



# Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Amended May 11, 2020

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## **Directive Regarding Large Indoor 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. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

This directive covers indoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators, or a gathering of people are present, such as at concerts, weddings, plays, movies, lectures, presentations, conferences, conventions, sporting events, races, fundraisers, trade shows, and festivals.

Examples of such venues include auditoriums, lecture halls, movie theatres, other theatres, museums, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, gymnasiums, auction houses, amusement centers, barns, exhibit halls, conventions centers, and funeral homes. Examples also include recreational facilities, such as bowling alleys and trampoline parks.

Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial, or sporting events.

This directive is not intended for places of worship, which are addressed under a separate guidance.

This guidance is not intended to address competitive or youth sports, which are addressed under a separate directive.

This guidance is not intended to address casinos, which are addressed in a separate directive.

- A venue may reopen for events up to 33 percent capacity for the facility with a plan approved by the Secretary of Health. Plans should be submitted to [adh.ehs@Arkansas.gov](mailto:adh.ehs@Arkansas.gov).
- Fifty (50) people or fewer in attendance is allowed without a requirement to submit a plan.
- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited in number to fifty (50) or fewer.
- Lines or cues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons must be marked or monitored for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.

- Seating must be arranged to maintain a 6-foot distance between members of the audience
- Family groups may sit together but 6 feet should be maintained between groups.
- Every other row seating should be unoccupied to provide for 6 feet of physical distancing.
- Face coverings are required for all persons present, except for children under 10 years of age, who are exempt.
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from other persons.
- Signs must 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 must 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 must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets, and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- Catered events are allowed with caterer-served buffets or plated meals.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain 10-foot physical distancing between tables so occupied seats are six feet from seats at adjacent tables.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Frequently touched surfaces shall 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://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.