



Arkansas Department of Health

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

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Directive for Reopening of Casinos during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

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.

On March 16, the Secretary of Health issued a civil directive to limit operations of Arkansas Casinos until April 30. As the public health crisis is evolving, the following is a directive on resumption of services in casinos in a phased approach. This approach is based on the best available scientific evidence and a consensus of experts at the Arkansas Department of Health.

As a requirement for reopening, a casino must have a detailed plan for how they will conduct their operations to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within their facility approved by the Secretary of Health. At a minimum, the plan must include the following considerations:

- Reopen at no more than 33 percent capacity for their facility.
- Track attendees for possible use in contact tracing should an outbreak occur.
- Screen staff and customers for possible illness or exposure to COVID-19 and exclude those persons who are ill or have been exposed.
- Maintain 6-foot physical distance between people.
- Manage lines or queues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Arrange seating to maintain a 6-foot distance.
- Provide for easy access for hand hygiene for staff and customers.
- Enforce a requirement for face coverings for all persons present.
- Maintain physical distancing during shows or live performances.
- Address how food will be served in compliance with the May 11, 2020 ADH Directive on Resuming Restaurant Dine-in Operations.
- Clean and disinfect the facility to minimize possible spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Specify how an employee testing positive for COVID-19 will be reported to the Arkansas Department of Health and assistance provided for contact tracing.