



Responsible RestartOhio

Sports Venues



Requirements

Sports venues must follow Ohio mandates for social distancing, masking, congregating, and responding to confirmed cases of COVID-19 as outlined in the [Director's Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating](#). Guidance on the order is available at the [Responsible Restart Ohio: Social Distancing, Masking, and Congregating](#) page, available at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Sports venues must follow all relevant mandates in the order, including:

- Masks must be worn, with some exceptions. Among those exempt is anyone actively participating in athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition.
- Ensure no more than 10 people sit together, and seat groups 6 feet apart.
- At indoor events with fixed seating, limit the number of spectators to 25% of capacity.

Recommendations

Below are additional recommended best practices for sports venues.

Spectator Pathway

- Venues should develop a spectator pathway that allows for physical distancing as patrons move from parking, through box office lines, ticket scanning and security screening, and to their seats.
- Require patrons to enter and exit gates or doors closest to assigned seats.
- Elevators and escalators should be monitored by attendants to ensure compliance with social distancing standards.
- If not already in place, install glass partitions between ticketing staff and patrons at box office/will call windows.
- Develop an egress plan to allow for social distancing when patrons leave, including in the case of inclement weather for outdoor venues.
- Have a recess or intermission between games or events to allow spectators to leave the spectator area and permit the area to be cleaned before a new group of spectators enters.

Facilities

- Members of a single household should be seated together.
- Seating groups should be assigned in staggered rows and sections to prevent contact between groups.
- Spectators should sit in the assigned seats or spaces.
- Offer general admission (e.g., lawns, standing room, infields) only to the extent physical distancing between groups of spectators can be marked and strictly maintained.
- Limit entrance to hospitality suites to ensure that physical separation can be maintained for both indoor and outdoor viewing sections.
- Use contact-free ticketing to eliminate box office congestion.
- Use assigned arrival times.
- Block off unused seats.
- Block off the front rows of the venue to avoid contact between participants and spectators.
- Block off the last row of each section and aisle seats to prevent contact between seated spectators and people walking to and from seats.
- If possible, ushers should actively monitor social distancing practices and encourage additional distance between spectators as appropriate.
- It is recommended that, if possible, facilities offer partial event tickets, for example, for youth events that have tickets for a particular game or meet during a day that has multiple events.

Signage and Education

- Communicate with spectators before each event ("know before you go"): Importance of staying home if sick, face covering requirement, and need to maintain physical separation.
- Communicate physical separation, face covering, hygiene, and health symptom reminders with public announcements throughout the event.

Cleaning and Hygiene

- Allow adequate time between events to allow for cleaning
 - Develop a procedure for cleaning and disinfecting if a COVID-19 case is identified at the venue.
 - Use all available restrooms with one-way entry and exit to allow for frequent handwashing without crowding.
 - Increase cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms.
 - Consider using every-other sink in restrooms to allow for physical separation.
 - Increase the times between use of the facility from one event to another to allow for more thorough cleaning of individual areas, as well as staggered arrivals/departures of spectators.
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Flexibility and Accountability

- Sport facilities/venues should designate an individual responsible for the compliance with COVID-19 safety requirements.
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Concessions and Retail Vendors

- Follow COVID-19 guidance established by the state for the food service industry.