

WEST VIRGINIA STRONG

The Comeback



Guidance for West Virginia Drive-In Theaters

Updated - July 24, 2020

Guidance for West Virginia Drive-In Theaters

In preparing a drive-in theater to resume operations, an owner/operator should consider adopting rules and regulations to protect their employees and customers. Theaters that have not historically operated as drive-in theaters may operate as drive-in theaters to the extent they are able to, and desire to, do so. Owners/operators should consider the guidance issued for small businesses* and for outdoor dining** to the extent applicable for a particular drive-in theater's operations, as well as the following guidelines to help protect their employees, customers, and the citizens of the State of West Virginia.

Note: Effective as of July 7, 2020, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to wear face coverings when in confined, indoor spaces, other than one's residence or while actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and when not able to adequately social distance from other individuals who do not reside in the same household, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 50-20.

Per CDC Guidance, exempt from this requirement are:

- children younger than 2 years old,
 - anyone who has trouble breathing through a face covering, and
 - persons who unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- **Distance:** Update plans to maintain at least six (6) feet of separation between vehicles and require customers to remain in their vehicles unless visiting a restroom or obtaining food and/or beverage (if delivery of food and/or beverage is not feasible). Clear paths must be designated to allow customers to enter and exit the restroom and to obtain food and/or beverage without breaking social-distancing requirements.
 - **Ticketing:** Customers should be encouraged to purchase tickets in advance, by methods other than cash if possible.
 - **Limited Food and/or Beverage Service:** Do not allow customers to congregate outside of their vehicles when obtaining food and/or beverages. To the greatest extent practicable, food and/or beverages should be delivered to a customer's vehicle. Where delivery is not feasible, design a process to ensure customer separation while picking up their orders to be taken back to their vehicle for consumption. Such process can include ground markings, distancing, or waiting in cars.
 - **Theater Operation and Limited Food and/or Beverage Service Only:** Limit activity to outdoor theater operations or deliver or pickup of food and/or beverages to be taken back to one's vehicle for consumption.
 - **Monitor Employees:** Screen and continue to monitor all employees reporting to work daily for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions, and report any positive cases to the local health department, instructing such employee not to return to work but to seek medical help:
 - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
 - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
 - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
 - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

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- **Training:** Train all employees on the importance and expectation of increased frequency of handwashing, the use of hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol, and provide clear instruction to avoid touching hands to face.
- **Cleaning and Sanitization:** Implement heightened cleaning and disinfection practices, according to CDC guidelines, with regular sanitization of common surfaces at least every two hours.
- **Restroom Cleaning:** Clean and sanitize restrooms regularly, check restrooms based on the frequency of use, and ensure adequate supply of soap and paper towels at all times.
- **PPE:** Per Executive Order 50-20, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to use face coverings (masks, bandannas, face shields, etc.) when in confined, indoor spaces, other than one's residence or while actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and when not able to adequately social distance from other individuals who do not reside in the same household. As applicable, require individuals wear appropriate face coverings and PPE.
- **At-Risk Individuals:** Consider special accommodations for employees that are members of a vulnerable population, like senior citizens or immunocompromised people.
- **Touch Points:** Point of sale equipment should be frequently cleaned and sanitized, as should all common surfaces. Encourage customers to make non-cash payments.
- **Signage:** Post extensive signage on health policies, including the following documents in the facility to help educate all on COVID-19 best practices:
 - CDC: Stop the Spread of Germs
 - CDC: COVID-19 Symptoms

* Guidance for West Virginia Small Businesses, available at governor.wv.gov

** A Guide to Safely Opening our Restaurants through Takeaway Service & Outdoor Dining, available at governor.wv.gov