Guidance for Fairs, Festivals, Amusement Parks and Rides

Under Gov. Justice’s reopening plan, **West Virginia Strong — The Comeback**, fairs, festivals, and amusement parks and rides are to be allowed to resume operations as of May 1, 2021. To do so, Gov. Justice has issued the following guidance to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among staff and patrons. These guidelines, in addition to any and all relevant guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), will help West Virginians safely attend and enjoy fairs and festivals. These facilities are encouraged to implement more stringent or comprehensive protocols as they see fit.

**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 are unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

As your fair, festival, or amusement park reviews and implements these new measures, we encourage you to share and discuss them with your employees and your patrons. Communicating enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices will make staff and patrons feel more confident in your facilities.

**Note:** Fair and festival organizers and amusement park operators should also consult other applicable guidelines, including A Guide to Reopening Larger Retail Stores, A Guide to Safely Opening our Restaurants Through Takeaway Service & Outdoor Dining, and A Guide to Safely Opening Restaurants and Bars, both available at governor.wv.gov, to determine other best practices.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in appropriate enforcement measures.
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OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS/REQUIREMENTS

- **Plan:** Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices:
  - Limit occupancy as necessary to ensure proper social distancing may be maintained between patrons who do not reside together or did not otherwise arrive together, up to 100% capacity to the extent square footage and/or seating permits.
  - Limit points of ingress and egress to manage the number of individuals on the grounds at any one time, in order to ensure the ability to maintain adequate social distancing between all persons;
  - Prepare the grounds and any buildings or structures for reopening;
  - Coordinate with all vendors and staff to establish a clear policy with respect to who will be responsible for managing occupancy of any indoor spaces and to ensure proper social distancing and/or physical barriers between vendors, booths, food and/or beverage establishments, etc.;
  - Coordinate with all vendors and staff to establish a clear policy with respect to who will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing common areas, touch points, stalls or booths, microphones, and other surfaces and elements that may be touched or handled by vendors, staff, or patrons;
  - Create a social distancing plan to manage and reduce excessive contact and interaction among groups of patrons who do not reside together or did not otherwise arrive together;
  - Create a plan for personal protective equipment for vendors, staff, and patrons;
  - Reduce touch points to the maximum extent possible;
  - Increase cleaning frequency and the availability of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other DIY cleaning products to ensure touch points and any shared equipment or materials are properly sanitized between each use; and
  - Establish an open line of communication between management, staff, and vendors regarding safety.

- **Management:** Consider traffic flow and occupancy limitations:
  - Should walking patterns be changed to be one way?
  - How are you managing vendors’ requests to help with social distancing and/or queuing requirements?
  - Should grandstands or other seating be limited to every other row or should other measures be used to ensure distancing between guests?
  - Ensure any seating or dining areas are set up to ensure adequate space between seats or tables, also providing adequate space for traffic flow.
  - Provide hand washing stations and sufficient restroom facilities at appropriate points throughout the grounds.

- **Upgrade cleaning and hygiene practices:**
  - Increase cleaning frequency and focus on disinfecting areas most susceptible to the spread of viral germs (play areas, public restrooms, common seating areas, rental strollers and wheelchairs, door handles, handrails, dining or other tables, and any other places the public commonly touches).
  - Install and maintain alcohol-based, hand-cleaning dispensers in locations where the spread of germs is likely and normal soap-and-water handwashing stations are not readily available.
  - Determine whether you will provide facial masks and/or gloves to patrons for use while in-store or on the property.
  - Consider your staffing levels: What are your general expectations for crowds when you reopen?

For more information, visit governor.wv.gov
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- Are you changing your hours of operations?
- Are staffing levels adequate to address additional cleaning and sanitation requirements?
- Are you doing anything to increase the visibility of your cleaning staff or cleaning practices?

- **Vendors**: Vendors should consult relevant guidance documents, available at governor.wv.gov, to determine other best practices for their operations. Consider installing physical barriers between booths/stalls as necessary.

- **Food and Beverage Vendors**: Restaurant tenants should consult *A Guide to Safely Opening Restaurants and Bars*, available at governor.wv.gov, to determine other best practices for their operations. Consider installing physical barriers between booths/stalls as necessary.

- **Amusement Rides**: Clean and sanitize touch points and common surfaces (e.g., seats, handlebars, safety belts and harnesses, gates, etc.) frequently. Ensure social distancing of at least 6 feet between those in line. Limit occupancy or adjust seating arrangements to allow for adequate distance between riders/patrons who do not reside together.

- **Barns, Livestock Exhibition Facilities, and Livestock Auctions**: Clean and sanitize touch points and common surfaces (e.g., railing, doors, etc.) frequently. Ensure social distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals who do not reside together. Ensure adequate air flow in all barns and animal exhibition facilities for the safety and health of visitors and animals.

- **Live Music and Performances**: Live music and other live performances may be held, but any such event or performance must be structured to allow for appropriate social distancing and other safety measures to be in place. Live performances should be held in accordance with the provisions of *A Guide to Safely Hosting Live Performances*, found at governor.wv.gov.

Where staff or vendors must come into contact with the general public and/or customers, organizers and vendors should consider additional precautionary measures to protect the safety of their employees, customers, and the citizens of the State of West Virginia.

- Establish limitations on existing occupancy limits of the grounds, generally, and any enclosed facilities on the grounds, with consideration for current limitations in any applicable guidance documents;
- Enforce reasonable and appropriate social distancing requirements in all areas of the fairs or festivals;
- Implement, to the greatest extent possible, internal traffic flow patterns necessary to minimize contacts between staff, vendors, and customers;
- To the greatest extent possible, encourage customers to make cashless and/or contactless payments and ensure point of sale equipment is frequently sanitized;
- Institute measures to limit interaction between vendors, staff, and customers including the use of physical barriers as appropriate; and
- 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 appropriate, require PPE, including appropriate face coverings, for all employees and customers.