WEST VIRGINIA STRONG
The Comeback

Guidance for Low-Contact Sports Training Facilities, Dance Studios, and Similar Facilities

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Guidance for Low-Contact Sports Training Facilities, Dance Studios, and Similar Facilities

Under Gov. Justice’s reopening plan, West Virginia Strong — The Comeback, low-contact sports training facilities, dance studios, and similar facilities are to be allowed to resume operations, along with fitness centers, gymnasiums, and recreation centers. 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), will help West Virginians safely obtain the services provided by such facilities. These facilities are allowed and encouraged to implement more stringent protocols as they see fit.

Note: Effective as of November 14, 2020, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to wear face coverings while in confined, indoor spaces where other individuals may be present, regardless of ones perceived ability to social distance from other individuals, pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 77-20. This requirement does not apply to individuals in their own residence, individuals actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and those individuals who are in an enclosed office or separate room. 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

Note to All Sports Teams and Leagues: Effective as of November 13, 2020, all youth winter sports teams and leagues, whether school-sanctioned or otherwise, including without limitation basketball, swimming, wrestling, and cheerleading, are prohibited from bringing players and/or spectators together into a common area within this state, and that no practices, games, or other competition shall be held in this state until, at the earliest, January 11, 2021, pursuant to Executive Order 80-20.

To clarify this Order, sports typically played during the fall season were directed to finish their seasons if such seasons were concluding within a few days, and, otherwise, congregation of any sports teams or leagues was to be suspended and prohibited until, at the earliest, January 11, 2021. This suspension of sports for the remainder of the fall season and during early winter shall not apply to sports teams or leagues conducted by accredited higher education institutions. At this point in time, there should be no players and/or spectators congregating as part of a team sport or league in any common area within this state, and no practices, games, or other competition shall be held in this state until, at the earliest, January 11, 2021, unless conducted by an accredited higher education institution.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in appropriate enforcement measures.
GUIDANCE FOR LOW-CONTACT SPORTS TRAINING FACILITIES, DANCE STUDIOS, AND SIMILAR FACILITIES

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:
  - Prepare the building for reopening;
  - Prepare your employees for their return to work;
  - Create a social distancing plan to manage and reduce excessive contact and interaction;
  - Create a plan for personal protective equipment;
  - 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 training and sports equipment are properly sanitized between each use;
  - Establish an open line of communication with employees regarding safety.

- **Occupancy:** Limit facility 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% of capacity to the extent square footage and/or seating permits. **Note:** The West Virginia Secondary Schools Athletic Commission (WVSSAC) shall be responsible for setting occupancy limits in facilities hosting sanctioned events.

- **Social Distancing and Equipment:** Implement strict social distancing guidelines of at least six (6) feet between all individuals, modify scheduling to reduce unnecessary interactions to the greatest extent possible, adjust equipment layout and close or restrict access to equipment to maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between equipment and where such equipment may not be moved or properly spaced, and provide physical barriers between training or sports equipment and/or machines (e.g. plastic or plexiglass shields, plastic sheeting, shower curtains, etc.).

- **PPE:** Per Executive Order 77-20, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to use face coverings (masks, bandannas, face shields, etc.) when in confined, indoor spaces where others may be present, other than for individuals in their own residence, individuals actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and those individuals who are in an enclosed office or separate room.

- **Cleaning:** Ensure that staffing and supplies available for such facilities are sufficient to enable enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures in accordance with appropriate CDC guidelines.

- **Limitations on Facilities:** The following should remain closed or limited to the greatest extent possible. Where they are allowed to open, such areas must be restricted to allow for proper social distancing and be cleaned and sanitized frequently:
  - Showers, locker rooms, and lockers (access to restrooms should be provided).
  - Water fountains, common areas, break rooms, check-in counters, and other areas in which patrons or employees may congregate.

- **Limitations on Group Classes:** Group classes should be conducted outdoors, limited, or canceled to the greatest extent possible. One on one classes should be encouraged to the greatest extent possible. In the event group classes are held, such classes may only be held if they can be completed in accordance with social distancing recommendations. To the greatest extent possible, such classes should be held outdoors.

- **Touch points:** Point of sale equipment, doorknobs, light switches, buttons, and training and sports equipment should be cleaned and sanitized between each use or touch. To the greatest extent possible, any and all sporting equipment should not be shared, and any such equipment must be sanitized before and after use before use by another individual.

- **Payments:** Encourage customers to make non-cash payments.

- **Plan:** Plan for potential COVID-19 cases and work with local health department officials when needed (i.e., monitor and trace COVID-19 cases, deep-clean facilities).

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For more information, visit governor.wv.gov
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- **Signage:** Post extensive signage on health policies, including the following documents in the workplace to help educate all on COVID-19 best practices:
  - CDC: Stop the Spread of Germs
  - CDC: COVID-19 Symptoms

**CUSTOMER PROTECTION**

- **Customer screening:** Screen patrons for illness prior to entry:
  - Temperature checks
  - 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?
- **PPE:** All patrons shall be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment at all times, including appropriate facial coverings as applicable.
- **Ventilation:** Keep doors and windows open where possible to improve ventilation.
- **Signage:** Post signs encouraging social distancing of at least six (6) feet between individuals.
- **Cleaning:** Sufficiently clean all equipment customers or staff come in contact with by using disinfecting wipes before and after each use and provide, at each piece of equipment, appropriate materials to clean and disinfect such equipment.

**EMPLOYEE PROTECTION**

- **Employee screening:** Screen all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms.
  - Temperature checks.
  - 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?
- **PPE:** All staff shall be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including face coverings as applicable.
- **Training:** Provide training on PPE based on CDC guidelines.
- **Personal cleaning:** Provide a sanitizing station with soap and/or bottle of hand sanitizer and require regular hand washing.
- **Customer contact:** Limit customer contact to the greatest extent possible, and require proper cleaning and sanitization between any necessary customer contact.
- **Distancing:** Practice recommended social distancing to the greatest extent possible.