Guidance FAQs
Outdoor Entertainment Establishments
(Updated 05-05-2021)

Overview
Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the Oregon Health Authority’s (OHA) Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments. OHA provides and may intermittently update this FAQ to help the public understand the guidance, respond to stakeholder questions, and clarify how the guidance may apply in specific scenarios. The FAQ is not intended to take the place of the guidance but to help interpret, supplement and help fill in the details of the guidance.

Q1: Are outdoor amusement parks allowed to operate under the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments? What are the guidelines for cleaning an amusement park?
A1: Yes, outdoor amusement parks are considered outdoor entertainment establishments and are required to follow the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments. Amusement park operators must comply with the maximum capacity limits for outdoor entertainment establishments based on the designated risk level for the county where the amusement park is located. Refer to Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments for specific cleaning requirements. Any indoor operations at an amusement park, such as an indoor skating rink or indoor ride, must follow the Sector Guidance for Indoor Entertainment Establishments. Indoor areas are subject to the maximum capacity limits for indoor entertainment establishments.

Q2: Should jet boats operate under the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments?
A2: Yes, jet boats are considered outdoor entertainment and operators of jet boats are required to follow the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments. Operators must comply with the maximum capacity limits for outdoor entertainment establishments based on the designated risk level for the county where the jet boat is located. If a jet boat is enclosed or does not meet the definition for “outdoor” then the jet boat would be considered indoor entertainment and must comply with the requirements and guidance for indoor operations.
Q3: My business is thinking about moving indoor operations outdoors to increase capacity based on the designated risk level of the county where my establishment is located. What qualifies as an “outdoor space” if my business wants to operate under the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments?

A3: In the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments, “outdoor” means an open-air space which may have a temporary or fixed cover, such as an awning or roof, so long as the space has at least 50% of the square footage of its sides open for airflow such that open sides are not adjacent to each other. Operators may only operate outdoor entertainment using the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments if they ensure that any outside spaces created or used for services or operations meet the definition for “outdoor”. If the space does not meet the definition of outdoor, then the services or operations are considered indoor and therefore must comply with the requirements and guidance for indoor operations.

Q4: For an outdoor entertainment event, such as a rodeo, if attendees leave the rodeo, can rodeo operators allow new attendees to enter as long as they don’t exceed maximum capacity limits based on the risk level for the county where the rodeo is located?

A4: Yes, however OHA recommends that outdoor entertainment operators limit attendees to one set of attendees at the beginning of the event and do not allow new attendees to enter when original attendees exit.

Q5: Are spectators at sports events included in the maximum capacity limits for outdoor recreation?

A5: No. Spectators must comply with the capacity limits in the Outdoor Entertainment Establishments Guidance. For sporting events, spectators must be in a designated area with separate entrances, exits and restrooms from the sports participants, that is at least six (6) feet from the sports activities. Outdoor entertainment capacity limits apply only to the designated spectator area. Capacity limits for spectators should not be based on the entire outdoor recreation and fitness area.

Q6: Can spectators/attendees at an outdoor entertainment event, like a sporting event, eat and drink at their assigned seats?

A6: Yes. Spectators may eat and drink either at their assigned seats or in designated sitting or standing areas at the venue. Outdoor entertainment establishment operators must comply with the Eating and Drinking Establishments Guidance when providing food and drink to spectators.

The capacity limit of an outdoor designated sitting or standing area must not exceed the risk level outdoor capacity limits for eating and drinking establishments for the county where the event takes place. For example, in high risk counties, designated seating or standing areas cannot have more than 75 people in the outdoor area at one time. Event operators may have more than one designated seating or standing area, but these areas must be discrete and have separate entrances and exits.
Spectators that bring food and drink back to their seats (or have it delivered to their seats) must keep their mask, face covering or face shield on unless actively eating or drinking. Spectators must not eat or drink unless they are in their seats or in a designated seating or standing area.

Q7: If I host an outdoor event at a park with food vendors, what guidance do I have to follow for on-site consumption of food and drink?

A7: Hosts of outdoor events at public outdoor spaces, like a park, must follow the Outdoor Entertainment Establishments Guidance. This guidance includes a requirement to comply with the Eating and Drinking Establishments Guidance if allowing on-site consumption of food and drink. Event operators must designate an area or areas for food and drink consumption following the capacity limit requirements for eating and drinking establishments for the risk level of the county where the event is located. Event attendees are not allowed to walk around the event while eating and drinking and must wear a mask, face covering or face shield unless actively eating or drinking.

Q8: In extreme risk counties the outdoor capacity of 100 seems like it would allow those counties sometimes to have more capacity that high-risk counties, which are capped at 15% capacity. If my outdoor venue has a capacity of 250, I can only have 37 people in high risk, but if I were in extreme risk, I could have 100. How is that allowed?

A8: The outdoor capacity limit for outdoor entertainment establishments in extreme risk is a maximum of 100 people. This means that 100 people, including staff, are allowed at the establishment only if possible given physical distancing requirements. The outdoor entertainment establishments guidance requires a minimum of six (6) feet of distance between individuals not from the same party. Establishment operators must comply with the distancing requirements. In extreme risk, an outdoor venue that has a capacity of 250 people cannot have 100 people at the venue if the physical distancing requirement cannot be met. It is possible, but unlikely, that an outdoor entertainment establishment could have more people in an extreme risk county than in a high-risk county.

Q9: What guidance do river cruise operators follow?

A9: River cruises are permitted to operate in Oregon. River cruises are considered indoor entertainment or outdoor entertainment, depending on whether activities take place indoors or outdoors on a river cruise boat. Therefore, river boat cruise operators must follow the Sector Guidance for Indoor Entertainment Establishments and/or the Sector Guidance for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments. While on the river, river cruise operators must comply with the requirements for the risk level of the county where the cruise embarks. When disembarking in another county, passengers and crew members must follow all risk level requirements of the county where they disembark. National cruises that come to Oregon must comply with the conditional sail orders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
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