



Phase 2 Reopening Guidance FAQs

Venue and Event Operators *(Updated 8-28-2020)*

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) [Phase Two Reopening Guidance – Venue and Event Operators](#) (venue guidance). The guidance and these FAQs apply only to those establishments operating in a county that has been approved for Phase Two Reopening. OHA provides these FAQ to help the public understand the guidance, to respond to stakeholder questions, and to clarify how the guidance may apply in specific scenarios. These FAQ may be intermittently updated. The FAQ is not intended to take the place of the guidance, but rather to interpret, supplement, and help fill in the details of the guidance.

Operations

Q1: Parties/groups are limited to ten people. Is this the event maximum within the venue, or is that how many people can be in one group together?

A1: Venues may host multiple parties/groups. There can only be up to 10 people in one party or group within a venue. Venue and event operators are not allowed to combine multiple parties or groups to make a group of 10. Parties of more than 10 people are prohibited. The maximum capacity for a venue is 100 people indoor or 250 people outdoor, not to exceed 250 indoor and outdoor; or the number of people, including staff, based on a determination of capacity (square footage/occupancy), whichever number is smaller. For more information please review the [gatherings](#) and [venue guidance](#).

Q2: Does the venue guidance apply to conference rooms?

A2: Any room within a venue is subject to the [gatherings](#) and [venue guidance](#).

Q3: Will there be signs available for posting so that there is consistency?

A3: Yes. OHA provides signs that cover the following: COVID-19 symptoms, directing employees and attendees/participants with symptoms to stay or return home, and listing who to contact if they need assistance. The signs can be found at: [Signs](#).

Q4: Is there funding available to assist with acquiring online ticketing or reservation systems?

A4: No. There currently is not funding available to assist with getting online ticketing or reservation systems.

Q5: Is the venue guidance for public events only? What guidance will apply for private parties?

A5: Venue guidance is for both public and private events. This guidance applies to venues and event operators who host or facilitate indoor or outdoor events, including social, recreational, cultural, civic, and faith-based events.

Q6: Many venues do not have their own outdoor restrooms. Are port-a-potties acceptable restrooms? Can a venue designate a set of restrooms specific to that outdoor space user?

A6: Yes. Venues may use port-a-potties. Venue operators must assign at least one sanitation attendant whose sole duty is to clean restrooms hourly during the event, and ensure adequate sanitary supplies (e.g., soap, toilet paper, 60-95% alcohol content hand sanitizer) during all events. This includes cleaning of port-a-potties.

Q7: Do venue operators have to screen attendees as they enter venues to see if they have symptoms of COVID-19 before entering?

A7: No. Venue operators are not required to screen attendees or participants. However, operators are required to [post signs](#) that clearly list COVID-19 symptoms, direct employees and attendees/participants with symptoms to stay or return home, and list who to contact if they need assistance.

Q8: Is there a specific recommendation for HVAC improvements? Is there financial support for making upgrading HVAC systems if the cost of doing so is prohibitive for a small business?

A8: No. OHA does not have recommendations for HVAC system upgrades and does not require them. Venue operators are required to ensure that ventilation systems operate properly. Operators must increase air circulation as much as possible, by opening windows and doors, using fans, or using other methods. Operators must not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to employees or attendees/participants.

Q9: Are movie theaters allowed to open in Phase 2?

A9: Yes. Movie theaters are considered venues and may reopen during Phase 2 following [Guidance for Venue and Event Operators](#).

Q10: If a movie theater complex has multiple, separate auditoriums, is the maximum capacity limitation (100 people or other number based on capacity determination) per auditorium or for the entire complex?

A10: Movie theater operators must follow the Guidance for Venue and Event Operators. Theater operators must separate all facilities and activities hosting separate indoor events at the same time at the same venue. Attendees/participants for separate indoor events at the same venue must not share space, including restrooms.

Q11: What are the requirements for cleaning a theater between performances?

A11: Theater operators must clean and disinfect high-traffic areas and commonly touched surfaces in the theater — including seats and tables — between performances. Theater operators must also thoroughly clean restroom facilities at least twice daily and, to the extent possible, ensure adequate sanitary supplies (soap, toilet paper, hand sanitizer) throughout the day. Use disinfectants that are included on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) approved list](#) for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. No product will be labeled for COVID-19 yet, but many products will have a label or information available on their websites about their effectiveness for human coronavirus.

Q12: How do we determine if the Venue and Event Operators guidance applies instead of the Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Facilities guidance?

A12: Many sectors of businesses may fall into more than one sector, in which case compliance with more than one guidance document may be required. To understand which guidance document(s) best fit(s) your sector or business, please refer to the [Reopening Guidance Tool](#).

Q13: What information is needed for contact tracers from Venue and Event Operators?

A13: For any event, public health asks that event organizers/operators document the following:

- Name, date, time and location of the event
- For the attendee:
 - First and last name
 - Home address
 - Phone number
 - Seat number or seating area if known

This information must be kept on hand for 60 days after each event.

Q14: Who will have access to the contact information that needs to be maintained of attendees for public and private events, and how will this information be used for contact tracing?

A14: If there is a positive COVID-19 case associated with an event at a venue, state or local public health may need the event organizer/operator to provide contact information for a contact tracing investigation. The contact information will only be shared with state or local public health departments to call people who may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to provide guidance and support. The contact tracers will follow applicable privacy/confidentiality requirements and current investigative guidelines. The contact information obtained by the public health agencies is confidential under state law and can only be disclosed in limited circumstances. Contact tracing is the

only reason state or local public health will ask for or use the information. The event organizer/operator may destroy the information after 60 days from the event.

Q15: Who is responsible for enforcing Phase 2 Guidelines with regard to Venues?

A15: All complaints related to the reopening should be submitted to [Oregon Occupational Safety and Health \(Oregon OSHA\)](#). Oregon OSHA is coordinating with state agencies and the Governor’s Office to follow up on enforcement of complaints.

Q16: How are “parties” defined in the Venue and Event Operators guidance?

A16: Parties are groups of 10 or fewer people who have chosen to congregate together.

Q17: There are different capacity limits for indoor and outdoor events. What is the definition of an “outdoor space” in Phase Two Venue and Event Operators Guidance?

A17: In [Phase Two Venue and Event Operators Guidance](#), “outdoor space” 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 75% of the square footage of its sides open for airflow.

Q18: Is there a specific time that movie theaters are required to stop serving food and alcohol to customers in Phase Two counties?

A18: All food and alcohol consumption must end by 10:00pm inside movie theater venues.

Distancing and Occupancy

Q1: For facilities that adequately separate spaces throughout the entire grounds, can each space hold up to the maximum number of people while adhering to the other guidance requirements (i.e., separate entry/exits and bathrooms, sanitizer and wash sinks)?

A1: The maximum occupancy provisions can be applied to each separate facility/activity, within the venue if:

- the venue can separate its facilities and activities where attendees at the separate facilities and activities have no contact,
- there are separate entrances and exits, **and**
- there are separate bathrooms.

Q2: What is the recommended distance that patron tables can be set back from the performance area? Would that be different for indoor vs. outdoor? Does there need to be a barrier between a singer and the audience?

A2: Patron tables and seating must be set back at least 12 feet from the performers and speakers, whether indoor or outdoor. A barrier is not required but could provide additional protection and reassurance, especially for singers and speakers who may be projecting and using their voice for long periods. Performers are required to wear a mask, face shield or face covering while indoors, and outdoors if at least six (6) feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.

Q3: Can you distinguish between the limits on "gatherings" and the occupancy limits for restaurants?

A3: Under Phase 2, a restaurant/venue could have up to 100 people indoor or 250 people outdoor, not to exceed 250 indoor and outdoor; or the number of people, including staff, based on a determination of capacity (square footage/occupancy), whichever is less. Maximum occupancy should be determined for each indoor and outdoor area that allows at least six (6) feet of physical distance between parties. If venue/event operators host a single event that occurs both indoors and outdoors, total maximum capacity cannot exceed 250 people, including staff.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Q1: How many handwashing or hand sanitizer stations are required? Is it based on the number of people? Where do they need to be placed?

A1: There is not a specific number required, but handwashing and/or sanitizing stations should be easily accessible to everyone throughout the duration of the event. Venue operators must provide hand washing stations or hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content) throughout the facility for employees and attendees/participants to use. To the extent possible, venue operators should also provide hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content) at entrances.

Q2: How do I know if I am cleaning and disinfecting thoroughly?

A2: Specific information on how to clean and disinfect surfaces is available on the CDC website at this [link](#).

Q3: Is it better to replace air-blowing hand dryers with paper towels?

A3: There is no definitive data as to whether air-blowing hand dryers spread the novel coronavirus. However, from a hygiene standpoint, paper towels are thought to be superior to hand dryers. As such, where possible, we recommend the use of paper towels as opposed to air-blowing hand dryers.

Faith-based Venues

Q1: What is appropriate guidance on effective seating strategies, spacing, handshaking, physical distancing specifically tailored for the needs of faith gatherings?

A1: Except within a household, handshaking, hugs and other physical contact is not recommended for any gathering. The best way to protect against spread of COVID-19 is to maintain physical distancing from members outside your household. We understand this is very challenging in communities where physical contact and greetings are a part of the culture.

For seating, strategies to support distancing may include removing chairs to increase spacing between household groups. For buildings with fixed seating arrangements such as pews, blocking off every other row or using tape to distinguish proper physical distancing is also an effective strategy.

Q2: Should any special precautions be taken for singing or music portions of our services?

A2: Singing in a choir has been associated with extensive spread of COVID-19, likely because vigorous singing is more likely to result in the expulsion of potentially infectious droplets from the throat. The playing of brass or woodwind instruments may pose similar risks. Masks, face shields or face coverings are required while singing and playing an instrument indoors. Masks, face shields or face coverings are also required outdoors if at least six (6) feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.

- Consider canceling choir and band performances.
- If music is performed:
 - Musicians should bring their own instruments and disinfect them after each use.
 - Ensure at least six (6) feet of physical distance between all musicians.
 - Refrain from using shared microphones whenever possible. Disinfect microphones after each use.

Q3: Are their recommendations for how to safely partake in communion elements?

A3: If communion is served, the person preparing communion prior to the service should wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds immediately before starting preparation.

- Communion ministers must wear a mask, face shield or face coverings while distributing communion. All ministers of communion should wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after masking and immediately before distributing communion.
- Ministers should try to avoid touching communicants' hands while distributing communion.
- Use of a common communion cup is not recommended. If distributing communion from the cup cannot be omitted, consider distributing it in separate cups from a platter, spaced so that communicants can select a cup without touching the others.

- Communicants should be advised to maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and others. Consider marking relevant areas on the floor to facilitate this practice.

Q4: Is there guidance on how buildings should be sanitized before and after events?

A4: Please refer to our general cleaning recommendation guidance [here](#).

Q5: For faith communities that have security personnel, will security be required to screen people for illness when services re-open? If so, who will be providing that training?

A5: Faith communities are not required to do screening. However, [signage is required](#) reminding people to stay home if they have been ill with COVID-related symptoms and/or if they are considered a part of a population that has been identified as particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.

Q6: If services open back up, and vulnerable members (e.g. people with underlying conditions, etc.) refuse to stay away, what should we do?

A6: Encourage individuals who are considered more vulnerable to COVID-19 to stay home to participate in services, if possible. Consider recommending that more vulnerable members use internet streaming services or video chats from home if they have access to these services. If individuals come to services, they must wear a mask, face shield or face coverings and ensure physical distancing is maintained at all times

Q7: Will there be/is there ongoing guidance for major life events (weddings, funerals, births, coming of age ceremonies, etc.) during the reopening plan?

A7: Each faith tradition has unique practices for major life events. While we are not able to provide detailed guidance for all of them, we would encourage the same principles shared for other settings which include physical distancing, vigorous hand washing and use of face coverings, when appropriate.

Q8: Where can we find guidance for children’s gatherings, children’s classes during services, summer camps, etc.?

A8: Please use the [Guidance for School Aged Summertime Day Camps](#).

Children’s classes or other programs that may be considered child care must follow the [Child Care guidance](#) only if they are approved to operate as Emergency Child Care.

Q9: A “sacred space” is a sacred area set apart for a specific religious purpose, such as alters and temples. For communities where “sacred space” is important, what are the guidelines for allowing someone into that space for specific purposes? While gatherings may be out, what about more individual-based practices in communal spaces?

A9: We understand that each faith tradition is unique with many nuanced practices, rituals and ceremonies that don't easily fit within the formal guidance provided. For these instances, it is required to maintain physical distancing, practice regular hand washing, ensure regular cleaning of high touch surfaces, and require use of masks, face shields or face coverings. For more information on handwashing, face coverings and cleaning practices, please visit our website [here](#).

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact Mavel Morales at 1-844-882-7889, 711 TTY or OHA.ADAModifications@dhsoha.state.or.us.