

## REOPENING GUIDANCE

# Indoor Live Theaters, Music Venues, and Movie Theaters

During the Green Phase, drive-in movies, concerts, performances, and other events are permitted to operate provided that: (i) all applicable health and safety requirements During the Green Phase, indoor live theaters, music venues, and movie theaters are permitted to operate provided that: (i) all applicable health and safety requirements and guidance are followed, including but not limited to physical distancing and mandatory face coverings for audience, staff, and for performers when feasible; (ii) and all applicable regulatory requirements are met, including but not limited to licensing and permitting requirements; (iii) no food or drink is sold or consumed in public spaces at these sites; and (iv) all attendees remain seated and at least 20 feet from the stage during the performance.

The following is intended as a plain language summary of rules for reopening during the COVID-19 emergency and does not replace the need to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

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### See also:

[Targeted Mitigation Order – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses](#)

## Protections Needed



### Masks

- Performers should wear face coverings when feasible. These could be either masks or face shields. When not feasible, maintain at least 20 feet between performers and audience or use a barrier between performers and audience.
- Require backstage crew members and attendees to mask while on-site.
- Any crew members who cannot remain consistently at least 6 feet from others should use a face shield in addition to a face mask (e.g., stagehands, board operators, makeup, and wardrobe).



### Barriers

- If the performance includes the sale of tickets, install plastic barriers between staff and the public at ticket sales areas; encourage online ticket sales.
- Place barriers around stage to keep audience members from coming within 20 feet of the stage or performance site.



### Isolate

- Screen every staff member and/or performer for symptoms before every rehearsal, performance, or shift and prevent them from remaining on-site if they have cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, or new loss of taste or smell. Screen all staff and performers for recent exposure to COVID-19.
- It is not necessary to conduct on-site temperature measurement for staff, performers, or attendees. If you measure temperatures, use a no-touch thermometer, and do not allow anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher to remain on-site.
- Have sick leave policies in place so that employees excluded from the workplace do not lose earnings and ticket exchange policies (for ticketed events) to allow patrons who are symptomatic or have been exposed to exchange their tickets.
- If an employee develops COVID-19 infection or has a positive test, businesses and other organizations must take additional precautions to stop the virus from spreading further, as described in [Guidance for Essential Businesses and Organizations During COVID-19](#). Required precautions include calling PDPH at 215-685-5488 to report positive cases.



### Distance

- Adjust work assignments to ensure employees can stay at least 6 feet from each other throughout their shifts.
- Keep performers at least 6 feet apart, particularly if not masked.
- Avoid use of shared dressing rooms.
- Use floor decals or other visual cues to encourage attendees to remain at least 6 feet apart.

- Block off rows and seats to require 6-foot distance between people other than family groups.
- Require all attendees to remain seated throughout the performance.
- Do not have performers sing or play wind or brass instruments unless they are at least 20 feet from audience members and there are impermeable barriers between them and any other performers (e.g., a pit orchestra that uses wind/brass instruments would need barriers between musicians).
- Establish procedures to prevent crowding among people waiting for tickets or to enter the performance venue.
  - Consider the use of sidewalk decals, chalked or painted circles, or other visual cues to encourage customers to stay at least 6 feet apart while waiting to enter.
- Use non-contact payment methods if possible.



### Reduce crowds

- Limit attendees to less than 50% of capacity AND fewer than 25 people per room until further notice.
- For a multi-screen movie theater, the total number of people in the theater must not exceed 50% of its total occupancy AND only 25 people are allowed per individual movie showing or to view the individual screen. Single-screen theaters are limited to 25 attendees.
- For live theater: Select performance pieces that require a small group of performers (<10) and cohort performance groups to minimize the total number of work-exposures experienced by staff and ensemble.



### Handwashing

- Place handwashing stations or hand sanitizer at entry, lobby, break rooms, and green rooms and outside communal bathrooms for all staff and patrons with prominent signage promoting use.
- Give staff hourly handwashing breaks.



### Clean

- Wipe down high-touch surfaces with disinfectant at least every 4 hours and wipe railings and seat armrests between performances. See [CDC guidance](#) for details.
- Wipe microphones with disinfectant between users.



### Ventilation

- If possible, increase ventilation in the building by either:
  - Opening windows and/or doors on opposite sides of the building and using fans to blow outside air through the building OR
  - Optimizing ventilation provided by the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system by:
    - Having the HVAC system checked to assure that it is working properly. If it can be adjusted, the system should be set to provide at least 6 air exchanges per hour.
    - Maximizing the amount of outside air circulated by the system.
    - Installing filters with minimum efficiency reporting values (MERV) of 13, or the highest compatible with the filter rack. It is not necessary to use high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters or ultraviolet light irradiation systems.
    - Checking that the external air inlet duct is not blocked and that it is at least 15 feet from people.



### Communicate

- Educate staff about symptoms and prevention of COVID-19.
- Encourage customers to download and turn on the PDPH exposure notification app to help with contact tracing.
- Post prominent signs at entrances and in employee break rooms:
  - Mandating that all staff and visitors wear masks.
  - Mandating physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
  - Asking people who are sick or have had contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days not to come to the establishment.
  - Encouraging people to cover coughs or sneezes.