

Social Gathering Clarification

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF MARYLAND'S EXECUTIVE ORDER AND HEALTH SECRETARY'S ORDERS

Effective Friday, June 12, 2020 at 5PM

- 10-Person Gathering Restriction REMOVED and social distancing recommended
- New Outdoor Recreation Permitted: Amusement Parks, Mini-Golf, Go-Karts Tracks, Outdoor Title 4 Activities
 - Pools Must Comply with MDH Order 2020-06-10-03
 - Community, Recreational, Leisure, Cultural and Sporting Events must comply with MDH Order 2020-06-12-01
 - Sport gatherings may not open to the general public
- Indoor Dining Permitted at 50% occupancy with face coverings for seated customers only
 - Must comply with MDH Order 2020-06-10-01
- Theaters, concert halls, amphitheaters and similar venues may resume performances with no general public audiences
- Outdoor parades, festivals, fundraisers may resume with social distancing

Effective Friday, June 19, 2020 at 5PM

- Malls and Shopping Centers may open to the general public
- Indoor Recreation may open and comply with MDH Order 2020-06-10-02
- 50% Occupancy, face coverings, social distancing and no general public
- Fitness Centers may open at 50% occupancy
- Casinos, Racetracks and Betting Facilities may open at 50% occupancy
- Convention Events are prohibited per MDH order
- Indoor concerts, shows and gatherings may resume with no audiences

What Remains the Same?

- Local Health Officer Delegation Order remains in effect
- Political Subdivisions can create more restrictive orders
- Face Covering Order remains in effect
- Senior Centers and Theaters still required to remain closed

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What locations have limited occupancy requirements (50% occupancy with social distancing)?

- Religious Facilities
- Non-Essential Retail Establishments
- Personal Services (beauty salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, tanning salons, massage parlors, nail salons)
- Indoor Recreation Establishments (bingo halls, bowling alleys, pool halls, roller and ice skating rinks, social and fraternal clubs (VFW, Elks, American Legions), Indoor areas that are subject to A&A tax
- Food service Establishments (indoor)
- Fitness Centers
- Casinos, Racetracks, and Simulcast Betting Facilities
- Swimming Pools (Indoor - 50% occupancy, Outdoor - refer to 2A order)
- Youth Camps (15 persons per group)

What locations do not have occupancy requirements?

- Essential Businesses (may need to comply with face covering order requirements)
- Outdoor Venues / Dining (subject to other social distancing requirements)

Where are face coverings required by order?

- Retail Establishments
- Food service Establishments
- Public Transportation
- Personal Services
- Youth Camps
- Swimming Pools (when possible)
- Sporting Events (when possible)

Social Gathering Clarification

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are there still some limits on gatherings such as live performances at theaters?

- Live performances with fixed seating are particularly challenging, because it is often difficult to prevent people (who are not household members) from sitting close enough to each other to prevent unintended exposure to COVID-19.
- Larger mass gatherings with spectators, particularly in concert venues and stadiums, are still not allowed at this time, while we observe the impacts of the current reopenings on the amount of COVID-19 transmission across the State.

Does this affect social gatherings (parties, etc.) at private residences?

Social gatherings in private residences are not regulated and may be held. However, we still recommend taking all precautions to avoid COVID-19 exposure, including the following:

- Encourage your guests to socially distance, wear facial coverings where possible, and practice hand hygiene and cough/sneeze hygiene.
- Ask your guests not to attend if they or a family member is ill with what could be COVID-19.
- Do not hold gatherings if anyone in the household is in isolation for suspected COVID-19 or because they were told they had exposure to COVID-19.

What is the status of social gatherings in public spaces (parks, etc.)?

Social gatherings in public spaces that do not require a permit are allowed, but should still closely follow CDC and MDH guidance regarding COVID-19 prevention:

- Encourage participants to socially distance, wear facial coverings where possible, and practice hand hygiene and cough/sneeze hygiene.
- Participants should not attend if they or a family member is ill with what could be COVID-19, or if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

What is the status of concerts, shows, and any other community, recreational, leisure and cultural gatherings?

- These gatherings would be permitted as long as they do not take place in a theater, concert hall, amphitheater or other similar venues at which live performances take place. Additional restrictions may apply depending on where the gathering takes place.
- This does not affect parades, festivals and other outdoor events, which are now permitted.

Can amateur sporting events be held with spectators?

- No. All adult sports may resume as activities, but are not open to spectators or the general public. Outdoor sports open as of 5:00 P.M. on June 12, 2020; indoor sports open as of 5:00 P.M. on June 19, 2020.
- Adult sports include professional, major and minor leagues, semi-professional, amateur, and recreational sports.
- High school and college athletics may resume sports activities, but are also not open to spectators or the general public. We recommend for high school and college contact sports that play should be modified to safely increase distance by following CDC guidance.

Can family members attend sporting events where their children are participating?

- Yes. Parents and family may spectate at youth sports gatherings and events.

Weddings and funerals can be held. Restrictions will be based on the venue.

Events held inside a religious facility must abide by the occupancy restrictions defined in the executive order. Religious facilities of all faiths shall comply with social distancing guidance published by the CDC and MDH and may not exceed 50 percent of their maximum occupancy at any time. The maximum occupancy load is set in a certificate by a local fire code official or in applicable laws, regulations, and permits. Outdoor services are strongly encouraged and religious leaders are urged to do everything possible to keep their congregants safe, and particularly to protect the elderly and vulnerable within their congregations.