Sports venues must follow relevant mandates for social distancing, masking, congregating, and responding to confirmed cases of COVID-19 as outlined in the Director’s Second Amended Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating. Guidance on the order is available at the Responsible Restart Ohio: Social Distancing, Masking, and Congregating page, available at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

NOTE: Employers and businesses will likely be unable to determine whether or not employees and customers/patrons have been vaccinated. As such, they may choose to continue to require masking, social distancing, and/or other mitigation measures among all employees and customers/patrons, both vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Below are additional recommended best practices for sports venues.

**Spectator Pathway**

- Venues should develop a spectator pathway that allows for physical distancing as patrons move from parking, through box office lines, ticket scanning and security screening, and to their seats.
- Require patrons to enter and exit gates or doors closest to assigned seats.
- Elevators and escalators should be monitored by attendants to ensure compliance with any necessary social distancing standards.
- If not already in place, install glass partitions between ticketing staff and patrons at box office/will call windows.
- Develop an egress plan to allow for any necessary social distancing when patrons leave, including in the case of inclement weather for outdoor venues.
- Have a recess or intermission between games or events to allow spectators to leave the spectator area and permit the area to be cleaned before a new group of spectators enters.

**Facilities**

- If unvaccinated, members of a single household should be seated together.
- Unvaccinated seating groups should be assigned in staggered rows and sections to prevent contact between groups.
- Unvaccinated spectators should sit in the assigned seats or spaces.
- Offer general admission (e.g., lawns, standing room, infields) only to the extent physical distancing between unvaccinated groups of spectators can be marked and strictly maintained.
- Limit entrance to hospitality suites to ensure that physical separation can be maintained between unvaccinated groups for both indoor and outdoor viewing sections.
- Use contact-free ticketing to eliminate box office congestion.
- Use assigned arrival times.
- Block off unused seats.
- Block off the front rows of the venue to avoid contact between participants and spectators.
- Block off the last row of each section and aisle seats to prevent contact between seated spectators and people walking to and from seats.
- It is recommended that, if possible, facilities offer partial event tickets, for example, for youth events that have tickets for a particular game or meet during a day that has multiple events.

**Signage and Education**

- Communicate with spectators before each event (“know before you go”): the importance of staying home if sick, and of requirements for unvaccinated people to wear face coverings and maintain physical separation.
- Throughout the event, use public announcements to remind the public of hygiene practices and health symptoms and that anyone who is unvaccinated should maintain physical separation and wear a face covering.
Cleaning and Hygiene

- Allow adequate time between events to allow for cleaning.
- Develop a procedure for cleaning and disinfecting if a COVID-19 case is identified at the venue.
- Use all available restrooms with one-way entry and exit to allow for frequent handwashing without crowding.
- Increase cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms.
- Consider using every-other sink in restrooms to allow for physical separation by the unvaccinated.
- Increase the times between use of the facility from one event to another to allow for more thorough cleaning of individual areas, as well as staggered arrivals/departures of spectators.

Flexibility and Accountability

- Sport facilities/venues should designate an individual responsible for the compliance with COVID-19 safety requirements.

Concessions and Retail Vendors

- Follow COVID-19 guidance established by the state for the food service industry.