Information in this document has been archived and has since been replaced with more recent guidance.
Responsibility RestartOhio

Sports Venues

Requirements

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.

Recommendations

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.

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