

## Outdoor Stadium, Arena, and Racetrack Event Guidance

Updated June 19, 2020

The below guidance is intended to slow the spread of coronavirus. It is strongly recommended that all outdoor stadium, arena, and racetrack events including rodeos adhere to the following guidance.

It is important for the event coordinators to work with their local health departments to institute changes to slow the spread of COVID-19 amongst their staff, participants, spectators, and vendors. All counties in Nebraska have been issued a Directed Health Measure (DHM) and can be accessed at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>, please refer to your county to ensure your event/facility is eligible to follow the guidance below. When planning for your event, please reference your local county DHM. Ticketing limits and physical distancing between groups are limited under each DHM and should be referred to when planning for your event. Public gatherings are limited under each DHM, for locations/venues that have capacity to hold 500 or more individuals (1,000 or more in counties over 500,000 population) plans for reopening must be submitted to the local health departments and approved prior to the event (your local health department can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/LHD-COVID-19-Response-List.pdf>). *If a plan has been submitted previously and your location/venue is expanding capacity, the plan must be re-submitted to the local health department.* Depending on the county DHM, physical distancing may not be required but is highly encouraged. Additionally, venues are encouraged to promote and encourage the use of facial coverings by patrons and staff, especially when distancing cannot be maintained.

Critically evaluate each event to determine whether it needs to be held. If an event can be postponed, please do so. If you decide to hold an event, take the following protective measures:

### Prior to the event:

- Instruct any staff member, vendor, participant, or spectator exhibiting symptoms of illness to remain home and request that anyone who is a member of a population of heightened vulnerability to avoid areas where people are gathering.
- Consider limiting the overall number of participants to help reduce the size and duration of the event to minimize time spent on site.
- If appropriate and possible, limit the number of spectator attendance and consider a livestream of the event.
- Special attention needs to be placed on reducing close contact at entry/exits or other areas of congregation and/or congestion.
- Communicate and enforce new policies with staff, participants, spectators, and vendors. Make expectations clear to participants before the event and consider using signs and staff to provide reminders and guidance during the event.
- Require pre-registration to minimize in-person interaction on site.
- If charging registration or entry fees, develop a flexible refund policy. Allow participants to stay home without penalty if they are sick, need to care for someone who is sick, or are at high risk for complications from COVID-19.
- Determine what you will do if you must postpone or cancel the event. Make it clear to participants how they will be notified if last-minute changes occur.
- Staff should provide sanitizing wipes and/or sanitize entry and exit points. It is recommended to leave doors open during check-in periods.

- Any pre-event meetings should observe a safe distance of at least six (6) feet between attendees and all attendees encouraged to wear a face mask.
- For rodeos and racetracks, all draws should be posted outside the rodeo/racetrack office or online to reduce individuals inside the rodeo/racetrack office.
- Consider adding chalk or tape lines to keep participants or spectators at least six (6) feet apart. Directional arrows can also be used to direct the flow throughout the event.

### At the event:

- Any staff member, vendor, and participant showing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (fever over 100.4F, sudden onset of cough or sudden onset of shortness of breath) shall not participate and should stay home.
  - Prepare a plan for if/when someone gets sick.
- Request that anyone who is a member of a population of heightened vulnerability to avoid areas where people are gathering.
- Event managers will be responsible for ensuring that guidelines are being followed by participants.
- Create ingress/egress points for commercial exhibit buildings – encouraging one way traffic if able.
- Implement cleaning and disinfection practices of high-touch surfaces at least every two hours.
- Encourage face coverings if six (6) foot separation is not able to be maintained at all times, especially for entry/exits, bathrooms, etc.
- Anywhere there is a potential for people to stand in a line, queue lines should be set up to control distancing and should be either a straight line or an “L” shaped line. Six (6)feet distancing should be marked in those queue lines (using tape, spray paint, flag rope and cones, etc.) Directional arrows can also be used to direct the flow throughout the event.
  - Areas to consider include: ticketing, restrooms, food stands, etc.
- Provide ample opportunities for staff members, vendors, participants, or spectators to wash hands with soap and water. Consider providing additional hand sanitizer or hand washing opportunities throughout the event such as portable sanitizer or hand washing stations.
- Participants should not congregate. At least six (6)feet of distance must be maintained between people not in the same household unit. It may be necessary for multiple areas throughout the venue to be marked to show proper distancing.
- Spectators should be limited and, if present, appropriate distancing maintained. DHM guidelines must be met. It is advised to restrict access to bleachers or group seating areas. (e.g. seating taped off/blocked so that only every third seat on every other row can be utilized). Consider providing a livestream of the competition online to help limit crowds.
- Chute and pit personnel should be limited to essential personnel only. This requirement is to protect the safety and health of all individuals. Consider face coverings for these individuals when feasible and when six (6) foot separation is not able to be maintained at all times.
- Participants shall not congregate and should follow social/physical distancing guidelines. Participants should wear face masks when not competing.
- All staff and event personnel including officials should consider face coverings when feasible and when six (6) foot separation is not able to be maintained at all times. Staff shall not congregate and should follow social/ physical distancing guidelines.
- Limit paper materials at the show/event (i.e. programs, weigh cards, etc.)
- For racetracks, ensure additional spacing between teams in the pits and limit the number of pit crew members per team.



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- *All food code regulations must still be followed. Please contact your local health department or Dept. of Agriculture for more information.*
  - For events selling food products, follow the following concession and/or restaurant guidance. (*Restaurant guidance can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Nebraska-Guidance-Documents.aspx>*)
    - Stands selling food are allowed to open, if they meet the following:
      - ◆ Markings should be placed on the ground to ensure individuals waiting are spaced six (6) feet apart.
      - ◆ Clean and sanitize high touch surfaces regularly.
      - ◆ Staff must serve food directly to customers and remove self-serve condiment stations (e.g. provide customers with condiment packets upon request).
      - ◆ Whenever possible, practice social/physical distancing between staff.
      - ◆ All employees directly interacting with customers should wear face coverings.
      - ◆ Employees should wash hands frequently; provide hand sanitizer for customers.
  - Clean and disinfect all commonly-used areas frequently including restrooms and restock often with soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.
  - Clearly communicate and enforce your policies.