

City of Lawton Guidelines for Entertainment, Movie Theaters, Bowling Alleys and Sporting Venues

Entertainment venues may reopen beginning May 1, 2020, if they adhere to CDC recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols and the additional guidance and requirements listed herein. As used in this document, the term entertainment venue includes movie theaters, bowling alleys, and other similar facilities, as determined by the City Manager. Concert/convention centers, sporting venues, and other entertainment venues not covered by these guidelines, may not open to the public until such time as guidelines specific to the individual use have been approved by the City. Owners/operators of such venues are encouraged to submit sample guidelines for their use through the Office of the City Manager for consideration.

The State of Oklahoma's Employer Guidance for Oklahoma's Open Up and Recover Safely Plan for Entertainment, Movie Theaters, Bowling Alleys and Sporting Venues scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2020, are hereby adopted, except as modified herein. It is expressly provided that in all cases of conflict between provisions of the City of Lawton and those provisions included in the Order of the Governor, as thereafter amended, the more safe/restrictive shall apply.

Please note that these are the minimum requirements at this time; entertainment venues may implement other safety protocol and procedures to support these requirements. It should also be noted that all required safety measures and requirements must be in place at the time of opening. Whenever the wearing of a face covering is required by these guidelines, such requirement shall not apply to individuals with a documented medical condition that contraindicates such use.

Recommended Guidelines for Temperature Checks & Employer Policies

Entertainment venues shall use a touchless infrared thermometer to check the temperature of employees each day. Employees and/or volunteers with a temperature above 100.4°F shall be sent home until they have no fever and no evidence of COVID-19 symptoms. Entertainment venues should consider supportive policies and practices for allowing employees older than 65 years or in other vulnerable populations to stay at home.

Protect Your Vulnerable Customers

Persons 65 years and older and all those with medical conditions that place them in the "high risk" category should continue to maintain the "Shelter at Home" CDC/State/City guidelines, as per the Governor's Emergency Order. However, if members of this COVID-19 vulnerable population do visit an entertainment venue they should strongly consider coming to the entertainment venue at a special time designated for that group and wearing face coverings whenever possible.

Sanitation & Disinfecting Guidelines

1. Use appropriate antimicrobial disinfectants.
2. Prior to opening, entertainment venues shall disinfect the entire facility and equipment.
3. Surfaces such as doorknobs, counters, arm rests, bleachers, and other items that are high-touch must be regularly cleaned and sanitized.

4. Clean and disinfect bathrooms regularly, particularly high-touch surfaces, and ensure they have handwashing supplies at all times.
5. Ensure that access to handwashing/hand sanitizing facilities and supplies are available for employees and customers throughout the facility.
6. Employees must use proper handwashing, observe respiratory etiquette, and avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools or equipment.
7. Employees that come into contact with the public shall wear face covering unless a "sneeze guard" or other barrier is in place.
8. Employees that prepare, serve, or otherwise come into contact with any non-prepacked food or other consumable good shall wear face covering at all times during such activity.
9. As a takeaway food service, concessions operated by employees are allowed. Concession areas and drink stations that are normally operated by patrons as "self-service" must be serviced by employees wearing gloves and face coverings and not by the patrons themselves. All concession areas must be regularly disinfected
10. Designate staff to regularly clean high-touch points throughout the day.
 - a. Examples of high-touch point surfaces include doorknobs, door handles and push plates, railing, faucets, and toilet flush levers.
11. Disinfect seating and other customer use areas after each use.
12. Common use equipment such as lockers, bowling balls, shoes, etc. must be cleaned and sanitized before and after each use.
13. Provide a "sneeze guard" at the ticket sales booth, concession cash register, and any other point of transaction between patrons and staff.

Maintain Social Distancing At All Times

1. Prior to reopening, examine entertainment venue layout and seating chart to determine how to best maintain the appropriate social distancing and rearrange accordingly.
2. Only parties that live in the same household or that traveled to the entertainment venue in a single vehicle may sit together within a row or at the same table, booth or within the bar area.
3. Facilities must ensure that customers and employees are maintaining six feet of social distancing.
4. Entertainment venues are limited to 50% of their maximum capacity.
5. For venues with fixed seating, such as movie theaters and sporting venues, seating shall be limited as to provide a minimum of six feet of spacing between customer groups. Unless a specific seating pattern or other method to achieve the required separation has been approved by the City Manager, a minimum of three empty seats must be maintained between customer groups and seating shall only be allowed in every other row.
6. For entertainment venues with specific use areas, such areas must be limited to parties that live in the same household or that traveled to the entertainment venue in a single vehicle, and such areas must be separated, either by distance or physical barrier from adjacent areas to maintain minimum social distancing. As an example, for a bowling alley, each pair of lanes sharing a ball return shall be used by a single party that lives in the same household or that traveled to the entertainment venue in a single vehicle and patrons would be required to use the seating in the pit area that maintained minimum social distancing from the adjacent lanes unless a divider, made of plexiglass, wood, or other solid material, with a minimum height of 72 inches from the adjacent floor, has been installed between lanes to provide effective separation/protection.

7. Minimize face-to-face employee and customer interaction by implementing online or other contactless measures to take reservations and payments, or other purchases.
8. Display posters and signs throughout facility to frequently remind customer to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages may include information about:
 - a. Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well, and what to do if you're sick or feel ill.
 - b. The use of face coverings and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.
 - c. Social distancing requirements.
 - d. Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - e. Using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
 - f. Avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
9. It is encouraged that bar areas within entertainment venues remain closed during Phase I, However, if such areas are open, a minimum six feet social distance between parties at bar tops is required, and staff serving such areas shall wear a face covering whenever possible.
10. Adjust seating in waiting areas to follow social distancing guidelines.
11. Consider using phone-in or online reservation systems to stagger arrivals.
12. If possible, designate entrances and exits to minimize face-to-face exposure of patrons entering and exiting the entertainment venue.
13. Consider texting guests when theater or other entertainment space is available to avoid large gatherings in the lobby area.

Community Leadership

The community is looking to you for leadership! It is therefore important that all Entertainment venue staff provide this leadership by maintaining a minimum six-foot social distancing at all times. Face covering should be worn whenever practical, even when not required by these guidelines. With your help we can safely and successfully navigate Phase I of the Open Safe and Recover Safely Plan and look forward to Phase II.