

Agricultural Events

COVID-19 Requirements

Summary of March 19, 2021 change:

- Updates to include Phase 3 capacity limits.

Included Here:

- For purposes of this guidance, an “agricultural event” includes livestock and horse exhibitions/shows/sales/auctions, companion animal (dog, cats, rabbits, etc.) shows, or any substantially similar event. This includes 4-H and FFA events.

Not included here:

- Agritourism such as commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism in order to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors and generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner.

Agricultural events are permitted to operate, provided all requirements in this document are met. Each event must adopt a written procedure for operations at least as protective as the specific requirements outlined below and complies with all employee safety and health requirements.

Event venues and staff must ensure strict adherence to all measures established by the Governor’s guidance, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention: General Requirements <https://lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-164-000.pdf>, and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/Workplace> (DOH).

General Event Requirements:

1. All events must require participants to use cloth face coverings at a minimum.
2. Require all staff and any participant including exhibitors, sellers/auctioneers, buyers, competitors, judges, and veterinarians, to stay home if they are sick.
3. Food service is allowed for participants only and must follow the guidance for [eating and drinking establishments](#).
4. Whenever possible, events should be held outdoors or in outdoor arenas with optimal ventilation.
 - In Phases 1 and 2, events held indoors are limited to 25% capacity or up to 200 participants at one time (not including staff) whichever is fewer. Outdoor events capped at 200 people.
 - In Phase 3, events held indoors are limited to 50% capacity or up to 400 participants at one time (not including staff) whichever is fewer. Outdoor events capped at 400 people.
5. Reduce in person interaction and allow for social distancing on site.
 - Increase distance and limit the duration of contact (no more than 15 minutes) between exhibitors, visitors, judges, veterinarians, staff, and anyone else participating the event.
 - Limit access to only necessary participants. Participants that are minors may be accompanied by one adult. No spectators, vendors, guests or visitors.

- Limit the number of people and/or animals in a ring to ensure that at least 6 feet is kept between the animal handler and other people including judges.
 - Provide separate entry and exit points for participants going in and out of the show ring.
 - Event staff may bring animals together to certify weight, to be sold (marketed/auctioned), to be sorted by buyer, and be grouped to be transported to their destination, to the extent practicable, to eliminate queuing.
 - Limited exhibits may occur for livestock, poultry and rabbits intended for food without handlers being present during judging. This is to ensure these animals are handled in a timely manner to ensure proper animal care, well-being, and quality through to harvest.
 - Limit the number of animals that can be exhibited by a single person (to be determined by the local event organizer and facility offerings).
6. Schedule events in stages to avoid high densities of people. Consider the layout of the grounds to account for human/ animal traffic patterns.
- Require pre-registration (if applicable).
 - Schedule exhibit weigh-in/ drop-off/ move out times. Larger events may have to alternate days so that drop-off and show can occur in one day.
 - Stagger exhibit/show/sale/auction times.
 - Use sign-up sheets with specific time assignments for use of common animal/ human interaction areas (in- and out-gates, warm-up rings, grooming stations, wash racks, vet check areas, exercise lots, and restrooms).
 - Consider a “show-and-go” with animals stalled at a trailer or in a vehicle and leaving immediately after the show if this will not compromise animal welfare (i.e. due to weather conditions such as high temperature and humidity).
7. Encourage participants to observe strict biosecurity.
- Clean and disinfect any equipment from home before bringing them to the event and again before they take them back home.
 - Discourage the sharing of items/equipment that are difficult to disinfect between participants.
 - Clean and disinfect animal areas between shows or events.

Employee Safety and Health

An agricultural event employer, during any phase has a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices as outlined in Governor Inslee’s “Safe Start – Stay Healthy” Proclamation 20-25 and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/workplace>. All events are required to post signage at the entrance to the event requiring participants to use cloth face coverings when inside the event.