

Fairs, Parades, Festivals and Special Events

COVID-19 Requirements

Fairs, parades, festivals, and special events are only permitted in counties in Phase 3 of the Governor's *Healthy Washington, Roadmap to Recovery*. Fairs and special events have a number of operational aspects and service offerings governed by other COVID-19 requirement documents.

Operators must review these documents and apply the appropriate protocols to all aspects of their operations. Such operations may include:

- Food service and concessions ([Eating & Drinking Establishment Requirements](#))
- Retail operations ([In-Store Retail Requirements](#))
- Vendor booths (see farmers markets in [Food Workers and Food Establishments](#))
- Indoor/outdoor entertainment areas, including miniature golf and arcades ([Indoor Entertainment Requirements](#) and [Golf Requirements](#))
- Live entertainment – including marching bands ([Theater & Performing Arts Requirements](#) and [Spectator Event Requirements](#))
- Animal exhibits/petting ([Agricultural Event Requirements](#) and [Agritourism Requirements](#))
- Interactive exhibits ([Zoos & Aquarium Requirements](#) and [Museum Requirements](#))
- Office/administrative areas ([Professional Services Requirements](#))
- Trams, shuttles, and other transit ([Transportation Requirements](#)) - Limit shuttle service whenever possible and in accordance with obligations to individuals with disabilities.

All fairs, parades, festivals, and special events must adopt a written procedure that is at least as strict as the requirements in this document and that complies with the appropriate safety and health requirements and guidelines established by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries and the Washington State Department of Health.

Prior to recommencing on-site services, all business owner/organizers are required to develop at each fair/event, a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation, and recovery plan which must be adhered to. A site-specific COVID-19 supervisor shall be designated at each location to monitor the health of individuals and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan. A copy of the plan must be available at all locations and available for inspection by state and local authorities. Failure to meet this requirement may result in sanctions up to, and including, license suspension.

General guidance for any event/activity:

- Patrons and staff (including volunteers) must wear a face covering pursuant to the [Order](#) of the Secretary of Health. Signage requiring masks must be provided at all entrances and throughout the event areas.
- Occupancy
 - Indoor capacity: 50% (per fire marshal code) or 400-person maximum per room, whichever is fewer. This excludes staff and volunteers but includes vendors. Facilities larger than 100,000 square feet allowed 50% capacity or 600 per room, whichever is fewer. This excludes staff and volunteers but includes vendors.

- Outdoor capacity: Each fair/special event shall calculate the number of participants allowed at one time by using at least 72 sq feet per participant so required six feet physical distancing can be maintained. An acre is 43,000 sq feet, therefore no more than 600 participants per acre for the event space, with no more than 3,000 persons in a 5-acre event area. Only the space reserved for guests and where event activities take place can be counted toward the acreage needed for physical distancing (for instance, cannot count parking area or unused areas as part of acreage). All participants and vendors are to be included in calculating the number of people allowed at one time (staff and volunteers are excluded).
- All fairs and special events must not exceed 9,000 persons at any one time, including vendors but excluding volunteers and staff. This includes all areas combined (indoor and outdoor).
- Each event must have a plan for handling congestion and reducing crowding, including entrance and exits, parking facilities, stairs and elevators, and any areas where lines form. Fair/event staff will monitor the execution of the plan.
- Increase restroom availability to reduce congestion. Handwashing and/or hand sanitizer stations must be available for public access throughout the event. Ensure the stations are stocked and accessible during all operating hours.
- Implement timed and/or advanced reservation ticketing systems and pre-assigned seating or activity areas, whenever possible, to stagger guest visits and help maintain physical distances.
- Eating and drinking is only permitted in designated physically distanced dining areas, regardless if indoor or outdoor. Facial coverings may only be removed when actively eating or drinking.
- Consider one-way foot traffic and clear directions to better control the flow of guests throughout the event, especially in certain heavily used and/or narrow thoroughways to allow for better guest separation. Limit entry to crowded areas to allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Implement measures to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between groups, such as when patrons are waiting in line, or while seated for performances or shows. This can include use of physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor markings or signs to indicate to where workers and guests should stand).
- A registered nonprofit organization may obtain a special occasion liquor license from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB), which allows the organization to sell liquor at a specific time, date, and place to raise money for their charity or cause. Examples of events include fundraising dinners, gala events, auctions, tasting events, and brew fests. For more information about special occasion licenses, please visit this [webpage](#).
- For rides:
 - Encourage frequent handwashing and consider providing hand sanitizer stations near rides for use prior and after ride.
 - Face coverings must be worn on all rides.
 - Evaluate the speed and other dynamics of each attraction to ensure face coverings of various types can be safely worn and secured on rides. Face coverings must not present a loose-article hazard or interfere with the safe operation of the attraction when used by either riders or ride operators.
 - Consider alternative queuing methods where possible to manage capacity and facilitate six feet physical distancing. Consider using an electronic system where practical (e.g., guests

could make online reservations for specific attractions through an app or during the ticket purchasing process). Monitor guest compliance with distancing and face coverings while in queues.

- Carefully evaluate attractions that require time-consuming personal harnessing like ropes courses, climbing walls, and steel-cable swing rides because of the difficulty managing physical distancing during the harnessing process. The increased cleaning and disinfecting of the harnesses and other equipment between each use may also be difficult.
- For parade participants:
 - Large groups should use subgroups of no more than 15 people. Each subgroup must have at least six feet of physical distance separating them.
 - Marching bands and dance troupes should follow distance requirements in the performing arts and theater guidance.
 - No more than 4500 participants can participate and starts must be staggered over the duration of the parade.
 - No more than 400 people may be at the beginning or end of parade route. Adequate physical distancing of six feet must be maintained and congregating should be minimized. Once participants finish, they should disperse.
- For parade spectators:
 - Up to 600 spectators are permitted per each quarter mile of parade route, as long as six feet of physical distance is maintained between households. This includes both sides of the street. As an example, for a quarter mile route, 300 people could be on each side of the street for a total of 600 spectators.

Safety and Health Requirements

All fair, parade, festival and special event organizers have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).

Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the Washington Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).