

# Spectator Events

## COVID-19 Requirements

### Summary of May 3, 2021 changes:

- Added vaccinated section requirements.

### Summary of April 9, 2021 changes:

- Added section addressing Phase 2.
- Added language allowing certain spectator activities to follow Phase 3 guidelines regardless whether the county moves back to Phase 2.

### Summary of March 26, 2021 changes:

- Added section addressing indoor spectator activities

**Included here: stadiums—professional—higher education—and K-12 schools, ballparks, motorsports racetracks, rodeos and similar venues with permanent or temporary seating. Also included here: indoor arenas, indoor sports facilities, indoor performance and event facilities, and school graduation ceremonies both indoor and outdoor with permanent or temporary seating.**

**Not included here: county fairs, street fairs, parades, park venues or other similar events and venues. Please refer to [Fairs and Special Events Guidance](#).**

### Phase 2:

- For indoor spectator events the occupancy of the facility may not exceed 25 percent of the fire code occupancy rating, or 200 people max, whichever is less. For very large venues over 100,000 square feet. in size, the capacity is capped at 300 people. The maximum number includes all participants (performers, athletes, spectators, etc.) except for facility employees.
- For outdoor spectator events the occupancy of the facility may not exceed 25 percent of seated capacity, or 200 people max, whichever is less. Venues without permanent seating must provide 72 square feet per person. For very large venues over two acres in size, the capacity is capped at 300 people. The maximum number includes all participants (performers, athletes, spectators, etc.) except for facility employees.
- Spectator groups from 1-5 people allowed in all facilities, but all spectator groups must maintain 6 feet of distance from other spectator groups.
- Retail shops subject to current guidelines for in-store retail.
- Removal of masks and facial coverings only allowed while actively eating or drinking in assigned seating.
- Lines for food and beverages must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line.
- Lines for restrooms must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line. All restrooms should be open to increase dispersion of users among restrooms facilities.
- Lines may not extend out into designated walkways in a way that impedes the flow and/or compromises the ability to appropriately physically distance in those designated walkways.
- For K-12 school sporting activities no concession sales allowed.

- Professional sporting activities, higher education and college sporting activities, major junior hockey, and part-time professional sporting activities without players associations or unions, may utilize Phase 3 Spectator Events guidance in Phase 2 if they operate under an approved league or conference plan.
- School graduation ceremonies and commencement ceremonies may utilize Phase 3 Spectator Events guidance in Phase 2, if they operate under an event health and safety plan for the graduation ceremony. All other aspects of school graduations and commencement ceremonies must follow Department of Health Graduations Guidance: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/GraduationGuidance.pdf>.

### **Phase 3:**

#### **Outdoor Venues**

Outdoor venues with seating (permanent or temporary) that meet the following requirements may exceed 200 people maximum attendance:

- A facility must have individual designated seating capability. Open, unreserved seating not allowed.
- A facility must have controlled entrances and exits and the ability to monitor exact attendance.

An outdoor venue that meets those requirements may:

- Open to a capacity of 25% per section or 9,000 spectators maximum, whichever is lower.
- For smaller facilities up to 400 spectators maximum allowed at 50% capacity. In order to exceed 400 spectators a facility must be able to accommodate over 400 spectators at 25% capacity and capacity must not exceed 9,000 spectators total.

Additional venue requirements:

- Each facility 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. Facility staff will monitor the execution of the plan.
- Tickets must be sold in groups of 1-15. Each group of 1-15 spectators must be 6 feet away (side-to-side and front-to-back) from other groups of 1-15. Facilities with benches, bleachers or non-numbered seating must block off a portion of seating to ensure groups are distanced.
- Suites or other indoor viewing areas, including dine-in food service areas, limited to 25% capacity and windows are required to be open at all times.
- Outdoor viewing areas without permanent seating that are a part of a facility with permanent seating (decks, grass berms, eating areas etc.) are limited to one seated group (1-6 people) per 100 square ft. Each group will be in a reserved space, only available to the group or pod who purchased a specific location. Facility staff must monitor and restrict interactions between groups. Each outdoor viewing area limited to a maximum of 100 spectators. Outdoor viewing areas without reserved seating only allowed if they are a part of a facility that has individual designated seating capability and controlled entrances and exits. Spectators in these areas count towards the total allowed maximum of 9,000 spectators. Bleachers are not considered "outdoor viewing areas" and must be limited to 25% capacity.
- Retail shops subject to current guidelines for in-store retail.
- Removal of masks and facial coverings only allowed while actively eating or drinking in assigned seating.

- Lines for food and beverages must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line.
- Lines for restrooms must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line. All restrooms should be open to increase dispersion of users among restrooms facilities.
- Lines may not extend out into designated walkways in a way that impedes the flow and/or compromises the ability to appropriately physically distance in those designated walkways.
- School graduation ceremonies and commencement ceremonies must follow Department of Health Graduations Guidance:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/GraduationGuidance.pdf>.

### **Phase 3:**

#### **Indoor Venues:**

- All indoor sports spectators subject to 50% capacity or 400-person maximum per room, whichever is lower, all participants including performers, athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers and spectators are to be included in calculating the 400-person maximum. Facilities larger than 100,000 square feet allowed 50% capacity or 600 per room, whichever is lower, and all participants including performers, athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers and spectators are to be included in calculating the 600-person maximum.
- Spectator groups from 1-10 people allowed in all facilities, but all spectator groups must maintain 6 feet of distance from other spectator groups.
- Retail shops subject to current guidelines for in-store retail.
- Removal of masks and facial coverings only allowed while actively eating or drinking in assigned seating.
- Lines for food and beverages must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line.
- Lines for restrooms must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line. All restrooms should be open to increase dispersion of users among restrooms facilities.
- Lines may not extend out into designated walkways in a way that impedes the flow and/or compromises the ability to appropriately physically distance in those designated walkways.
- For K-12 school sporting activities no concession sales allowed.
- School graduation ceremonies must follow Department of Health Graduations Guidance:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/GraduationGuidance.pdf>.

#### **Vaccinated Sections:**

Sections reserved for vaccinated patrons only are allowed for spectator events in Phase 2 and Phase 3 if the following conditions are met:

- Vaccinated sections only allowed in facilities with individual, designated, seating and controlled entrance and exits.
- Vaccinated sections must be reserved for people 16 and older who are fully vaccinated.
- A patron vaccinated against COVID-19 by a two-dose mRNA vaccine (such as Moderna and Pfizer), or a single dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson), are considered “fully vaccinated” two weeks after the final dose of vaccine (the second dose for a two-dose regimen, or the single dose for a single-dose regimen). Documentation of vaccination status must be available upon request at any time.

- Children between the ages of 2 and 15 who can provide proof of having tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of admission, are also allowed in the vaccinated section. Children under the age of 2 do not need to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test in order to be admitted to the vaccinated section when accompanied by a vaccinated adult.
- No adults who are not yet fully vaccinated, including adults who are in the progress of being vaccinated, will be permitted in the vaccinated only section, even with a negative test.
- All ticket holders for a fully vaccinated-only section must enter the facility through a separate line from unvaccinated ticket-holders, where they will be required to show proof of vaccination (if 16 years of age or older) or of a negative COVID-19 test (if between 2 and 15 years of age).
- Any person with a ticket for a fully vaccinated-only section who is 16 years of age or older and cannot provide the required verification of full vaccination, or between 2 and 15 years of age and cannot provide the required proof of a negative test within 72 hours of admission, will not be permitted to enter the vaccinated section. Any individual who is symptomatic, even if fully vaccinated, will not be allowed to enter the vaccinated section.
- Physical distancing is not required in a fully vaccinated-only section. Persons seated in these sections will be seated directly next to other groups.
- There must be at least 6 feet of distance between the Fully Vaccinated-only sections and any other section in the venue.
- Face coverings must be worn in the fully vaccinated-only sections, except while actively eating and/or drinking in the ticketed seat.

The following are acceptable as proof of full vaccination: Vaccination card (which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided and date last dose administered) OR a photo of a vaccination card as a separate document OR a photo of the attendee's vaccine card stored on a phone or electronic device OR documentation of vaccination from a healthcare provider electronic health record or state Immunization Information System record. Self-reported vaccination records that are not verified by a health care provider cannot be accepted.

The following are acceptable as proof of a negative COVID-19 test result: printed document (from the test provider or laboratory) OR an email or text message displayed on a phone or electronic device from the test provider or laboratory. The information provided should include name of person tested, type of test performed, and date of negative test result (for PCR test, date of negative result must be within prior 72 hours; for antigen test, date of negative result must be within prior 24 hours). Self-reported negative test results that are not from a test provider, a laboratory, or a health care provider cannot be accepted.

Nothing in this section should be read to prohibit a facility from providing a separate seating area to unvaccinated individuals, including those individuals claiming an exemption protected by state and federal anti-discrimination laws. Seating areas for unvaccinated individuals must follow the requirements found in sections describing Phase 2 and Phase 3 guidelines for both outdoor and indoor spectators in this document.

Facilities with vaccinated sections are allowed to increase capacity:

- Outdoor facilities may add vaccinated sections until their total capacity is 50% maximum or 22,000 people, whichever is lower, inclusive of both vaccinated and unvaccinated sections. Outdoor unvaccinated spectators cannot exceed 9,000 people. All spectators, individuals or groups, in unvaccinated sections must maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals or spectator groups in those sections. Vaccinated-only sections may be seated at full capacity, with

no increased distance between individuals or groups. Suites may also operate at 100% of suite capacity if all guests show proof of full vaccination or negative test for children. Suite spectators do not create additional capacity; the total venue capacity cannot exceed the total maximums above.

- Indoor facilities may add vaccinated sections until their total capacity is 50% maximum, or maximum 2000 people, whichever is lower, inclusive of both vaccinated and unvaccinated sections. Indoor unvaccinated spectators in Phase 2 cannot exceed 200 people, or 300 for rooms greater than 100,000 square feet of space—and indoor unvaccinated spectators in Phase 3 cannot exceed 400 people, or 600 for rooms greater than 100,000 square feet of space. All spectators, individuals or groups, in unvaccinated sections must maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals or spectator groups in those sections. Vaccinated-only sections may be seated at full capacity, with no increased distance between individuals or groups. Suites may also operate at 100% of suite capacity if all guests show proof of full vaccination or negative test for children. Suite spectators do not create additional capacity; the total venue capacity cannot exceed the total maximums above.
- Ticket holders and spectators are to be used to calculate total capacity. For the purposes of calculating total capacity do not include facility employees, athletes, coaches, competition officials, medical personnel, performers, backstage crew, or in the case of graduations students and school staff.

### **Safety and Health Requirements**

All facility owners 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 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](#).