

Zoos and Aquariums COVID-19 Guidance

Summary of March 18, 2021 changes:

- New Phase 3 requirements detailed.

Included Here:

- Zoo, aquariums and similar facilities.

Not included here:

- Museums

Zoos and Aquariums

RESTART COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Phases 1 and 2

Businesses planning to reopen must comply with the following:

1. Zoos and aquariums may operate outdoor exhibits, timed ticketing required.
2. Utilize on-line or phone time reservation systems to pre-pay and limit interactions where possible. Utilizing non-cash payments and credit cards to limit interactions is recommended.
3. Regularly sanitize counter tops, door knobs, other common surfaces, cash registers, kiosks, and other frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment.
4. Install signage to discourage group congregation, or to limit numbers of people in a certain areas around the facility.
5. Encourage frequent handwashing. Consider providing tissues, a receptacle for used tissues, and hand sanitizer for use prior, during, and after activities. Ensure any receptacles are emptied often to prevent any overflow especially in outdoor areas.
6. Ask visitors to leave the facility after they are done to eliminate congestion/gathering on the property or in the parking lot.
7. Increase the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the space.
8. Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day.
9. Food and beverage service subject to current regional guidance restrictions. Pro shops and retail subject to current regional retail guidance restrictions.

Phase 1

- Total capacity outdoor is limited to 25 percent. No indoor exhibits are allowed.

Phase 2

- Indoor exhibits allowed. Total capacity is limited to 25% for indoor exhibits.

Phase 3

- Indoor exhibits total capacity is limited to 50%
- Total outdoor capacity not limited.

- Walk-up tickets allowed. Timed ticketing still recommended to disperse visitation throughout the day.
- Restaurants and retail must follow required guidelines for food service and retail for Phase 3.
- Touch exhibit allowed to resume. Hand sanitation stations required for each touch exhibit.
- Petting zoos and animal touch exhibits allowed to resume. Hand sanitation stations required for petting zoo or animal touch exhibits. Participants in touch and petting exhibits need to maintain distance from other participants.
- Limited use of showers and locker rooms allowed. Users must remain 6 feet distanced from other users.

Safety and Health Requirements for all outdoor recreation

Stay home when sick or if a close contact of someone with COVID-19

Staff and participants should be required to stay home if they feel unwell, show any signs of COVID-19, or are a close contact of a confirmed case. Screening should consider [symptoms listed by the CDC](#). Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 or who is a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19 should not be allowed to participate and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.

Masks

Masks required for staff and participants at all times.

Physical Distance

A minimum of 6 feet of physical distance must be maintained between staff and clients at all times where possible. This distance should be increased when clients are engaged in high-intensity aerobic activities. A minimum of six feet of distance must be maintained among participants when not engaged in fitness and training activities.

Hygiene

Staff and participants to practice good hygiene including washing their hands frequently and covering their sneezes and coughs. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after practice, especially after touching shared objects or blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol content. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they are dry.

Provide handwashing or hand sanitizing stations at training and contest locations.

Limit the use of locker rooms and showers. If use of locker rooms for changing is necessary, maximize ventilation and use tape, spots, or cones to signal 6 feet of distance for participants who need to change. If locker rooms are used cleaning protocols must be included in the facility safety plan. Limit occupancy of the locker rooms to avoid crowding.

Cleaning

Clean high touch surfaces and disinfect shared equipment before and after each use. Ensure restrooms are cleaned and disinfected regularly. Current CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19 states that disinfectants should be registered by the EPA for use against the COVID-19. Find the current

list here: [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#). Disinfectants based on hydrogen peroxide or alcohol are safer than harsher chemicals. The University of Washington has a [handout with options for safer cleaning and disinfecting products that work well against COVID-19](#).

Ventilation

Ventilation is important to have good indoor air quality. Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly. Increase air circulation and ventilation as much as possible by opening windows and doors. Offer more outside time, open windows often and adjust mechanical ventilation systems to bring in as much outside air as possible. Increase filters to MERV 13 if the HVAC can accommodate. Use of fans for cooling is acceptable. In indoor spaces, fans should only be used when windows or doors are open to the outdoors in order to circulate indoor and outdoor air. They should blow away from people.

Outdoors locations are preferred to indoors locations, and should be utilized to the greatest extent possible to allow for maximum fresh air circulation and social distancing. Outdoor temporary structures may be used. Outdoor structures, in order to be considered outdoors, should have no more than two walls to provide appropriate ventilation unless they meet this ventilation requirement; Structures can have three walls if another opening exists that is large enough to create cross ventilation.

Records and Contact Tracing

Keep contact information for staff and participants to assist with contact tracing in the event of a possible exposure. Contact information must be kept on file for 28 days after each class or use of the facilities.

Employees

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](#).