

Phase 2 and 3 Miscellaneous Venues

COVID-19 Requirements

Miscellaneous venues are permitted to operate, provided all requirements in this document are met. For purposes of this guidance, miscellaneous venues (referred to as “venue” hereafter) include the following: convention/conference centers, designated meeting space in a hotel, events centers, or a substantially similar venue. Each venue 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.

Venues 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 Requirements

1. Consistent with the Governor’s Safe Start-Stay Healthy Plan, receptions (other than for limited weddings and funerals), networking events, and live-entertainment are prohibited.
2. The following activities are permitted, provided they cannot be performed virtually: Business meetings, training, and testing (or substantially similar activity).
3. Indoor capacity in each room or separate building is limited to 30% capacity (per fire marshal code) or 200 people, whichever is less, as long as six feet of physical distance can be maintained by all attendees. This excludes venue staff.
4. Adhere to [CDC](#) elevator and escalator protocols. Also, post signs strongly advising no talking in elevators.
5. Venues must ensure persons engaging in an activity conducted outdoors wear a proper face covering and maintain six feet of physical distance between other persons.
6. Require meeting/training organizers to ensure all attendees are pre-registered and retain contact information for all attendees.
7. Any food service provided to attendees shall be self-contained, pre-plated, grab-and-go meals/snacks to limit contact.
8. Stagger meeting/testing organizer move-in and move-outs to reduce gathering in groups.
9. Adjust scheduled meeting/tests to minimize attendees in common areas.
10. Adjust and/or remove public seating areas to ensure physical distancing compliance.
11. Any retail food service at venues must follow the guidance for [restaurants](#).
12. Payment Handling:
 - When possible, allow mobile, credit card, or other cash-free payment options.
 - Staff will disinfect check-out counters and payment touchpads at least every hour.
 - Provide handwashing or hand sanitizer for employees handling payment.
 - Use timed ticketing or on-line/phone reservations for any activity, when possible.
13. Provide sufficient hand sanitizing stations for customers.
14. Ensure each meeting room is properly cleaned/sanitized between uses.
15. At least one COVID-19 Program Supervisor shall be present during every event to ensure masking and social distancing practices are enforced and practiced by all event attendees.

Employee Safety and Health

A venue 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 Centers are required to post signage at the entrance to the Center and each meeting room, requiring attendees to use cloth face coverings when inside the Center.

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect workers, including:

- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the employer's COVID-19 policies.
- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and participants) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or participants in narrow or enclosed areas, and staggering breaks and work shift starts.
- Provide (at no cost to employees) and require the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate or required for the activity being performed. **Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance.**
 - Exceptions to this requirement for cloth face coverings include when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site; if the individual is deaf or hard of hearing and is communicating with someone who relies on language cues such as facial markers and expression and mouth movements as a part of communication; if the individual has a medical condition or disability that makes wearing a facial covering inappropriate; or when the job has no in-person interaction.
 - Refer to [Washington Coronavirus Hazard Considerations for Employers \(except COVID-19 care in hospitals & clinics\) Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirator Choices](#) and [Which Mask for Which Task?](#) . Cloth face coverings are described in the [Department of Health guidance](#).
- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent virus transmission on tools or other items that are shared.
- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.

Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at start of their shift. Make sure sick employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the [cleaning guidelines set by the CDC](#) to deep clean and sanitize. A COVID-19 supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each event to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 safety plan.

A worker may refuse to perform unsafe work, including hazards created by COVID-19. It is unlawful for an employer to take adverse action against a worker who has engaged in safety-protected activities under the law if the individual's work refusal meets certain requirements. Information is available in these publications: [Safety and Health Discrimination in the Workplace brochure](#) and [Spanish Safety and Health Discrimination brochure](#).

Employees who choose to remove themselves from a work site because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits. Employers must provide high-risk individuals covered by Proclamation 20-46 with their choice of access to available employer-granted accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work arrangement is not feasible. Other employees may have access to expanded family and medical leave included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, access to unemployment benefits, or access to other paid time off depending on the circumstances. 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](#).

No venue may operate until it can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. Additional considerations may be adopted, as appropriate.

All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.
- General questions about how to comply with agreement practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/report-safe-start-violation>.