

# Miscellaneous Venues

## COVID-19 Requirements

### Summary of May 19 changes:

- In Phase 3, occupancy is held at 50%; however, the maximum number of people is increased to 1,000 as long as six feet of physical distance can be maintained.
- Conferences, business meetings and similar activities can operate without occupancy restrictions and physical distancing requirements if all attendees are vaccinated.
- Fully vaccinated attendees are not required to wear a face covering.

### Summary of March 17 changes:

- Addition of Phase 3 guidance.

### Summary of February 1, changes:

#### All Phases:

- Any other business activity not specifically mentioned in this document, that can also be conducted in a miscellaneous venue, is permitted with the same requirements as the business-specific guidance. Examples include retail, personal services, religious services, etc. Occupancy limits of the specific activity govern, with the exception of retail activity (see specific retail occupancy below).
- Meal/food service must follow eating and drinking guidance.

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, fairgrounds, sporting arenas, nonprofit establishment, or a substantially similar venue. Any business activity currently permitted that can also be conducted in a miscellaneous venue, is permitted with the same requirements as the business-specific guidance (examples include: retail, personal services, religious services, etc.). Occupancy limits of the specific activity govern. The exception is for retail activity which must follow the occupancy limits in this document. Each venue must adopt a written procedure for operations at least as protective as the specific requirements outlined below and complies with all worker safety and health requirements.

#### Phase 1:

1. All in-person business meetings are prohibited.
2. Only professional training and testing that cannot be performed remotely, as well as all court and judicial branch-related proceedings, are allowed. Occupancy in each meeting room/area is limited to 25 percent capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer (excluding staff).
3. Occupancy for an indoor retail event is limited to 25 percent capacity, up to 100 people, (this includes exhibitors and excludes staff) whichever is fewer. Outdoor capacity capped at 100 people. For very large venues over 100,000 sq. ft. in size. The capacity is capped at 150 people (this includes exhibitors and excludes staff).

### Phase 2:

1. In-person business meetings are permitted. Professional training and testing that cannot be performed remotely, as well as all court and judicial branch-related proceedings, are allowed. Occupancy in each room/area is limited to 25 percent capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer (excludes staff).
2. Occupancy for an indoor retail event is limited to 25 percent capacity, up to 200 people (this includes exhibitors and excludes staff), whichever is fewer. Outdoor capacity capped at 200 people. For very large venues over 100,000 sq.ft. in size, the capacity is capped at 300 people (this includes exhibitors and excludes staff).

### Phase 3:

1. In-person business meetings (including recovery groups), professional training and testing, as well as all court and judicial branch-related proceedings, are allowed. Occupancy in each room/area is limited to 50 percent capacity or 1,000 people, whichever is fewer (excludes staff).
2. Total indoor capacity can exceed 50% if using vaccinated sections/areas (see below).
3. Occupancy restrictions and physical distancing requirements are removed if all attendees are vaccinated.
4. For areas/sections with unvaccinated attendees, six feet of physical distance must be maintained between individuals/groups/tables.

### Vaccinated sections/areas:

Sections/areas reserved for vaccinated patrons are only allowed if the following conditions are met:

- Vaccinated sections/areas must be reserved for people 16 and older who are fully vaccinated. Children aged 12-15 may either show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test 72 hours prior to attendance.
- An attendee 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 5 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/area. Children aged 12-15 may either show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test 72 hours prior to admission. Children under the age of 5 do not need to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test in order to be admitted to the vaccinated section/area 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.
- Physical distancing is not required in a fully vaccinated-only section/area. Persons seated in these sections/areas will be seated directly next to other groups.
- There must be at least 6 feet of distance between the Fully Vaccinated-only sections/areas and any other section/area in the venue.
- Face coverings are not required for vaccinated individuals.

### Documentation:

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.

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. These separate areas must abide by 50% occupancy limitation as noted above.

### General Requirements for all phases

1. When feasible, organizers should ensure all attendees are pre-registered and retain contact information for all attendees for 28 days.
2. Stagger attendee move-in and move-outs to reduce gathering in groups.
3. Adjust scheduled activities, etc. to minimize attendees in common areas.
4. Adjust and/or remove public seating areas to ensure physical distancing is maintained.
5. Adhere to CDC elevator and escalator protocols. Also, post signs strongly advising no talking in elevators.
6. Venues must ensure persons engaging in an activity conducted both indoors and outdoors, wear a proper face covering and maintain six feet of physical distance between other persons.
7. Any food service at venues must follow the guidance for [eating and drinking establishments](#).
8. Frequently clean high-touch surfaces.
9. Payment Handling: When possible, allow mobile, credit card, or other cash-free payment options.
10. Staff will disinfect check-out counters and payment touchpads at least every hour.
11. Provide handwashing or hand sanitizer for employees handling payment.
12. 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. Adjust mechanical ventilation systems to bring in as much outside air as possible. Increase filters to MERV 13 if the HVAC can accommodate. Keep doors and windows open where possible and utilize fans to improve ventilation.
16. At least one COVID-19 Program Supervisor shall be present during every event to ensure masking and social distancing practices are enforced and practices by all event attendees.

### **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).

All venue 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 the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).

**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) : [www.Lni.wa.gov/DOSHConsultation](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/DOSHConsultation).
- 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](mailto: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>.