



Sector Rules for Reopen

Provided by: [Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development](#)

Overview:

The following rules apply to all Connecticut businesses and organizations and are effective March 19, 2021. Please keep in mind that it is the cumulative effects gained from social distancing, hand washing, and mask-wearing that will continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Businesses should take these rules as the minimum baseline of precautions needed to protect public health in Connecticut and refer to the recommended guidance by sector listed at the bottom of this page for best practices. Individual establishments should also take additional measures as recommended by industry experts or by common sense applied to their particular situation.

General Recommendations:

Businesses/organizations should continue to support local public health contact tracing efforts, such as maintaining a log of employees on-premises over time.

Employers should continue to encourage employees to stay home when sick and encourage working from home when possible. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case, employees shall inform their employers and follow state testing and contact tracing protocols.

- Businesses have the right to refuse service from customers not wearing masks.
- Social distance markers, signage, and one-way traffic are still encouraged.

In terms of ventilation, facilities should work to increase the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the system where possible, or use window units.

Businesses are still encouraged to post clear signage that includes the state hotline (211) for employees and customers to report potential violations of these rules. For additional information, please see [Safe Workplace Recommendations for Employers](#).

Effective Friday, March 19, 2021

All Businesses/Organizations:

Capacity limits are now up to 100%, subject to social distancing requirements (unless otherwise noted). However, it is the right of the operator/owner if they choose to operate below 100% capacity.

6 ft. spacing and social distancing continues to be required where possible (unless otherwise noted).

Masks continue to be required in all public settings where social distancing is not possible.

All establishments must follow [CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting guidelines](#).

Performances:

Performers and musical vocalists at restaurants, outdoor and indoor events, and performing arts venues are allowed, subject to the following:

- 12 ft. spacing or more from the nearest person dining or working (for example, workstations or walking paths used by employees must be included in the 12 ft. distancing).
- To maximize the protection of their patrons and employees, businesses/organizations are strongly encouraged to require performers to obtain a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) within 72 hours prior to performing.

Restaurants & Indoor Recreation:

6 ft. spacing or non-porous barrier continue to be required between tables, with an 8-person maximum table capacity.

Food Service continues to be required with alcohol service– bars that only serve beverages must remain closed. No standing bar services is allowed outside of private events.

All restaurants and indoor recreation continue to be subject to an 11:00 PM closing time

Gatherings:

Effective Friday, April 2, 2021

Outdoor amusement parks can open with no capacity limit.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT REOPENING PROCESSES: April 1, 2021

AMUSEMENT PARKS OUTDOOR ONLY

OVERVIEW:

As Connecticut reopens its outdoor amusement parks, the State wants to enable its citizens to continue to enjoy rides and activities, as well as some quality time outdoors. Such activities must be undertaken only after prioritizing the health and safety of employees and consumers. This set of best practices developed by the State of Connecticut aims to minimize the risks presented by these establishments while allowing its citizens to enjoy the state's cultural treasures.

Amusement parks must exercise caution throughout the reopening, ensuring strict adherence to the protocols listed on the Sector Rules for Reopening webpage. Those businesses that are not able to meet state requirements, shall delay opening until they are able.

While these best practices provide a way for amusement parks to reopen as safely as possible, risks to visitors and employees cannot be fully mitigated. **Visitors who choose to come to amusement parks during this time should be aware of potential risks. Individuals over the age of 65 or with other health conditions should not visit amusement parks, but instead continue to stay home and stay safe.**

Amusement parks should take these best practices as the minimum baseline of precautions needed to protect public health in Connecticut. Individual establishments should take additional measures as recommended by industry guidelines or by common sense applied to their particular situation. We also urge visitors to stay vigilant and pay attention as to whether the amusement parks they visit are faithfully implementing state requirements.

STATE GUIDANCE FOR AMUSEMENT PARKS:

Amusement parks shall calculate maximum safe occupancy for each ride area/room to allow for social **distancing between groups** and to comply with state social gathering size guidance. Establishments should leverage signage, floor markings, and enhanced presence of attendants and other personnel to enforce such occupancy rate.

These best practices are intended to help amusement parks safely get back to work. The information here can be supplemented with guidance from professional organizations and by other industry groups, some of which are listed below. These best practices may be updated.

FURTHER RESOURCES:

IAAPA: <https://www.iaapa.org/reopening-guidance-considerations-attractions-Industry>

NEAAPA: <https://growthzonesitesprod.azureedge.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/1403/2020/05/NEAAPA-COVID-19-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>

OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

PLAN FOR REOPENING:

Share these best practices with your employees and inform them of any additional specific measures being taken in response to COVID-19.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR:

Appoint a program administrator who is accountable for implementing these rules.

CLEANING PLAN:

Develop cleaning checklists that incorporate these rules. Ensure it is clear which employees are responsible for implementing the plans.

TRAINING:

The employer **should** institute a training program and ensure employee participation in the program. Training **should** be provided at no cost to the employee and during working hours. The training materials **should** be presented in the language and at the literacy level of the employees. Employers should continuously update staff on changes to these best practices. The training **should** include:

- Best practices outlined in this document
- Protocols on how to clean and use cleaning products (including disinfectants) safely
- Additional guidance can be found here: See above

NOTE:

If any on-site duties are subcontracted, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure subcontractors are also appropriately trained.

PERSONAL PROTECTION:

Estimate required personal protection for employees and begin procuring.

THOROUGH CLEANING:

Complete a thorough cleaning of facility prior to reopening, including but not limited to: • Rides • High traffic areas such as ticket counters • Restrooms

LOG EMPLOYEES:

Maintain a log of employees on-premise over time, to support contact tracing.

https://osha.washington.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FactSheet_Cleaning_Final_UWDEOHS_0.pdf

SHIFTS:

Stagger shift start/stop times, break times, and lunchtimes to minimize contact across employees.

CERTIFICATION:

Complete the self-certification on the DECD website to receive a Reopen CT badge. Once complete, businesses can choose to post the badge on-site and on social media to advertise adherence to CT rules and build customer confidence.

Parking:

Parking staff **should** direct customers to park in every other spot to ensure social distancing during peak parking hours.

Walkways:

Increase signage during walk in to educate customers.

Ticket Areas & Front Gate:

Require online ticket purchase to the greatest extent possible. Place markers on the ground to encourage those purchasing tickets to social distance. Given it will likely be multiple members of a family waiting in line, markers should be 10 ft apart. Install physical barriers for ticket counters.

Rides & Attractions:

Developed specific loading and social distancing procedures for each ride and attraction, including but not limited to: Leaving empty rows, seats, and separating guests to maintain safe distances.

Ride Lines:

Rearrange ride queues (such as “maze-style” queues typical at amusement parks) to prevent patrons waiting in line from having to pass others face-to-face within 6 ft where possible.

Social Distancing:

Calculate maximum number of people allowed under the rules for each exhibition room/ride.

- Attendants to remain at same workstation through day to minimize movement.
- Attendants to enforce maximum occupancy per exhibition room/area where possible

Signage:

Post clear signage that reinforces new policies, e.g.:

- Maximum occupancy of each exhibit area/room
- Social distancing protocols (including walkways into park)
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols
- Personal protection protocols (face masks, gloves) for customers and employees
- Employees shall stay home if sick/experiencing symptoms
- Customers shall not enter if they are experiencing symptoms
- Additional signage can be found here:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/COVID-19-Signage-for-Downloa>

Locker Rooms:

Disable or mark every other or every third locker for non-use to enforce 6 ft social distancing requirement.

- Remove any casual seating other than benches by lockers as necessary.
- If independent showers are available and used, they must be attended and sanitized between each use.
- Disable or close-off communal style showers except for rinsing before and after any pool activity.

Self-serves Stations:

Self-serve beverage stations are allowed but must adhere to the guidelines below.

- Hand sanitizer **should** be made available next to beverage stations and operators **should** require customers to use before pouring beverages. Cello or paper wrapped straws and stirrers are **recommended**. Cups and lids **should** be from single pull dispenser or other method to minimize contact. Sweeteners, sugars and creamers **should** be individual packets or automated (push button or contactless) dispensers. Floor markers should be installed to achieve social distancing. Samplings and refills of personal mugs and cups are not **recommended**. Frequent disinfecting of the beverage station should take place, even during busy times.

HOTLINE FOR VIOLATIONS:

Post clear signage that includes the state hotline (211) for employees and customers to report potential violations of these rules.