A performance venue is a facility where performers are in a designated area, such as a stage, audience members remain in fixed or assigned seating during the performance, and seated dining service is not provided.

Large capacity event venues in all municipalities must continue to remain closed until authorized to reopen in Phase IV. Large capacity venues are defined as having capacities of 5,000 persons or more as specified in a certificate of occupancy or other, equivalent authorization. This includes venues used for group or spectator sports, entertainment, business, and cultural events including:

- Stadiums, arenas, and ballparks
- Exhibition and convention halls

In accordance with COVID – 19 Order no. 65 Advancing all Communities to Phase 3, Step 2 COVID -19 Safety Rules, Indoor Theaters and Performance Venues designated as a Phase 3 Step 2 enterprise may open.

Additional details on Sector-Specific Protocols can be found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts
THEATERS AND PERFORMANCE VENUES

MA COVID-19 Checklist

SOCIAL DISTANCING & CAPACITY LIMITS

Ensure >6ft between individuals

☐ Establish directional pathways to manage visitor flow for foot traffic, to minimize contact (e.g., one-way entrance and exit to shows, one-way pathways). Post clearly visible signage regarding these policies

☐ Reconfigure seating areas to ensure 6 feet distancing between customers not in the same group

- Distance shall be measured from the closest boundary of one customer recreation or seating area to the closest boundary of another customer recreation or seating area
- This may require blocking every other row of seats and staggered seating within rows

☐ Limit group sizes to no more than 6 people per groups attending together for movie theaters and indoor and outdoor theaters and performance venues

☐ Stagger lunch and break times for workers, regulating max number of people in one place and ensuring at least 6 feet of physical distancing

☐ Contactless payment methods and/or digital ticketing are encouraged

☐ Special protocols shall be followed for close contact between live performers:
  - Performers are to wear face coverings during performances whenever feasible
  - Performers should remain at least 6 feet apart even if wearing masks. Any activity requiring performers to be closer than 6 feet must be as brief as possible
  - Activities that require prolonged direct contact (e.g. intimate scenes, fight scenes) are discouraged
  - Prohibit direct interaction between performers and audience before, during, or after performances (including backstage and post-performance meet and greets)

☐ For live performances, singing and the playing of brass and wind instruments is discouraged. Singing is not permitted in any indoor performances. For outdoor performances involving singing or indoor performances involving brass or wind instruments, special distancing must be followed:
  - At least 10 feet between performers
  - At least 25 feet between performers and first row of the audience
  - Plexiglass barriers cannot be used to reduce required distance between performers or between performers and the audience

☐ Performances that are shorter in duration are encouraged

☐ Encourage the use of electronic versions or no-touch displays in place of commonly touched physical materials (such as menus and playbills) where possible. All commonly touched physical materials must be discarded or sanitized between use

☐ Any self-serve racks or containers for these materials should be removed, and instead all materials must be handed out individually by workers

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Apply robust hygiene protocols

☐ Disinfect shared equipment before use by another worker

☐ Ensure access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water, wherever possible and encourage frequent handwashing; alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol may be used as an alternative

☐ Supply workers at workplace location with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes)

☐ Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol should be made available at entrances, exits and throughout floor areas for workers, performers, and customers

☐ Avoid sharing equipment and supplies between workers including performers

☐ Post visible signage throughout the site to remind customers and workers of hygiene and safety protocols

☐ Prohibit any mutual touching of customer or worker equipment without sanitation between uses

Additional details on Sector-Specific Protocols can be found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts
STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Include safety procedures in the operations

☐ Provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission, including:
  - Social distancing, hand-washing, proper use of face coverings
  - Self-screening at home, including temperature and symptom checks
  - Importance of not coming to work if ill
  - When to seek medical attention if symptoms become severe
  - Which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting and suffering from a severe case of the virus

☐ Venues must screen workers at each shift by ensuring the following:
  - Worker is not experiencing any symptoms such as fever (100.0 and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
  - Worker has not had “close contact” with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. “Close contact” means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
  - Worker has not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official
  - Workers who fail to meet the above criteria must be sent home

☐ Adjust workplace hours and shifts (leverage working teams with different schedules or staggered arrival / departure) to minimize contact across workers and reduce congestion at entry point

☐ Limit worker movement to discrete work zones to minimize overlap where possible

☐ Venues should maintain operating hours that allow for on-going off-hour sanitation and cleaning consistent with CDC guidelines for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting consistent with CDC guidelines for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting

☐ Limit visitors and service providers on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas

☐ Maintain a log of workers and visitors to support potential contact tracing (name, date, time, contact information)

☐ Workers who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home

☐ Workers are strongly encouraged to self-identify symptoms or any close contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case to the employer

☐ All performers and workers must follow the Commonwealth’s current out-of-state travel order: mass.gov/MAtraveler. In addition, employers are strongly discouraged from requiring or allowing business-related travel to destinations other than those appearing on the Department of Public Health’s list of COVID-19 lower risk States. Employers that permit employer-paid or -reimbursed travel to those States shall take measures to ensure employees comply with this order. Employers are also urged to strongly discourage their employees from taking leisure travel to destinations not included on the list of COVID-19 lower-risk States

☐ Workers shall not appear for work or complete a shift if feeling ill

☐ Encourage workers who test positive for COVID-19, to disclose to the employer of the office for purposes of cleaning / disinfecting and contact tracing. If the employer is notified of any positive case at the workplace, the employer must immediately notify the local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town where the workplace is located. Employers must assist the LBOH with contact tracing efforts, including advising likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine. Testing of other workers may be recommended consistent with guidance and / or at the request of the LBOH

☐ Post notice to workers and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in the Commonwealth’s Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplace

Additional details on Sector-Specific Protocols can be found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts
THEATERS AND PERFORMANCE VENUES

MA COVID-19 Checklist

STAFFING & OPERATIONS
Include safety procedures in the operations

☐ Stagger event times (such as theater showings) to avoid congregation of customers in different groups and to allow for thorough cleaning of the activity space (e.g., seating areas or tables) before new customers arrive

☐ Encourage advanced reservations and digital ticketing where possible

☐ Workers should facilitate organized entrance and exit between events where audiences are arranged in rows or other large groups to prevent unnecessary congregation of customers

☐ Facilities should develop a seating plan for which customers can reserve spots ahead of time and which is adjustable to the size of the booking party allowing couples and small groups to sit together while maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals/groups

☐ Additional on-site amenities and services may only open and operate when those amenities or services would otherwise be authorized to operate under the Commonwealth’s Phased Reopening Plan and then must adhere to all sector-specific safety protocols, available on the Reopening Plan website, applicable to the amenity or service. Examples include:
  • Restaurants/food service: Must follow the latest restaurant guidelines
  • Gift shops: Must follow the latest retail guidelines
  • Performer hair and makeup: Must follow the latest close contact business guidance
  • Dancing and dance areas: Must remain closed until Phase 4. Only performers are allowed to dance for their performances
  • Drive-In Performances must follow the Drive-In Theaters Standards including remaining in the vehicles during the performance

☐ Intermissions should be avoided in order to limit time of performance and to prevent congregating and close contact with others

☐ Reconfigure lobbies to discourage congregation of customers before, during, or after shows

CLEANING & DISINFECTING
Incorporate robust hygiene protocols

☐ Conduct frequent cleaning and disinfection of site (at least daily and more frequently if feasible)

☐ Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning

☐ Conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, bathrooms, seats, ticket counters, staff break rooms)

☐ In event of a positive case, follow current CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting areas when someone has a COVID-19 diagnosis.

☐ Open windows and doors to increase air flow where possible

☐ Disinfect seating areas and any other mutually-touched objects immediately after each use. At no point should customers come in contact with objects that others have touched without first being disinfected according to CDC guidelines

Additional details on Sector-Specific Protocols can be found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts