COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Indoor Movie Theaters

What considerations should be made regarding capacity in theaters?

- Limit the number of attendees of each theater (auditorium) to 25% capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower.

What considerations should be made to encourage physical distancing among customers and staff?

- Implementation of a reservation system to limit the number of attendees entering the theater at the same time whenever possible. Designation of arrival times as a part of the reservation process if possible, encouraging customers to arrive in staggered groups.
- Establish directional entry and exit into theaters where possible. If separate entrances are not possible, consider designated doors at the same entrance.
- Reconfigure, close, or otherwise remove seats from use to ensure physical distancing at least six feet between attendees that do not live in the same household. This may require seating every other row or blocking off or removing seats in a “checkerboard” style (use each row, but make sure no one is directly beside, in front of, or behind other patrons) so that distance is maintained in all directions. Members of the same households may be seated together but must maintain at least six feet of distance from other households.
- If possible, dedicate staff to help people maintain distances before and after screenings, i.e., ushering to seats, dismissing seating by rows to reduce congregation or crossflow of traffic in high traffic areas.
- Limiting the number of people in the restroom at one time to allow for physical distancing

What considerations should be made to reduce or eliminate “High-Touch Surfaces”?

- Discontinued use of public drinking water fountains, and signage indicating that they are inoperable until further notice.
- Propping or holding open of doors during peak periods when attendees are entering or exiting facilities, if possible, and in accordance with security and safety protocols.
- Consideration of disposable or washable seat covers in theaters, particularly on porous surfaces that are difficult to properly clean. Discard and replace seat covers between use.

What Personal Protective Equipment should be used?

- Face coverings to be worn by patrons when not eating or drinking, especially in instances where physical distancing is difficult to maintain. At a minimum, face coverings should be worn when entering or exiting theaters or when obtaining refreshments at concession stands.
- Gloves should be worn and routinely changed by staff handling concessions, or interacting with High-Touch Surfaces including accepting payment, holding doors, handling concessions, performing custodial tasks, etc.

State-Provided Industry Guidelines for Family Entertainment Centers and Indoor Movie Theaters can be found [here](#).