

As of June 30th, this document is no longer in force. It may be used as guidance.

Movie Theaters COVID-19 Requirements

Summary of March 19, 2021 changes:

- New Phase 3 requirements detailed.

Summary of February 1, 2021 changes:

- New Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements detailed.
- Safety and health requirements updated at end of the document.

Movie theaters are permitted to operate, provided all requirements in this document are met. For purposes of this guidance, movie theaters include both corporate and independently owned theaters or any venue that screens movies with an audience. Each movie theater 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.

Movie theaters 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).

Phase 1

Private rentals for individual households of no more than 6 people permitted. General admission prohibited.

Phase 2

Movie theaters in Phase 2 can operate at 25% capacity (per fire marshal code) or 200 people, whichever is fewer, if six feet of physical distancing between households can be maintained.

Phase 3

Movie theaters in Phase 3 can operate at 50% capacity (per fire marshal code) or 400 people, whichever is fewer, if six feet of physical distancing between parties can be maintained. Parties of no more than 10 people are permitted to sit next to one another. There is no household restriction.

General Requirements

1. Pursuant to the [Secretary of Health's Order 20-03](#), face coverings must always be worn. However, face coverings may be removed for the limited purpose and limited time period necessary to consume food and beverages, which can only be done while seated in the theater.
2. Ticket lines should be configured to ensure appropriate physical distancing is maintained at all times. Options include visible markers, barriers, tape, etc.
3. Tickets sales should be available online or via phone whenever feasible to reduce the need to stand in line for tickets.
4. Configure ticket sales systems to facilitate appropriate physical distancing.

5. Lines to enter a theatre should be minimized whenever possible. If lines are unavoidable, six feet physical distancing must be maintained.
6. Adequate numbers of employees should be available to direct patron traffic and enforce physical distancing in lines.
7. Limit and stagger screening times to reduce overcrowding between screenings, particularly in common areas, restrooms, and concession areas.
8. Close any on- site lounges, play areas, or other areas where people may congregate.
9. To the extent possible, reconfigure restrooms, for example by blocking stalls or urinals, to ensure appropriate physical distancing can be maintained at all times. As patrons may need to line up to enter restrooms, use visual indicators such as tape to identify appropriate physical distancing.
10. Use of employee breakrooms should be limited. As face coverings cannot be worn during eating/drinking, limit the number of employees in a breakroom at any one time to ensure distancing can be maintained. Clean countertops and tables between uses.
11. Any retail food service at theaters must follow the guidance for [eating and drinking establishments](#).
12. Provide sufficient hand sanitizing stations for customers.
13. Ensure each theater is properly cleaned/sanitized between uses.
14. 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.