

Public Health Order 2020-21 FAQ

When does this order take effect?

This order is effective beginning at noon on March 24, 2021.

When will this order expire?

This order will expire at 11:59 a.m. on April 14, 2021, unless otherwise extended, rescinded or modified.

How is this order different from the previous order?

Below are the modifications to the Order.

- Occupancy limits for large gatherings or events held at business have been removed. Social distancing and masking are still required. (The previous order stated 50% or a maximum of 200 people.)
- Occupancy limits for entertainment venues have been removed. Social distancing and masking are still required. (The previous order stated a maximum of 200 people.)
- The limit on group size at bars, restaurants and entertainment venues has been removed. Social distancing between groups or tables is still required. Masks are still required when not seated. (The previous order stated no more than 10 persons per table.)
- At child entertainment facilities and arcades, capacity limits were removed but limiting occupancy is encouraged. (The previous order stated a maximum of 100 children with the total capacity limited to 200 individuals.)
- Childcare, day camps, and other similar providers may operate and are encouraged to limit the number of participants in any single group to a maximum of 50 children. Additional guidelines are still required. (Previously, the maximum of 50 was required.)
- Social distancing at pools should be maintained. (The previous order included language about occupancy limits for pools not monitored by an attendant.)
- Organizers of sports and activities are encouraged to conduct activities in stable groups. Social distancing requirements and face mask requirements must be met for all spectators but limits for the number of spectators have been removed. (The previous order stated stable groups of 50 participants was required and spectators were limited to 50% occupancy or 100 maximum for indoor events and 200 maximum for outdoor events.)
- Public gatherings of more than 250 people need to submit an Operational Plan for approval but social distancing and face masks are still required. (Previously, gatherings were limited to 50 people.)
- All employees who are unable to be vaccinated and are able to work from home should continue to work from home to the greatest extent possible. (The previous order stated that all employees who are able to work from home should continue doing so.)

What restrictions do bars and restaurants have?

All such venues are permitted to operate with no occupancy limitations; provided, however, that social distancing between groups or tables is maintained. The limit on group size at bars, restaurants and entertainment venues has been removed. (The previous order stated no more than 10 persons per table.)

Any patron ordering at the bar, visiting the buffet or otherwise moving about the premises is required to wear a face mask at all times. In order for a facility to have bar seating, there must be an approved Operational Plan on file. The link to the bar seating form can be found here: <https://formfaca.de/sm/k9MEZIP1k>.

What are the restrictions at entertainment venues?

Occupancy limits for entertainment venues have been removed. Social distancing is still required. In addition, they must meet the following requirements:

- Dance floors at entertainment venues shall be closed for dancing. Owners may repurpose the dance floor for table seating or other authorized uses if approved by PHHS in an Operational Plan.
- All food and beverage at an entertainment venue must be consumed while seated.
- Any person at an entertainment venue who is not seated must comply with face mask requirements.

What are the restrictions for gatherings?

Occupancy limits for large gatherings or events held at business have been removed. Social distancing is still required. (The previous order stated 50% or a maximum of 200 people.)

Public gatherings of more than 250 people need to submit an Operational Plan for approval but social distancing and face masks are still required. (Previously, gatherings were limited to 50 people.)

What defines a gathering?

A gathering is a group of people from different households coming together for a specific purpose. Under this Order, any gathering that is held outside of a place of business (i.e. in a private residence, in a park, in an unstaffed event space, etc.) is subject to the gathering limitations as specified in Section 1.14 of the Order.

As an example, if you would like to host an event at a local park and you plan on inviting more than 250 individuals, you will need to submit an Operational Plan for approval by PHHS. However, no plan would need to be submitted if you were to have 250 or less total people attend the event, or if you planned to host the gathering in a staffed event space.

Regardless of where the gathering is held or how many people are in attendance, social distancing and masking requirements must be maintained at all times.

What are large gatherings?

According to the CDC, examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings and other types of assemblies.

What if I have an event planned that is over 250 individuals?

If an event is planned that is **not** held within a place of business or institution open to the public, then the number of attendees is limited to 250 individuals. Some examples would include neighborhood block parties, fundraising events, or other social gatherings that are not held on event center property or place of business that typically holds social events.

Public gatherings of more than 250 people need to submit an Operational Plan for approval but social distancing and face masks are still required.

What is an Operational Plan?

An Operational Plan describes the nature of the activity and outlines how the entity will meet social distancing requirements, disinfect high touch areas, collect information for contact tracing purposes, and otherwise take steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Operational Plans can be submitted to PHHS on this online form: <https://forms.gle/PxGzJzTizR2vtWui7>

Operational Plans must meet the goals of the Health Order to limit the spread of COVID-19 and must be submitted 14 days before any special event or activity.

Approval of a plan does not guarantee that the plan will not be suspended, revoked or required to be modified by the applicant if deemed necessary.

What is the process for approving an Operational Plan?

All Operational Plans are submitted to PHHS. A team of public health professionals review all plans and provide feedback/ask for clarification on any areas that need more specific information. All plans are reviewed to ensure that all health and safety requirements will be met. Approval of a plan does not guarantee that the plan will not be suspended, revoked or required to be modified by the applicant if deemed necessary.

What if I had already submitted or gotten approval for an Operational Plan?

All plans that have been approved by PHHS are still valid and will not require re-evaluation. All plans that have been submitted but not yet reviewed will be subject to the updated Public Health Order.

What are the limitations for sporting events?

Organizers of sports and activities are encouraged to conduct activities in stable groups. Social distancing requirements and face mask requirements must be met for all spectators but limits for the number of spectators have been removed. (The previous order stated stable groups of 50 participants was required and spectators were limited to 50% occupancy or 100 maximum for indoor events and 200 maximum for outdoor events.)

What are the protocols for personal care services?

Personal Care services are limited to social distancing occupancy and must follow face mask requirements except when necessary to provide services for which social distancing or a face mask are not possible.

What if a business is not doing what they should to keep employees and customers safe?

To report noncompliance with the Health Order, call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email City@CoMo.gov.

Why are businesses being encouraged to further reduce their occupancy?

We are imploring every sector of our community to do all they can to help lower transmission rates in Boone County. All business establishments are strongly encouraged to operate at a capacity less than otherwise permitted to allow for more social distancing within the establishment. Businesses are also encouraged to provide services remotely or in a manner maximizing social distancing such as curbside, pickup, delivery, etc.

How will this order be enforced?

Enforcement will be based on findings of routine inspections and following up on complaints. Failure to comply with this order is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.

Additionally, bars, restaurants and other food establishments that do not comply with the Orders are considered to be in violation of the food code and may require the establishment to discontinue operations and remain closed until an Operational Plan is submitted and approved by PHHS as stated in section 1.20.

It is recommended that any person who has been convicted of a violation of the mask mandate portion of this Order be sentenced to pay a fine which does not exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for an individual and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a business or nonprofit entity of any kind, with each violation being a separate offense.

If I'm currently working from home, should I continue doing so?

All employees who are unable to be vaccinated and are able to work from home should continue to work from home to the greatest extent possible. (The previous order stated that all employees who are able to work from home should continue doing so.)

I have a question that isn't covered by this FAQ. How can I get an answer?

We encourage everyone to review the Order in its entirety. If that does not resolve your question, please email Coronavirus@CoMo.gov for general questions. If you are a business with questions about operating requirements, please email BusinessGuidance@CoMo.gov.