

Douglas County requests a variance from the following restrictions in the Fifth Amended Public Health Order 20-28.

**Application for Variance  
Douglas County Variance for Theaters**

Name of County  
Douglas County

June 2, 2020

1. List the sections of Executive Order D 2020 044 or 2020 082 and/or Fifth Amended Public Health Order 20-28 that a variance is being sought for.

Pending

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## Theaters

- Any matter not addressed herein remains subject to Public Health Order 20-28, as amended
- Theaters will be limited to 50% of the posted occupancy code limit ensuring a minimum of 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 175 people at any given time.
- Each group of patrons must be seated together and at least 6 feet from other groups. No groups larger than 6 may be seated together.
- Seats, armrests, handrails, doors, doorknobs, and door handles in each theater must be thoroughly sanitized before and after each showing.
- Tape on floors, signage or stanchions must be used at ticket counters and concession stands to enforce proper social distancing for patrons who are waiting in line.
- Restrooms must be cleaned and disinfected regularly, and frequently contacted surfaces must be cleaned no less than once an hour.
- Use of event or party rooms should follow guidance for event venues in PHO 20-28, as amended or any approved County-variances thereto.
- Play areas, arcade rooms, or other group areas other than the theater rooms must remain closed.
- Require face coverings in the business by both employees and customers.
  - Customers may remove their masks when seated and six feet away from other groups but must reapply their mask when moving about. Provide face coverings to employees and consider providing them for guests those who may need them.
- Live performers do not need to wear a cloth mask if 6 feet of distance is maintained between all other performers and patrons.
- Monitor all employees for COVID-19 symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, and/or difficulty breathing
  - Prohibit any sick employees, vendors, suppliers, and/or contract workers from entering the building.
  - Symptomatic employees must be removed from the workplace.
- Stagger shifts if feasible to decrease employee numbers at the theater.
- Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces every hour and maintain a public cleaning log.
- Do not allow patrons to linger in any lobby or concession area before an event or during intermissions.
- Post signage for customers and employees on good hygiene, mask wearing and safety measures in place
- Post signs at all entrances informing customers that they may not enter if exhibiting any symptoms
- Provide flexible scheduling and leave policies that encourage employees to remain home when sick
- Provide flexible ticket policies that encourage guests to stay home when sick
- Provide hand sanitizer at all entrances, including individual theater entrances and encourage their use
- Consider creating special hours for more vulnerable customers and discourage vulnerable people from attending the theater outside of those hours
- Install shields and barriers where possible to keep employees and customers six feet apart
- Modify flow of people traffic to minimize contacts (one-way doors and isles)
- Implement touch-free options wherever possible
  - Prop doors where safe to do so
  - Contactless payment options

- Implement remote ticketing options whenever possible to lessen the number of touch points and help manage capacity limits
- If serving food, must follow guidelines for food establishments. All self-serve areas, including drinks and condiments, are prohibited.
- A robust communication plan must be in place to address steps to be taken by employees and customers to ensure that participants are aware of safety protocols.
- Consider increased spacing between showings to allow for more thorough cleaning
- Consider staggering show times to decrease the number of patrons coming and going at one time

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