



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

May 8, 2020

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

The Secretary of Health has issued this Directive in conjunction with Executive Order 20-25, which imposed limitations on businesses in the state of Arkansas to limit the spread of COVID-19. This directive to include the following steps that must be taken to protect the people of the State of Arkansas from COVID-19.

All businesses, manufacturers, and construction companies must implement the following protocols for diminishing the threat of COVID-19:

- a. Limit the number of people who can enter into the facility at any one time to ensure that people in the facility can easily maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another.
- b. At places where lines form at a facility (inside or outside), facilities should mark off six-foot increments at a minimum, establishing where individuals should stand to maintain a physical distance of six feet.
- c. Employees entering a facility should wear a face covering to diminish potential spread if they are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19, especially when maintaining a physical distance of six feet is not possible.
- d. Customers or members of the public entering a facility should be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering to reduce the potential for introducing COVID-19 into the facility.
- e. Employees should be screened for fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell as they are entering the building at the beginning work.
- f. Provide hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility and in other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees, and in locations where there is frequent employee interaction with members of the public.
- g. Retail businesses are encouraged to provide contactless payment systems or provide for the disinfection of all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use.

- h. Regularly disinfect any high-touch surfaces.
- i. Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if they have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, and if they have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days. An example can be found here: https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/COVID-19_No_Entry.pdf
- j. Signs must be posted at all building entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if they are 65 years of age or older or have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity. See above link for an example.
- k. Employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must be reported to the Arkansas Department of Health. Businesses should assist ADH staff in conducting contact tracing in their facilities, in order to prevent an outbreak from occurring.
- l. Consider maintaining a log with dates and time of persons entering a facility to facilitate contact tracing in the event an outbreak occurs.

Commercial lodgings and short-term rentals, including, but not limited to, hotels, motels, and vacation rentals, are no longer limited as to the type of guests they can house that were delineated in the directive of April 4, 2020.

Quarantine requirement for travelers to Arkansas and those returning to Arkansas:

A 14-day self-quarantine is required for travelers entering Arkansas who have visited an international location or an area of high community transmission in the United States in the previous 14 days. In the interest of the public health, all travelers who return from international travel or from one of the identified “hot-spot” locations in the United States listed [HERE](#), are required to quarantine for 14 days, starting from the date they departed that location. They are instructed to notify the Arkansas Department of Health of their entry or return to Arkansas by calling the ADH Coronavirus Hotline at 1-800-803-7847 or by emailing their contact information to ADH.Covid19.EPI2@arkansas.gov.

Arkansas State Parks have their own guidelines with updates found at <https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/covid-19-update>,

Stop the Spread of COVID-19



Do NOT enter if you:

- Have had fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days
- Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
- Have had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.

To protect vulnerable people from COVID-19, ADH discourages you from entering if you:

- Are aged 65 or older
- Have chronic health conditions like diabetes, heart disease, lung disease and others
- Have a compromised immune system



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Advisory for Travelers from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Orleans and All International Locations

ADH is now recommending Self Home Quarantine for 14 days for all travelers from the states of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, as well as those returning from New Orleans and all international locations. This is due to high rates of COVID-19 in those places as well as in a growing number of international locations. In the interest of the public health, all travelers who return from one of these locations are advised to quarantine at home for 14 days, starting from the date they left that location. If you develop fever, cough, or other symptom of COVID-19, you should contact your doctor for advice on where to be evaluated.

You can find details of home quarantine here: <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-guidance-for-self-home-quarantine>

Briefly, home quarantine includes these steps:

- Remain at home and avoid all public activities. This means **do not** go to work, church, school, stores (including grocery stores), nor any public events or places.
- **Do not** have visitors in your home.
- If you live in a home with other people, stay in a separate room. If that is not possible, wear a face mask when you are in the same room and stay at least 6 feet away from them.
- Wash your hands and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer often. Do not share personal items such as dishes, cups, forks, spoons, towels, etc.
- **Do not** leave your home except to get medical care. If you need to see a doctor for reasons other than a medical emergency, please call your medical provider to discuss the care you need.
- In the event of a medical emergency, call 911. Tell them that you are in self home quarantine for novel coronavirus exposure. Keep a face mask on until a health care provider asks you to remove it.
- **Do not** use any public transportation (buses, taxis, ride share services, or airplane).
- Check yourself for fever twice a day. This means taking your temperature in the morning and before bed at night. Write it down in a log or piece of paper.

For other COVID-19 questions, visit <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus> .



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Effective Date: May 18, 2020

Directive for Reopening of Casinos during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

On March 16, the Secretary of Health issued a civil directive to limit operations of Arkansas Casinos until April 30. As the public health crisis is evolving, the following is a directive on resumption of services in casinos in a phased approach. This approach is based on the best available scientific evidence and a consensus of experts at the Arkansas Department of Health.

As a requirement for reopening, a casino must have a detailed plan for how they will conduct their operations to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within their facility approved by the Secretary of Health. At a minimum, the plan must include the following considerations:

- Reopen at no more than 33 percent capacity for their facility.
- Track attendees for possible use in contact tracing should an outbreak occur.
- Screen staff and customers for possible illness or exposure to COVID-19 and exclude those persons who are ill or have been exposed.
- Maintain 6-foot physical distance between people.
- Manage lines or queues for entrance, exit, making purchases, or for other reasons for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Arrange seating to maintain a 6-foot distance.
- Provide for easy access for hand hygiene for staff and customers.
- Enforce a requirement for face coverings for all persons present.
- Maintain physical distancing during shows or live performances.
- Address how food will be served in compliance with the May 11, 2020 ADH Directive on Resuming Restaurant Dine-in Operations.
- Clean and disinfect the facility to minimize possible spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Specify how an employee testing positive for COVID-19 will be reported to the Arkansas Department of Health and assistance provided for contact tracing.



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Effective Date: May 22, 2020

Directive for Recreational Pool Reopening Proposal

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

All types of recreational pools, including seasonal outdoor pools for state parks, hotels, motels, apartments, subdivision/POAs., indoor pools, municipal and community pools, splash pads, aquatic centers, commercial water parks, as well as swim beaches, can open to their patrons on May 22, 2020, if they meet the following requirements. Facilities can begin today to contact their local health units to facilitate opening.

The following measures are required:

- The number of people allowed in the facility is restricted to up to 50 percent of the approved bather load or capacity.
- Restrict pool access to fewer entrances as needed to control access and overcrowding.
- Maintain a log of persons entering the facility when possible for use in contact tracing should an outbreak occur.
- Screen employees for fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat or loss of taste or smell upon arrival for each shift, and exclude them from work if they are ill.
- Place signage regarding the COVID19 symptoms and exclusions at all entrances. These signs should inform patrons and staff that those who have any of the following characteristics should NOT be allowed to enter:
 - Have had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days;
 - Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell;
 - Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days
- Place signage at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet should be maintained between people in all pool areas. However, family members may sit and enter the pool together.
- Physical distancing must be enforced at slides, diving boards, and other features that require waiting in line. Place markings on surface to maintain a 6-foot distance and monitor for compliance.

- The pool's responsible party is required to maintain the safety of bathers by enforcing physical distancing of 6 feet.
- Tables, chairs, water fountains and other high touch surfaces should be disinfected frequently.
- Adjust poolside tables or chairs out so that seats are minimum of 6 feet from seats at adjacent tables. Household groups may sit closer together than 6 feet at tables.
- Maintain pool chemistry at the required levels. Test and document pH, free chlorine before opening and mid-afternoon to ensure proper residuals.
- Snack bars are permitted, but no self-service condiments or similar items are allowed.

Pools and other water related facilities which require lifeguards can begin immediately to open for lifeguard training purposes only, once approved by the health department.

This directive does not cover social events held at poolside. Such events are covered under the directives for large indoor or outdoor venues.

Sample sign which could be posted at entry and other locations:

[https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/COVID-19 No Entry.pdf](https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/COVID-19%20No%20Entry.pdf)

Stop the Spread of COVID-19



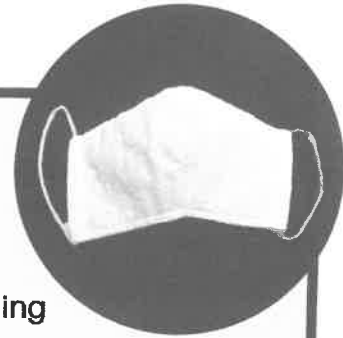
Everyone should wear a face covering, or mask, in public.

If life returns to normal, why should we wear a face covering?

Face coverings—cloth masks you can easily make at home—help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

When we begin getting back to more normal social interactions, we risk spreading the virus all over again. Some people may still have the virus without showing symptoms. So, phasing in normal life will require MORE diligence in personal preventive measures, not less. When current restrictions on where we go and how we gather are loosened, we must double down on preventive practices. No one wants businesses to reopen only to have infections surge and cause a second round of closures.

It may seem like an unnecessary burden, but many people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and can spread the virus without knowing it. If everyone who can wear a face covering commits to wearing it, our return to normal life will move faster and be more successful.



How should we wear a face covering?

A face covering should fully cover your mouth and nose but also allow you to breathe freely. Children under two years old and those with breathing problems should not wear a face covering. Individuals who are incapacitated or unable to remove their face covering on their own should not wear one.

Simple homemade cloth face coverings work to help prevent spread of the virus, so no special medical supplies are needed. The CDC has instructions for making a face covering from an old T-shirt or a bandana and rubber bands—no sewing required. Regular surgical masks can work too but using a cloth face covering instead allows you to save needed medical supplies for health care workers. The general public should not use N-95 respirator masks. Those are critical for healthcare workers and in very short supply.

When should we wear a face covering?

Wear a face covering when you're out in public, especially when maintaining adequate social distancing is more challenging, such as at the grocery store.

Protect your community. Protect yourself. Wear your face covering.

