REOPEN Connecticut®

SAFER. STRONGER. TOGETHER.

Governor Ned Lamont

Sector Rules for Reopening

February 26, 2021

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

GOAL
Proactively protect public health and speed up the pace of economic, educational, and community recovery while restoring Connecticut's quality of life.

1 SAFETY FIRST

We will reopen society safely and securely with a proactive program that safeguards the health of our vulnerable residents, continues physical distancing, and provides clear safeguard rules for businesses and institutions deemed safe to reopen.

2 SCIENCE-DRIVEN

Our strategy will rely on a scientifically validated set of public health interventions. Patient assessment, testing, proactive tracing, field studies, and public health guidance will be deployed simultaneously to contain infection.

3 PREPARED

We will work closely with hospitals and health systems to procure and distribute critical personal protective equipment, and assess capacity of beds and ventilators to ensure optimal standard of care.

4 CHOICE

Individual businesses within sectors allowed to open are empowered to make their own choice on when they reopen. When they open, they must comply with rules we lay out to safeguard their employees and customers.

5 DYNAMIC

We include a suite of tools to inform an adaptive plan that can be nimbly scaled or rolled back rapidly based on real-time critical health metrics.

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

HOW WE WILL OPEN OUR ECONOMY SAFELY

Our plan to open the economy will address two factors:

WHAT businesses can open and when.
HOW businesses must operate **if they choose to open.**

WHAT:

- We know that some businesses put employees and customers at greater risk of transmission.
- We will prioritize opening businesses that pose a lower transmission risk and drive outsized impact on the economy.
- Transmission risk is defined as contact intensity and modification potential of businesses.
  - Contact intensity considers contact proximity, contact length, and number of contacts.
  - Modification potential considers the businesses' ability to socially distance and sanitize in accordance with regulations.
- We will assess the impact on state economic health with a focus on number of employed individuals, total GDP impacted, and impact on small businesses that make up the backbone of our economy.

HOW:

- We will provide clear operational guidance to businesses on how to reopen while ensuring the safety of both employees and customers.
- Guidance will include social distancing and hygiene, as well as the use of personal protection – for business operators, workers, and customers.
- The goal is to not only open safely, but create confidence in our society across employers, employees, and customers.
- The level of guidance will gradually become less restrictive over time, as our confidence in the ability to monitor and contain the disease increases.

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

WHAT: SECTOR REOPENING OVER TIME

The state will open its economy with a gradual approach.
The first set of businesses started reopening when we saw a sustained 14-day decline in hospitalizations, had adequate testing capacity, had a contact tracing system in place, and had procured sufficient PPE. The timing for that reopen was May 20th.

ALWAYS OPEN	Manufacturing Construction Real estate	Utilities Essential retail Child care	Hospitals
MAY 20TH	Restaurants (outdoor only, no bar areas) Outdoor recreation (limited capacity)	Remaining retail Offices (continue WFH where possible)	Museums, Zoos (outdoor only) University research
JUNE 1ST	Hair salons, Barbershops		
JUNE 17TH	Restaurants (outdoor, indoor, no bar areas) Hotels/Lodging All personal services Indoor recreation	Sports, Sports clubs & complexes, Gyms, Fitness centers, Pools Outdoor arts, Entertainment, Events (limited capacity)	Amusement parks Libraries Museums, Zoos, Aquariums Social clubs
JULY 20TH	Indoor events	Outdoor events	
SEPTEMBER 1ST	Senior Centers		
OCTOBER 8TH	Indoor Performing Arts Venues		

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

HOW: SAFEGUARDS

As we continue to reopen businesses, we will open at our strictest controls on business operations and societal interaction. This will include, among other measures:

- Capacity limit of 50% for most businesses that reopen.
- Strict cleaning and disinfection protocols in all settings.
- Those who can work from home should continue to do so.
- Those in high-risk groups (comorbidities) and over the age of 65 should continue to stay safe and stay home.
- Facemasks should continue to be worn in public at all times.
- Social gatherings will be restricted in accordance to the Governor's executive order.

As we see progress on a defined set of public health metrics (detail to follow), we will gradually loosen safeguards. This will allow for the next set of businesses to open and potentially for businesses already open to operate with additional leeway. We expect this will occur over the coming months.

As always, we will make decisions based on data and science. Our plan intentionally allows for sufficient time for learning, adoption of behaviors, and ultimately the achievement of improved health metrics that create the necessary environment for new business operations. If public health metrics deteriorate, the State may choose to revert back to stricter safeguards.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

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OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

OVERVIEW

In Phase 2.1, the state wants to continue to enable its citizens to enjoy quality times outdoors. Such activities must be undertaken only after prioritizing the health and safety of attendees and employees. It is the cumulative effects gained from social distancing, hand washing and mask-wearing that will prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please keep that in mind as you plan and execute your event.

While these rules provide a way for Outdoor Events to reopen in as safe a manner as possible, risks to customers and employees cannot be fully mitigated. Customers who choose to partake in Outdoor Events during this time should be fully aware of potential risks. Individuals over the age of 65 or with other health conditions should not visit Outdoor Event venues, but instead continue to stay home and stay safe.

Large gatherings and community events bring people from multiple communities into close contact with each other and have the potential to increase COVID-19 transmission. The goals of this guidance are to protect people attending and working at the event and the local community from COVID-19 infection.

Note that event organizers still need to obtain any permits or licenses and adhere to municipal or state guidelines that would otherwise be required in addition to complying with these rules.

BUSINESS HOURS

Pursuant to EO 9K, businesses may be subject to mandatory closing times which may be updated from time to time. All currently effective closing time mandates will be posted at the DECD Sector Rules page at:
https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-and-Certification-for-Reopen

OUTDOOR EVENT SCOPE

Individuals gathering for a defined purpose, by advertisement and/or private invitation, taking place on a specific date, and within a specific range of times (e.g. starting at 10am and ending at 1pm).

REOPEN RULES FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS

Except as otherwise prohibited, outdoor gatherings are permitted provided that any such large outdoor public gatherings shall comply with these rules and all other and applicable executive orders governing conduct in public places. The maximum permitted outdoor private event gathering size at a commercial venue will be 50 people. Effective March 19, 2021, outdoor private events (e.g. receptions, anniversaries, parties, etc) at commercial venues will be allowed a maximum of 200 people, excluding staff. For other capacity limits, please refer to the table on DECD's Sector Rules webpage.

FURTHER RESOURCES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html

EVENT SAFETY ALLIANCE

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aec979d3e2d09db8bcad475/t/5eb86f694a67d30048528163/1589145456606/2020-05-11+Event+Safety+Alliance+Reopening+Guide.pdf

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/key-planning-recommendations-for-mass-gatherings-in-the-context-of-the-current-covid-19-outbreak

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

PLAN FOR REOPENING
Share these rules with your employees and inform them of any additional specific measures being taken in response to COVID-19.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
Appoint a program administrator who is accountable for implementing these rules.

CLEANING PLAN
Develop cleaning checklists that incorporate these rules. Ensure it is clear which employees are responsible for implementing the plans.

TRAINING
Institute a training program and ensure employee participation in the program prior to reopen. Training shall include:

- Rules contained in this document
- Protocols on how to clean and use cleaning products (incl. disinfectants) safely
- Additional guidance can be found here:
  https://osha.washington.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FactSheet_Cleaning_Final_UWDEOHS_0.pdf

NOTE: If any on-site duties are subcontracted, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure subcontractors are also appropriately trained.

The training shall be provided at no cost to the employee and during working hours. The training materials shall be presented in the language and at the literacy level of the employees. Employers shall continuously update staff on changes to these Sector Rules.

PERSONAL PROTECTION
Estimate required personal protection for employees and begin procuring.

LOG EMPLOYEES
Maintain a log of employees on-premise over time, to support contact tracing.

THOROUGH CLEANING
Complete a thorough cleaning of facility prior to reopening, including but not limited to restroom, seating areas, and commonly touched surfaces.

SHIFTS
Stagger shift start/stop times and break times to minimize contact across employees.

- Consider cohorting staff within each shift (e.g. keeping the same shift schedules and avoiding mixing staff across shifts)

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

CAPACITY TRACKING

Employers are responsible for enforcing revised capacity limits.

CERTIFICATION

Complete the self-certification on the DECD website to receive a Reopen CT badge. Once complete, businesses can choose to post the badge on-site and on social media to advertise adherence to CT rules and build customer confidence.

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OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

SIGNAGE
Post clear signage that reinforces new policies, e.g.:

- Maximum occupancy of each exhibit area/room
- Social distancing protocols (including walkways into park)
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols
- Personal protection protocols (face masks, gloves) for customers and employees
- Employees shall stay home if sick/experiencing symptoms
- Customers shall not enter if they are experiencing symptoms
- Additional signage can be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/COVID-19-Signage-for-Download

ENTRY & EXIT
Consider an exit from the facility separate from the entrance to allow for one-way foot traffic.

SEATING/TABLE ARRANGEMENT
Rearrange space to maintain at least 6 ft of empty space between customer groups.

ISOLATION PLAN
Develop a detailed plan in case any attendee becomes ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the event. The plan should include a designated isolation area and align to local municipality COVID-19 health protocols.

TICKET AREAS & FRONT GATE
Require online ticket purchase to the greatest extent possible. Place markers on the ground to encourage those purchasing tickets to social distance.

- Install physical barriers for ticket counters

SEATING LOCATIONS
As guests enter and if appropriate for the event, provide touchless table/seating locations.

SOCIAL DISTANCING
Attendees shall remain 6 ft apart, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, and household members except when eating.

LOG EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, OR OFFICIALS
Maintain a log of employees, volunteers, or officials working at the event to support contact tracing.

VIRTUAL QUEUING
Consider ways to schedule staggered ingress in order to minimize lines.

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

TENTS

- Events in tents are allowed to place two sides up, comprising 50% or more of their total wall space, at all times. If inclement weather occurs, a total of three flaps can be down. Once inclement weather passes, flaps must be lifted immediately. Space heaters must adhere to appropriate local permits and/or inspections.
- Fully enclosed tents or tents with over 50% of their total wall space down will be treated as an indoor event and must conform to state and local building codes.

GIFT SHOPS/RETAIL

Follow Sector Rules for Retail and Malls.

EXHIBITOR/RETAIL/FOOD BOOTHS

Ensure there is enough space between each to minimize crowding. Place markings on the ground to encourage 6 ft of social distancing while waiting in line. Lines should not extend into general walking areas.

POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION PREPARATIONS

- Create an emergency contingency plan for how to modify, cancel, or postpone the event if necessary (e.g. remote participation through live stream)
- Consider flexible refund policies for participants to discourage people who are sick from attending events

STAGE LAYOUT

Consider designing the stage to maximize social distancing for all necessary staff, speakers, entertainers, and guests that may occupy the stage at any given time.

RESTAURANTS/CONCESSION STANDS/FOOD BOOTHS

Follow Sector Rules for Restaurants.

RIDES/ATTRACTIONS

Follow Sector Rules for Amusement Parks.

SPORTS

Sports activities shall adhere to sector Rules for Youth Sports, Gyms and Fitness, etc. depending on relevance.

- Professional sporting event organizers should contact DECD for approval of event plans and protocols

AUDIO VISUAL

High-touch surfaces (e.g. speaker podiums, microphones, microphone stands, handrails, etc.) shall be frequently disinfected throughout the event.

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

PRESENTATIONS/PERFORMANCES

Ensure adequate time in-between presentations/performances to accommodate cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces.

- Proper etiquette for entrance, egress, and interaction with any necessary equipment or staff on stage shall be communicated prior to the event beginning

PERFORMERS/TALENT

Performers/talent are exempt from wearing a mask when they are performing and are at least 12 ft away from the general public.

- Commonly shared items (e.g. microphones) will be cleaned and disinfected frequently
- When giving a speech, speaker must be 12 ft away from general public

AUDIENCE AREAS

Allow for 6 ft of social distancing within the audience areas between groups.

- Recommend eliminating the first few rows of seating to ensure performers are 12 ft away from audience at all times

COMMON AREAS

Avoid crowding in common areas, e.g. lobbies, by opening doors to seating areas earlier. Encourage staggered arrival times and immediate seating where practical.

SELF-SERVICE

All self-serve stations are not allowed.

REHEARSALS

Organizations that have the flexibility to rehearse and perform in outdoor spaces will be encouraged to do so, following all appropriate guidance.

SINGLE USE ITEMS

Single use items such as pads and pens are allowed. Blotters, mints, etc. must be eliminated.

BUFFETS (ONLY ALLOWED DURING EVENTS)

- Employee-staffed buffets are allowed, provided only staff are touching utensils and serving attendees. Employees serving and attendees going through the buffet must wear face coverings. Only one table should be called up at a time

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

BAR SEATING

- Bar service allowed ONLY DURING PRIVATE EVENTS:
  - Walk-up bar service is allowed, provided patrons follow proper social distancing guidelines and do not congregate at bar

CROWD CONTROL

Staff shall assist with crowd control by reminding spectators/customers to maintain social distancing while seated in stands, walking, or in common areas.

- Spectator/customer compliance with social distancing should be encouraged through periodic announcements or audio recordings
- Strategies should be developed that will avoid large crowds at exits and entrances

ONE-WAY FLOW

Post floor/ground markings to direct visitors in a one-way flow where possible.

SHARED EQUIPMENT

Ensure employees do not share equipment to the extent possible; if shared, clean after each use.

HOTLINE FOR VIOLATIONS

Post clear signage that includes the state hotline (211) for employees and customers to report potential violations of these rules.

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

DANCING/DANCE FLOORS

While dancing at major life events is allowed, coming into close contact with others does pose a health risk. Dancing within 6 ft of another individual is strongly discouraged with the exception of family members, dates and individuals from the same household. For events that have dancing, it is strongly recommended to provide a guest list with phone numbers to local public health upon request for contact tracing purposes.

CREATIVE PARTNERS

Staggered load-in and load-out times for every Creative Partner. A specific timeline for each event will be discussed and provided prior to the event.

- Venues to provide dedicated storage space for vendor personal belongings
- Creative Partner meals to follow proper protocol

PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHERS

Ensure to maintain 6 ft of social distancing throughout the event.

OFF-PREMISE CATERERS

Venue load-in to be conducted by pre-designated receiving staff and the exterior of each item (proofing cabinets, coolers, containers, etc.) shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected upon entry to the facility as long as this would not compromise the food.

EVENT RENTALS

All rentals shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to delivery at the venue.

- Delivered items will be wrapped if indicated, and properly handled off-loading

ADDITIONAL PROCESS ADAPTATIONS FOR PRESENTING VENUES

- Prior to arrival, local staff shall inform tour personnel of local policies and protocols to protect the health and safety of venue staff and guests. Standard screening questions shall be asked to ensure tours coming into the local venue are healthy and have adopted health protocols that conform to local ones.
- In backstage areas, post clear signage to promote distance and hygiene protocols.
- Touring personnel (artists and support crew) shall limit interactions with local staff and patrons. Appropriate social distancing and use of PPE shall be observed.
- Meet and Greet of touring artists to the patrons shall be prohibited unless 6 ft social distancing can be maintained.
- Touring personnel shall be restricted to the backstage and onstage area to the extent possible. Contact with patrons shall be minimized with appropriate PPE worn when social distancing cannot be maintained.

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

ADDITIONAL PROCESS ADAPTATIONS FOR PRODUCING ORGANIZATIONS

- Auditions and rehearsals should be kept to a minimum and held with only necessary staff and artists. Social distancing will be maintained and, where practical, cloth face masks shall be worn. Acrylic shields should be installed where appropriate for musicians who, due to the nature of their instruments, cannot wear face coverings when playing. Staggered scheduling is encouraged, as well as use of videoconferencing.
- All staging, including choreography, stage combat and personal contact, should only be conducted by screened staff and independent contractors. Special consideration and extra precautions should be taken for performances involving close or intimate contact between performers and creative teams, including testing, stricter isolation, or other preventative measures.

ROAD RACE CAPACITY

All Road Races are prohibited, effective November 23, 2020, until March 1, 2021, subject to COVID-19 metrics.

After March 1, road race organizers must adhere to the guidance below.

Races can have up to 50 people socially distanced at the starting line. Additional racers shall be located in designated staging areas in groups of up to 50 people socially distanced. Total amount of racers allowed is 500.

COURSE-SPECIFIC

Runners/walkers tend to crowd to the inside of turns. Design courses with fewer turns in the first few miles for better social distancing where possible. Loop courses are generally preferable to an out and back course.

SWAG & BIB DISTRIBUTION

Items should be distributed prior to the event. Extend your pickup over several days to limit crowding.

- Consider having registrants sign up for a specific timeslot for pickup to further spread out the risk.

SIGNAGE

Increase the use of signage throughout the race to encourage social distancing.

SAME DAY REGISTRATION

Same day registration is not allowed.

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

ROLLING START

Mass starts are not allowed. Using rolling start allows participants to show up and start at any point within a certain time period.

- Participants should be encouraged to start slowly and not pass other participants until the crowd thins later in the race/walk course.
- Faster participants should start early in the rolling start process so they pass fewer participants.

STARTING LINE

Ensure participants are spaced at least 6 ft away from others at starting line by signage/markings on the ground. Throughout the race, it is encouraged that runners stay at least 12 ft away from others.

CROWD CONTROL

Staff/Volunteers should assist with crowd control by reminding spectators to maintain social distancing when queuing at the gate or other common areas. Spectator compliance with social distancing should be encouraged through periodic announcements or audio recordings.

- Individuals shall not congregate in common areas or parking lots following an event. Strategies should be developed that will avoid large crowds at exits, such as dismissing crowds by section.

FINISH LINE

Use barriers to widen the finish area into a large space, with volunteers to encourage participants to keep moving to claim their incentives.

- Setup multiple stations for the pickup of medals, water bottles, and any provided food to limit the gathering of people around one station.
- Keep announcer removed from the immediate finish-area and have announcer encourage participants to leave the finish line area as they finish.

RESULTS

Results should only be posted online after event.

- Prizes/trophies should be mailed or picked up at a designated location after the race.

AWARDS CEREMONY

No formal awards ceremony will be held.

WATER/BEVERAGE STATIONS

Encourage participants to bring and carry their own water via bottle, hydration belt, or hydration pack.

- If you do have water on-course it shall be single use plastic bottles
- Garbage cans shall be placed. throughout the race to dispose of single use plastic bottles and individuals emptying those garbage cans shall wear gloves.

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES

- All employees are required to wear a facemask or other cloth face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth, unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to medical conditions.
- Employees may utilize their own cloth face covering over that provided by their employer if they choose.
- Gloves and eye protection are required when using cleaning chemicals.

EMPLOYERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING PERSONAL PROTECTION TO THEIR EMPLOYEES

- If businesses do not have adequate personal protection, they cannot open.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

- For essential businesses, a mask does not need to be worn if an individual has a medical condition preventing them from doing so.
- For non-essential businesses, an owner has the right to refuse service to an individual not wearing a mask.
- All event attendees including, but not limited to, employees, volunteers, contractors, and officials shall wear a cloth face covering within 6 ft of those not in the same household.

PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR RUNNERS

Runners do not need to wear a face mask during the race but shall wear face masks at all other times including prior to and after the race when social distancing cannot be maintained.

PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR PERFORMANCE STAFF

Due to the nature of live performance, and that face mask use may not be practical during rehearsals and performances, it is strongly recommended that staff/independent contractor testing be considered for use by each producing organization. If adopted, a written policy must be developed and communicated to those contracted for the company.

- While not on stage all performers, musicians, creative teams, and production crew should wear cloth face masks and practice social distancing to the extent possible

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HAND SANITIZER
Hand sanitizer shall be made available at entrance points and common areas, where possible.

HANDWASHING
Ensure employees wash their hands routinely using soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

CLEANING, DISINFECTANT PRODUCTS, &/OR DISPOSABLE DISINFECTANT WIPES
Make available near commonly used surfaces, where possible, e.g. ticket counters.

BATHROOMS
Clean and disinfect frequently, and implement use of cleaning log for tracking. Clean multiple times a day and hourly during busy times. Recommend posting signage encouraging reduced capacity in bathrooms, and reminding individuals to wash their hands and wear a mask. Consider placing a wastebasket outside of the bathroom.

CLEANING & DISINFECTING
Businesses shall follow federal guidelines (CDC, EPA) on what specific products shall be used and how.

- Use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 and that are appropriate for the surface. Prior to wiping the surface, allow the disinfectant to sit for the necessary contact time recommended by the manufacturer. Train staff on proper cleaning procedures to ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants.
- Disinfectants are irritants and sensitizers, and should be used cautiously.
- Avoid all food contact surfaces when using disinfectants; these surfaces should be sanitized instead.
- Clean and disinfect common areas, high transit areas, and frequently touched surfaces on an ongoing basis (at least daily) and more frequently if used more often. Clean and disinfect shared objects after each use. Examples include:
    - Entrances and exits
    - Payment devices (e.g. PIN pad)
    - Chairs/tables

SEATING AREA & TABLES
Disinfect seating area, tables, and common items after each seating.

OUTDOOR EVENTS OUTDOOR ONLY

DAILY HEALTH CHECK

Ask employees resuming on-premise work to confirm they have not experienced COVID-19 CDC-defined symptoms and to monitor their own symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath, or any two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

Employees should stay home if sick.

IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

Employees shall inform their employers, and follow state testing and contact tracing protocols. In addition:

- Employee should contact local public health to initiate contact tracing.
- Recommend 24-hour passive decontamination in the event of a positive case, and follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Additional information can be accessed at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Employers may not retaliate against workers for raising concerns about COVID-19 related safety and health conditions.

- Additional information for the public sector can be accessed at www.connosha.com
- Additional information can be accessed at www.whistleblowers.gov

LEAVE

Employers shall adhere to federal guidance pertaining to paid leave for employees and provide this guidance to employees. Employers shall post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Department of Labor poster. The poster can be accessed at: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/posters

- Additional guidance can be accessed at: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave