

Reopening Protocol for Museums, Galleries, Zoos, and Aquariums: Appendix M

Effective as of Friday, June 12, 2020

Recent Updates:

6/12/20:

- Revised to allow for opening of indoor areas in museums and galleries as well as opening of zoos and aquariums.

6/4/20:

- The number of cases triggering a report to the public health department has changed from 5 to 3
- Restaurants and retail facilities may open as long as they comply with public health protocols for these areas.
- Visitor logs that includes a visitor's name, phone number and email address should be maintained to the extent possible.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, to allow certain venues to safely reopen. The requirements below are specific to Museums, Galleries, Zoos and Aquariums by the Order of the State Public Health Officer. In addition to the conditions imposed on these specific venues by the Governor, these types of businesses must also be in compliance with the conditions laid out in this Checklist for Museums, Galleries, Zoos and Aquariums.

This guidance is not intended for amusement, theme, or water parks. Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums that operate family entertainment centers, including movie theaters, should keep those facilities closed until they are permitted to operate. Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums with playgrounds, play spaces, or climbing areas should keep those areas closed until they are permitted to operate. Museums with convention space, rentable meeting rooms, other areas for private events, etc., should keep those areas closed until large gatherings are allowed to resume modified or full operation through a specific reopening order and guidance. Discontinue demonstrations, such as live animal shows, unless physical distancing and sanitation protocols are ensured. All large events or gatherings, such as concerts or private parties/events, must be canceled or postponed.

- Museums with retail areas must comply with public health [retail establishment protocols](#).
- Restaurants, cafes, and concessions stands within museums must comply with public health [restaurant protocols](#).
- Office spaces within museums must comply with public health [office-based worksite protocols](#).

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available so be sure to check the LA County website <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> regularly for any updates to this document and related guidance.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees and the public
- (5) Measures to ensure equitable access to critical services

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols.

All businesses covered by this protocol must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the business.

Business name: _____

Facility Address: _____

Maximum Occupancy, per Fire Code: _____

Approximate total square footage of space open to the public: _____

**A. WORKPLACE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEE HEALTH
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE FACILITY)**

- Everyone who can carry out their work duties from home has been directed to do so.
- Vulnerable staff (those above age 65, those with chronic health conditions) are assigned work that can be done from home whenever possible.
- Work processes are reconfigured to the extent possible to increase opportunities for employees to work from home. Consider offering workers, docents, interns, and volunteer staff who request modified duties options that minimize their contact with customers and other employees (e.g., managing inventory rather than working as a cashier or managing administrative needs through telework).
- Alternate, staggered or shift schedules have been instituted to maximize physical distancing.
- All employees (including paid staff, docents, interns and volunteers; referred to collectively as “employees”) have been told not to come to work if sick, or if they are exposed to a person who has COVID-19. Employees understand to follow DPH guidance for self-isolation and quarantine, if applicable. Workplace leave policies have been reviewed and modified to ensure that employees are not penalized when they stay home due to illness.
 - Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home. See additional information on government [programs](#) supporting sick leave and worker’s compensation for COVID19, including employee’s sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and employee’s rights to workers’ compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor’s [Executive Order N-62-20](#)
- Upon being informed that one or more employees test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the employer has a plan or protocol in place to have the case(s) isolate themselves at home and require the immediate self-quarantine of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s). The employer’s plan should consider a protocol for all quarantined employees to have access to or be tested for COVID-19 in order to determine whether there have been additional workplace exposures, which may require additional COVID-19 control measures.
- Symptom checks are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath or fever and any other symptoms the employee may be experiencing. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees’ arrival. A temperature check should be done at the worksite if feasible.

- In the event that 3 or more cases are identified within the workplace within a span of 14 days the employer should report this cluster to the Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821.
- All employees who have contact with the public or other employees during their shift (s) are offered, at no cost, a cloth face covering. The covering is to be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others, Employees need not wear a cloth face covering when the employee is alone in a private office or a walled cubicle.
- Employees are instructed to wash their face coverings daily.
- Employees are also offered gloves for tasks that require them to handle frequently touched surfaces or for use during symptom screening.
- Consider the use of plexiglass dividers in areas where employees must interact with customers such as payment booths or information centers.
- Employee workstations at areas such as ticket or information booths are separated by at least 6 feet and common areas are configured to ensure physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Employees have been instructed to maintain at least a six (6) feet distance from visitors and from each other in all areas of the museum or gallery. Employees may momentarily come closer when necessary to accept payment, or as otherwise necessary.
- Break rooms, restrooms and other common areas are disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
 - o Break rooms _____
 - o Restrooms _____
 - o Other _____
- Breaks are staggered to ensure that six (6) feet between employees can be maintained in break areas or break rooms have been reconfigured or closed with alternative spaces created for breaks so that physical distancing is possible.
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees at the following location(s):

- Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to all employees at the following location(s):

- Employees are allowed frequent breaks to wash their hands.
- A copy of this protocol has been distributed to each employee.
- Each worker is assigned their own tools, equipment and defined workspace. Employees have been instructed to avoid sharing phones, tablets, two-way radios, other work supplies, or office equipment wherever possible. They have also been instructed to never share PPE.
- Where items must be shared, they are disinfected with a cleaner appropriate for the surface between shifts or uses, whichever is more frequent, including the following: shared office equipment, such as copiers, fax machines, printers, telephones, keyboards, terminals, ATM PIN pads, staplers, staple removers, letter openers, surfaces in reception areas, shared work stations, audio and video equipment (microphones, microphone stands, mixer boards, TV monitors), walkie talkies, etc.
- Time is provided for workers to implement cleaning practices during their shift. Cleaning assignments are assigned during working hours as part of the employees' job duties. Modify hours, if necessary, to ensure regular, thorough cleaning of workspaces, as appropriate. Options for third-party cleaning companies to assist with the increased cleaning demand are procured, as needed.

- All policies described in this checklist other than those related to terms of employment are applied to staff of delivery and any other companies who may be on the premises as third parties.
 - Optional—Describe other measures:
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B. MEASURES TO ENSURE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Entrance to museum or gallery space has been limited to ensure physical distancing of at least 6 feet by visitors and by instituting options such as timed entrance tickets to ensure social distancing. Groups are limited to household members only. Reduce maximum occupancy limits to ensure sufficient space for physical distancing.
- Tours that combine individuals from different families have been discontinued and tour guides maintain a six-foot distance from the tour group.
- Social distancing is practiced at all exhibit spaces with markers placed around displays to indicate where visitors must stand in order to view the display. If possible, separate routes for entry and exit through exhibits, galleries, viewing areas and employee workspaces are created to help maintain physical distancing and lessen the instances of people closely passing each other. One-way directional walkways, passageways, etc. for foot traffic have been established to minimize crossflow of people in the establishment.
- The number of visitors to smaller exhibit spaces within the museum is restricted at any one time, in order to continue to maintain a 6 foot distance between individuals or household members. All entrances to these areas must be tracked to monitor the number of visitors entering the space.
 - A staff person (or staff people if there is more than one entrance) wearing a cloth face cover is posted near the entrance to the exhibit space but at least 6 feet from the nearest visitors to track occupancy and direct visitors to line up six feet apart if the space has reached its occupancy limit.
- Employees and visitors are discouraged from congregating in high traffic areas such as bathrooms and hallways.
- Rearrange seating areas and/or remove seats to allow for a minimum of six feet of physical distance between customers/visitors. Post signage at shared, immovable seating (benches, etc.) to remind customers/visitors to physically distance from others outside their party.
- Areas used for live demonstrations, animal shows, etc. are reconfigured to enable physical distancing between household groups. Consider implementing advanced reservations for demonstrations and having staff members usher households to proper viewing areas.
- Establishments limit shuttle service whenever possible and in accordance with obligations to individuals with disabilities. Employees avoid sharing vehicles when traveling on the property. When employees or customers/visitors must travel together the use of face coverings is required.
- Members of the same household or living unit do not have to remain 6 feet apart from each other.
- Walkways and foot paths are set up with stanchions or markers to set up one-way flow of foot traffic.
- Public seating areas are reconfigured to support physical distancing between customers or visitors.
- Special or private events are not permitted.
- Employee restrooms are not available for customer use.
- Playgrounds, climbing structures, and play spaces remain closed.

C. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Contactless payment systems are in place or, if not feasible, payment systems are sanitized regularly. Describe:

- Common areas and frequently touched objects (e.g., tables, doorknobs or handles, credit card readers, light switches, grab bars, railings, placards, interactive exhibits, etc.) are disinfected on an hourly basis during business hours using EPA approved disinfectants and following manufacturer's instructions for use. Operators identify and disinfect surfaces that children are more likely to touch, such as sections of windows, exhibits, or fence posts closer to the ground.
- Thorough cleaning of any outdoor and indoor areas that employees or the public use or occupy in order to maintain operations of all indoor and outdoor exhibits is performed daily. This should include high traffic areas and shared workspaces (offices, meeting rooms, break rooms, etc.), and areas of ingress and egress (handrails, stairways, elevator controls, etc.)
- Visitors are encouraged to pre-purchase entrance fees on-line. If possible, tickets are digital with QR codes to allow for paperless and touchless systems.
- To the extent possible, visitors to the museum are registered in a visitor log that includes a visitor's name, phone number and email address which can also be done at the time of ticket purchase or registration.
- The entire facility is cleaned at least daily, with restrooms and frequently touched areas/objects cleaned more often depending on frequency of use. Outdoor surfaces made of plastic or metal are also cleaned. Do not spray disinfectant on wooden surfaces, or sidewalks.
- Public restrooms are sanitized regularly using EPA approved disinfectants. on the following schedule:

- Symptom checks are conducted before visitors may enter the establishment. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath or fever and any other symptoms the visitor may be experiencing. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the visitors' arrival.
- Visitors arriving at the establishment are asked to use hand sanitizer and instructed to wear a face covering while in the establishment and on the grounds of the establishment. This applies to all adults and to children over the age of 2. Only individuals with chronic respiratory conditions or other medical conditions that make use of a mask hazardous are exempted from this requirement. If possible, face coverings are available to visitors who arrive without them.
- Visitors arriving at the establishment with children must ensure that their children stay next to a parent, avoid touching any other person or any item that does not belong to them, and are masked if age permits.
- Reusable gallery guides have been removed and replaced with single-use maps and guides, signage or with audio guides that can be accessed via personal electronic devices.
- To the extent it is consistent with the facility's obligations to individuals with disabilities, the use of audio headsets and other equipment lent to customers/visitors is discontinued unless they can be properly disinfected after each use. Consult equipment manufacturers to determine appropriate disinfection steps, particularly for soft, porous surfaces such as foam earmuffs.
- Hand sanitizer, tissues and trash cans are available to the public at or near the entrance of the facility and near any areas where food and beverages are offered.
- Sanitary facilities for employees and guests stay operational and stocked at all times and additional soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer are provided when needed.

- Hands-on interactive exhibits where customers or visitors may congregate remain closed.
- All playgrounds, climbing structures, enclosed bounce houses, etc. are closed in accordance with state guidelines as these areas promote congregating and are difficult to properly disinfect.
- All petting areas within zoos and aquariums are closed as these areas promote congregating and are difficult to properly disinfect.
- Gatherings and events, including birthday parties, are not permitted.
- To minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water, take steps to ensure that all water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.
- Optional - Describe other measures (e.g. providing senior-only hours):

D. MEASURES THAT COMMUNICATE TO THE PUBLIC

- A copy of this protocol is posted at all public entrances to the facility.
- Signage at the entry notifies customers of occupancy limits.
- Signs are displayed at entrances, waiting areas, and throughout outdoor gallery and museum spaces to remind visitors of the rules that are to be a condition of entry. The rules could include instructions on the use of hand sanitizer as well as the need to wear face coverings during the visit, maintain physical distance from employees and other guests/groups, and avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces, etc. Whenever possible, the rules are available digitally and include pictograms.
- Signs are posted that instruct visitors that they should stay home if sick with respiratory symptoms.
- Online outlets of the establishment (website, social media, etc.) provide clear information about establishment hours, required use of face coverings, limited occupancy, policies in regard to ticketing, admission, preordering, prepayment, pickup and/or delivery and other relevant issues.

E. MEASURES THAT ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES

- Services that are critical to the customers/clients have been prioritized.
- Where possible, accommodations have been made for vulnerable populations to be able to access services (e.g., senior-only hours).
- Transactions or services that can be offered remotely have been moved on-line.
- Measures are instituted to assure access to goods and services for customers who have mobility limitations and/or are at high risk in public spaces.

Any additional measures not included above should be listed on separate pages, which the business should attach to this document.

You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:

Business Contact Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Date Last Revised: _____