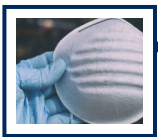


## EVENTS & MASS GATHERINGS

A phased approach enables events and gatherings to occur, while protecting the health and safety of employees, patrons, and the public. Risk of transmission increases as the number of those in attendance grows.

Linn County Public Health recommends phased reopening for businesses and social establishments. This recommendation is in alignment with the CDC and other national organizations. Guidance across three phases is determined by key disease and resource metrics. Data associated with each phase and phase status can be found on Linn County Public Health's COVID-19 response page, <https://bit.ly/PhaseMetrics>. Business specific guidance is also available at <https://www.linncounty.org/1413/Reopening-Guidance>.

### Recommended Criteria during Community Spread



#### Phased Reopening Metrics

The first phase is necessary to slow community spread of COVID-19 and avoid overwhelming the local healthcare system. During this phase, recommendations are for limited operations when reopening. In order to recommend moving to **Phase Two**, the criteria below must be met.

Phase One	
<b>Epidemiology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased test positivity rate for at least 14 days</li> <li>• Sustained reduction in number of cases for at least 14 days</li> <li>• Decrease in deaths for at least 14 days</li> </ul>
<b>Health Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient PPE for all health care workers even if cases double</li> <li>• Sufficient face masks available to provide to patients seeking care, even if cases double</li> <li>• More discharges than admissions for COVID-19 within a 7 day period</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cases interviewed for contact elicitation</li> <li>• Contacts elicited for at least 90% of cases</li> <li>• Capacity to monitor all confirmed cases and their contacts</li> <li>• Capacity* to test all people who are symptomatic</li> </ul>

\* Testing capacity is influenced by a loosening of testing criteria, availability of nasal swabs to obtain sample, and the availability of PPE.



Move to **Phase Three** if the criteria above is met, a reduction in cases for an additional 14 days is observed, and a vaccine is available.

Phase Two		Phase Three
<b>Epidemiology</b>	Sustained reduction in cases for an <b>additional</b> 14 days	All previous criteria is met and vaccine is available
<b>Health Care</b>	Same as Phase One	
<b>Public Health</b>	Same as Phase One	



**Public Health**  
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Linn County, Iowa

## EVENTS & MASS GATHERINGS



### Health Protocols for Individuals

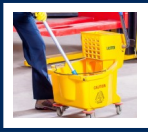
- Wash hands often, cover your cough and sneezes, stay home when ill, and avoid touching your face.
- Maintain at least a six foot distance from others not within the same household.
- The use of a mask, or facial cloth covering, is encouraged to protect those that you may come into contact with and unable to maintain a social distance of six feet or greater.
- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a business and after interacting with others.
- Individuals, aged 65 or older, and those at higher risk for COVID-19 should stay home.
- Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people. The larger the gathering, the greater the chance for transmission of the virus.
- Self-isolate when ill, no matter how mild the illness.



### Health Protocols for Events

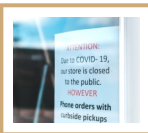
- Encourage employees, patrons, attendees, and guests to stay home when ill, no matter how mild the illness.
- Anyone arriving to the gathering or event should not be allowed to enter if visibly ill.
- Consider having temperature monitoring and symptom checks at the entrance to a gathering or an event.
- Prepare and execute a plan for how attendees will enter and exit the venue.
  - \* A designated door for entrance, and a designated door for exit, with a clear traffic pattern will reduce congestion and maintain a distance of six feet or greater between individuals.
  - \* Use barrier devices or taped areas to help with traffic flow of patrons.
- Promote frequent and thorough handwashing, and provide all in attendance a place to wash their hands.
  - \* If soap and running water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be provided.
- Discourage and avoid hand-shaking and hugging.
- Traditionally printed materials such as programs, bulletins, flyers, and posters should be sent electronically and not handed to guests.
- Provide a virtual attendance option for those who are unable to attend in person.
- Stagger audience or guest seating to ensure proper social distancing of six feet or greater between groups of different households.
- If seating is in a large area or auditorium, plan for how individuals will enter and leave the seating area to maintain social distancing of six feet or greater.
- Discourage use of shared items, offering single use options instead.
- The event must not have any self-service of food and beverages, including buffets or salad bars.
- Tables should be spaced, and seating arrangements coordinated, to maintain a distance of six feet or greater between persons.
- Increase regular housekeeping, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, equipment, and surface cleaning.
- Limit activities that would potentially violate social distancing (dances, party games, etc.).
- Frequently disinfect high traffic areas and high touch surfaces, such as credit card docks, carts/baskets, and restrooms.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, etc.

## EVENTS & MASS GATHERINGS



### Health Protocols for Events Cont.

- Limit cash transactions and encourage alternate payment options.
- Have a plan for how to safely clean-up after the event, and who will be responsible for clean-up.
- Follow CDC Guidelines for Cleaning:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
- Deep cleaning should be completed after every event, due to the potential of asymptomatic individuals having attended.
  - \* Deep cleaning is defined as cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces, regardless of frequency of use or contact.



### Closing Guidance

- Check state and Linn County Public Health notices daily about transmission in the community and adjust operations accordingly.
- In the event a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in attendance at the event, it is strongly advised to deep clean in the area and building in which the person was present.
  - \* Deep cleaning is defined as cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces regardless of frequency of use or contact.

### Mitigation Guidance

Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Wash hands often	Continue	Continue	Continue
Cover Coughs/Sneezes	Continue	Continue	Continue
Stay home when ill	Continue	Continue	Continue
Social distancing	Continue	Continue	Pause social distancing
Encourage use of mask/cloth coverings among attendees	Continue	Continue	Discontinue
High-Risk attendees	Avoid, continue to stay home when able	Avoid, continue to stay home when able	Resume normal activities
Gatherings	Limit to 10 people	Limit to 50 people	Allow all gatherings
Surface/object cleaning	Continue	Continue	Continue
Social Distancing Markers	Yes	Yes	No
Self-Service Food	No	No	Yes
Stagger attendee seating	Yes	Yes	No
Activities/games	Limit	Limit	Resume
Table/chair spacing	6' space between	6' space between	No spacing requirements
Disinfection of high traffic areas and high-touch surfaces	Frequent	Frequent	Normal