

GUIDANCE FOR MOVIE THEATRES

Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support movie theatre operators in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, volunteers, patrons and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures, specific to movie theatres.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

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| Physical Distancing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Movie theatres must set up processes and infrastructure to support 2 metres of distance to be maintained between patrons or households (groups of patrons attending together should be reminded that distancing should be maintained between people outside the same household or cohort family) in the lobby, concession area and theatre rooms.• A maximum of 100 people are permitted per theatre room, as long as physical distancing can be maintained.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Smaller rooms may have lower maximum limits based on the need to maintain distancing.○ It is the responsibility of operators to determine these limits based on the specific space and how 2 metres of distance can be maintained.• Consider the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Maintaining empty seats between each party/patrons to keep 2 metres of distance; consider alternating rows of seating.○ Assign seats to each patron and avoid general admission seating wherever possible.• Stagger movie start and end times to ensure physical distancing occurs and that no more than 100 patrons are in the in the lobby area at one time. Note that the theatre capacity limits must not be exceeded. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider creating markers to indicate where patrons should stand while waiting in line to maintain physical distance. • Given that physical distancing may be challenging to maintain at all times, patrons may be encouraged to wear face masks while attending events to further reduce risk of transmission. |
| Facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place COVID-19 signage around all entries and throughout the theatre outlining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ physical distancing requirements (two metres for individuals not from the same household) ○ prohibitions on attendance by sick or isolating patrons ○ hand hygiene expectations ○ coughing and sneezing etiquette ○ cleaning and disinfecting practices, and numbers to call to report sanitation and distancing concerns (i.e. guest services). • Provide hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol content, at entrances, exits, and near high touch surfaces such as payment pads and door handles. • Consider restricting and directing customer flow into and within the theatre (e.g., one point of entry and exit, identify patron flow throughout with signage). • Other amenities, like ATMs, vending machines and arcades, should be closed if they cannot be adequately cleaned and sanitized. |
| Cleaning and Disinfection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the cleaning and disinfecting recommendations found in the workplace guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance the cleaning and disinfecting of public washrooms; ○ Maintain cleaning logs and supervise daily cleaning and disinfecting efforts; ○ Maintain an adequate inventory of gloves, masks and other cleaning supplies; and ○ Respond immediately to sanitation concerns from patrons. • Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as counters, payment pads, elevator buttons, door handles, armrests, cup holders and railings between showings. |
| Contact Tracing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support accurate contact tracing, encourage visitors to download and use the Alberta contact tracing app, ABTraceTogether. • Maintain a record of staff, workers and volunteers on shift to support contact tracing, should a staff person be tested as positive. |
| Attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure physical distancing in lobby and waiting areas. • Encourage patrons to come near the scheduled show time to discourage congregating in the theatre. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider separate or special operating hours for seniors or those with special needs. |
| <p>Ticketing, Food, and Retail Sales</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online admission ticketing should be used where possible. • Cashless or no-contact payments and transactions should be used to the greatest extent possible, e.g. scan tickets instead of ripping the stub. • Take precautions at the point of sale to reduce transmission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physically distance cashiers from patrons or install physical barriers. ○ Clean and disinfect touch screens at self-service kiosks between patron use. ○ Space out cash counters and self-service check-outs, when possible. • Provide single use individually wrapped utensils, condiments, and items such as straws and napkins from behind the counter. |
| <p>Staff</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit sharing of objects and tools by staff (e.g., ice scoops, popcorn seasoning shakers) or sanitize between uses. • Dedicate separate tasks for workers (e.g., separate the role of taking orders from those who fill/deliver the order). • Staff access should be limited to one point of entry, separate from public entry if possible. • Provide a health self-screening tool for staff to use prior to work. • Encourage staff to launder uniforms between shifts. • Staff should consider wearing non-medical masks if distancing is not possible from other staff or patrons. • Ensure customer service staff are able to assist guests with understanding protocols. |