

Guidance for Concession Stands and Temporary Food Events During COVID-19

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COVID-19 continues to spread in Iowa communities. All Iowa civic, business, community, and veteran's organizations have a responsibility to take measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is critical that event sponsors institute immediate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among their staff, vendors, and event attendees. Event sponsors **must ensure the mandatory requirements** put forth by the [Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on May 26, 2020](#), are in place and enforced. Any social, community, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people that do not comply with these requirements shall continue to be prohibited at all locations and venues.

Event sponsors shall:

- Limit indoor and outdoor **seating** capacity to 50 percent of **normal operating seating capacity**. For outdoor venues, this includes grandstands or other permanent seating;
- Arrange seating to provide a **minimum** of six feet between each group or person attending alone; and
- Implement reasonable measures for the circumstances of each gathering to ensure social distancing of gathering participants, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Additionally, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and the Iowa Department of Public Health **strongly recommend that each event sponsor draft a COVID-19 mitigation plan**. For events with more than 10 food vendors, the event sponsor is encouraged to submit this COVID-19 mitigation plan along with the required event application. The plan should include (1) What rules will be in place during the event, and (2) Who will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing these rules. **At a minimum**, the mitigation plan should contain details about and the event should adhere to the following rules:

- Require event staff and vendors to wear masks;
- Encourage event attendees to wear masks;
- Designate an appropriate amount of staff to monitor and enforce established rules;
- Post signage at all entrances, prohibiting anyone who has had a fever in the previous three days, been ill, or is visibly showing signs of illness (e.g., coughing or sneezing) from entering the space;
- Post signage at entrances/exits, instructing all staff, vendors, and attendees to practice social distancing, cover coughs and sneezes, and wash hands or use sanitizer often;
- Designate with signage, tape, or by other means appropriate social distancing spacing for event staff and attendees, including those waiting to enter the event;
- Notify event attendees through signage to report concerns of social distancing infractions to the event staff;
- Control entry points;
- Screen event staff, vendors, and attendees for COVID-19 symptoms, and immediately prevent anyone with symptoms from entering;
- Train event and vendor staff on employee safety, emphasizing employee health, handwashing, and hygiene practices;

- Ensure vendors only allow necessary workers in food stands, and prohibit individuals not directly involved in food preparation or sales;
- Prohibit vendors from offering self-service of food and condiments;
- Provide easy-to-access handwashing and hand-sanitizing stations for vendor and customer use;
- If necessary, restock restrooms with handwashing supplies frequently, including soap and paper towels;
- Ensure at least six feet between each vendor booth, including equipment and storage areas;
- Clean and sanitize vendor surfaces frequently;
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces including but not limited to restroom doors/handles, handrails, and garbage can lids at least every hour; and
- To the extent possible, utilize mobile ordering and touchless pay options.

Additionally, if event sponsors or vendors have any alcohol-related inquiries, they may contact the [Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division](#).

All Iowans have a responsibility to mitigate the impact of this public health crisis. If your event cannot abide by these measures, **please cancel or postpone your event** until such time these guidelines can be enacted or are no longer necessary to protect public health.

Concession Stand-Specific Guidance

- Concession stands, including those at non-school related sporting activities, are allowed to operate under the same provisions as a restaurant or a bar. This includes concession stands licensed as Temporary Food Establishments and Mobile Food Units providing concessions.
- Concession stands that are located on school property are **not allowed** to operate at this time. This includes concessions operated by an entity which independently holds a food establishment license separate from the school's food license (e.g., a school booster organization or other independent contractor). This also includes concession stands licensed as Temporary Food Establishments and Mobile Food Units providing concessions.
- Concession stands at private or professional facilities located off of school property that are used to host high school athletic events are allowed to operate under the same provisions as a restaurant or a bar. This includes concession stands licensed as Temporary Food Establishments and Mobile Food Units providing concessions.

For additional information and guidance on school-related concessions, please review the [COVID-19 Reopening Guidance: Summer Sports](#) and [COVID-19 Guidance: Use of School Facilities](#) provided by the Iowa Department of Education.