

Indoor movie theaters should develop plans to reopen safely. Plans do not need to be submitted for review or approval. However, movie theaters should make plans available to staff and patrons. Requirements for staff and patrons visiting the movie theater should also be posted on the organization's website and displayed prominently at the facility.

For theaters with multiple activities in one location, such as arcades, the theaters may work with their local public health district to develop plans for opening specific portions of their facility.

INDOOR MOVIE THEATERS SHOULD USE THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS AS THEY OPERATE.

Establish protocols to maintain the six feet physical distance among patrons and staff

- Limit the number of people in one theater at a time to ensure physical distancing
- Ensure proper spacing between patrons in the movie theater by:
 - requiring a minimum of three seats (or six feet) between parties in any row
 - alternating every other row, if necessary, to ensure six feet of spacing between parties
- Direct the flow of patrons and staff through the facility to reduce person-to-person contact, where possible
- Make sure employees and patrons maintain at least a six-foot distance when waiting in line for entrance to the establishment, ticket sales and concessions or food service
- Implement physical distancing in the lobby and reception areas and discourage the congregation of people in common areas, including restrooms, gaming areas, etc.
 - Restrict access or remove items such as couches or waiting area seating

Establish protocols to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 among staff and patrons

- Post signage on the front door or entrance area of the theater that states that any patron who has a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms should not enter the facility
- Schedule longer than usual time between screenings to allow disinfecting of seats and other high-touch surface areas between each screening
- Make sure ventilation is as optimal as possible
 - Provide adequate air turnover rates for the room, open doors of theater, etc.
- Provide thorough and routine disinfection of all frequently touched surfaces
- Encourage use of cloth face covering or masks and gloves by staff and patrons, where possible and safe
- Dedicate staff members to disinfect high contact surfaces throughout the establishment and disinfect tables between parties
- Encourage electronic ticket purchase such as online tickets or contactless-payment such as tap-to-pay

Establish protocols for concession and food service

- Review and implement applicable restaurant and food-service protocols found at <https://rebound.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/stage2-protocols-restaurants.pdf>
- Prohibit patron access to self-serve items such as condiments, butter dispenser, straws, flatware, or other items
- Use condiments and flatware packaged in single use, individually wrapped containers
- Reduce or remove number of tables to reduce the possibility of people congregating
 - o Make sure tables are cleaned and disinfected after each use
- Concession services should be limited to vending and walk-up services that can provide for appropriate physical distancing while patrons wait in line

Update employee illness policy and provide COVID-19 staff training

- Monitor employee health
 - o Screen employees for fever and symptoms before every shift
 - Check temperature with non-contact thermometer; if no fever, which is a temperature greater than 100.4°F, or other COVID-19 symptoms are present, require workers to self-monitor and report onset of symptoms during their shift
 - o Inform staff regarding when they should stay home or when they should leave work due to illness
 - o Make sure a procedure is in place for contacting your local public health district if an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19
- Develop plans for temporary closure of the theater to properly disinfect and to make sure other staff and people who frequent the facility are not infected

Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplace, Businesses, Schools and Homes: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidance on Disinfecting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Environmental Protection Agency list of COVID-19 effective disinfectants: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>