

Responsible RestartOhio



County Fairs

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, MD, MPH strongly recommend that for the 2020 fair season, Agricultural Societies limit fairs to allow only for 4-H and FFA "Junior Fair" activities.

Fair boards must work closely with local boards of health, and all fairs must comply with all executive orders and orders of the Ohio Department of Health in effect at the time of the fair.

In the event fair boards decide that they can safely host attractions, concessions, and exhibitors beyond Junior Fair activities, they must also comply with the applicable sector guidelines, including the following:

Mandatory

Junior Fair Animal Exhibits

- Must conduct daily symptom assessments. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.*
- Limit livestock exhibitions to 10 exhibitors, in the show ring at one time.
- The microphone must be sanitized between speakers or each speaker must have his/her own dedicated microphone.
- Spectators and others in the exhibition area must follow current orders regarding mass gatherings and social distancing.
- Fair Boards are responsible for drafting 2020 operational guidance specific to each county fair ground, with approval given by the local board of health.
- Animals will be permitted to stay on the fairgrounds for no more than 72 hours.

Recommended Best Practices

- Encourage and use technology to live stream livestock shows and other activities.
- It is recommended that animals stay on the fair grounds for only 48 hours.

Skillathon

- Ensure social distancing or install barriers, clean, and sanitize high-contact surfaces, and promote hand washing/sanitizing.
- A virtual Skillathon is strongly recommended.
- If a live Skillathon, participants should have individual, designated times for participation.
- Designate different barns for different animals.

Barns

- The number of handlers and pen placement must follow current orders regarding mass gatherings and social distancing.
- Ensure adequate air flow in all barns and exhibition facilities for the safety and health of the animals.

Auctions

- Animals are not to be present in the ring for the auctions.
- Viewing gallery limited to buyers and immediate family unless building capacity allows for more while following social distancing guidelines.
- Virtual auctions are recommended if possible.

*Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.

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Recommended Best Practices

Non-Animal Exhibitions

- Exhibitors must be spaced out within exhibition areas to adhere to six-foot social distancing guidelines
- Exhibit areas must be thoroughly cleaned between participants.

- Virtual judging of exhibits is recommended.
- If in person, participants should have individual, designated times for their projects to be judged.
- Establish a drive-thru system for exhibitors to pick up their pre-judging paperwork.

Volunteers

- Educate volunteers on social distancing guidelines, handwashing, and safety measures.
- Ensure those in Junior and Senior Fair Board offices are following social distancing guidelines and have access to hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer.

- Utilize the least number of volunteers possible.
- Seek volunteers who are not in high risk groups.

Food Concessions

- Food concession vendors must comply with the standards for Restaurants and Bars as applicable. In addition:
 - Food concession vendors must be positioned and set up to ensure at least six feet between parties in ordering and queuing areas. Visual 6 ft. ground markings are required to show proper distance for customers in queue.
 - Dining or seating areas must be positioned to ensure at least six feet between parties.
 - Food self-service areas must be discontinued as specified in the Responsible RestartOhio Sector Guidance for Retail and Services.
 - Condiments will either be placed on the food item by the vendor or offered in individual packets or containers.

Campgrounds

- Campground Operators and Visitors must comply with the standards outlined as applicable in the COVID-19 Responsible RestartOhio plan for Camping and Campgrounds. In addition:
 - No compounding or clustering of groups is allowed on fair campgrounds.
 - For the duration of the fair, local boards of health and fair boards will work together to ensure that all wastewater is properly disposed.

- Campers should be positioned where possible so their entry doors, outdoor seating areas, etc. do not face each other.

Amusement Rides

- Any operation of amusement rides must be in compliance with all Executive Orders, Orders of the Ohio Department of Health, and the standards for ride operators and riders outlined for amusement rides by the Travel and Tourism Advisory Group (forthcoming).
- Practice good personal hygiene, including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.

Mandatory

PPE and Safety Measures

- Fair boards must require employees, volunteers, and participants except when showing inside the show ring to wear facial coverings, except for one of the following reasons:
 - Facial coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
 - Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of the business' documented safety policies.
 - Facial coverings are not required when the employee works alone in an assigned work area.
 - There is a functional (practical) reason for an employee not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

(Businesses must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.)

Physical Contact

- There will be no physical contact between judges, exhibitors, participants, buyers, sellers, i.e. congratulatory handshakes, hugs, high fives.
- Fairgoers must not pet or touch animals.

Handwashing/ Hand Sanitizing

- The fair must provide adequate handwashing/hand sanitizing stations that meet Ohio Department of Health and local boards of health recommendations in and around barns, exhibition facilities, restrooms, amusement ride areas, food vending units/areas, and all other fair facilities.
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Restroom/ Showers

- Ensure all toilets are functional.
- Clean and sanitize public areas and restrooms in the morning and evening with increased instances of cleaning and sanitation during peak usage times. Cleaning should be conducted using EPA-registered disinfectants, particularly on high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches.
- Restock supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands, every time the bathroom is cleaned.
- Install seat-cover dispensers and motion-sensing faucets, soap, and towel dispensing in restrooms and other facilities.
- Provide hand sanitizer where water is not available.
- Restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities will limit the number of users at any one time based on the facility size and current social distancing guidelines.

Ticket Sales

Recommended Best Practices

- Face coverings are recommended for spectators and fairgoers.

- Encourage any thank you notes/gifts to be sent to buyers and not given in person.

- Post a cleaning schedule at each location.
- Install touch-free entry points at restrooms and other facilities.
- Install seat-cover dispensers and motion-sensing faucets, soap, and towel dispensing in restrooms and other facilities.

- Advanced ticket sales are strongly recommended.
- Cashless transactions are strongly recommended at entrances, gates, and other areas where items and services are purchased.

Mandatory

Building Capacity

- Fair Boards must work with their local health and/or fire department to establish building capacity in all facilities.
- Ensure a minimum of six feet between parties of participants, spectators, volunteers, fairgoers, and workers up to the maximum group size per state guide lines (currently 10) in queue lines, seating areas, and similar. If not possible, utilize barriers or other protective devices.
- Limit entrance and exit options when possible while still maintaining code regulations.
- Establish a one-way directional flow of traffic through barns, exhibition buildings, and other fair facilities.

Signage

- The fair must work with local boards of health to develop proper signage regarding social distancing and handwashing/hand sanitizing.

Harness Racing

- The fair must follow guidelines established in the Protocols for a Safe Return to Racing document (forthcoming).

Confirmed Cases

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
- Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposure.

Recommended Best Practices

- For building capacity, follow the guideline of 50% of current permitted occupancy with the allowance for proper social distancing between occupants or in compliance with current Executive Orders.

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications.
- Once testing is readily available, test all suspected infections or exposures.
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing.