

Fitness and Training COVID-19 Requirements

Summary of changes in the January 2021 update:

- New phase 1 and 2 requirements detailed; some fitness and training activities reopened with new restrictions and new occupancy calculations.
- Outdoor fitness classes and non-staffed fitness facilities added to the guidelines.
- Several indoor sporting activities removed from this document and added to the [Professional Sports and Other Sporting Activities](#), document, including gymnastics, non-contact dance, non-contact cheer, climbing, tennis, volleyball, basketball, and soccer.
- Safety and health requirements updated to current language at the end of the document.

Included here:

Staffed indoor fitness studios, individual sports and fitness training, group fitness, gyms, and multi-use indoor fitness facilities providing private instruction and access to personal fitness training and/or specialized equipment, including but not limited to weight and resistance training, cardio exercise equipment, martial arts, yoga, squash and racquetball and similar personal training, group training, or independent fitness services.

Unstaffed indoor fitness facilities in locations such as hotels and apartment buildings.

Outdoor group fitness classes.

Not included here:

Pools. Pool and water recreation facilities should follow the [Department of Health's COVID-19 guidance for staffed pools](#) and the [Governor's Phased Guidance for water recreation](#).

Indoor or outdoor sporting activities such as gymnastics, non-contact dance, non-contact cheer, climbing, tennis, volleyball, basketball and soccer. Except as otherwise specified in this guidance, indoor and outdoor competitive sporting activities, such as professional, amateur, or organized team sports and outdoor group fitness classes should follow the guidance for [Professional Sports and Other Sporting Activities](#).

All indoor fitness training facilities operating must adopt a written procedure for employee safety and customer interaction that is at least as strict as this procedure and complies with the safety and health requirements below.

No business may operate until it can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. Additional considerations may be adopted, as appropriate.

Limited Use of Facility and Business Adaptations

Access to indoor fitness and training facilities is limited by the size of the facility:

Phase 1:

- All facilities must calculate allowable customer occupancy by dividing the room size or available floor space by 500 square feet per person.

- The minimum 500 square feet per person occupancy must be calculated and enforced by the facility for every room in a facility where indoor fitness and training occurs. Each room where indoor fitness and training occurs must be monitored to ensure the 500 square feet per person maximum occupancy is not exceeded.
- Face coverings are required at all times.
- Individuals may use the facilities for less than an hour at a time. One-on-one instruction and group instruction classes limited less than an hour at a time. Capacity determined by square footage per person.
- Stationary fitness equipment must be arranged such that users are not facing each other, regardless of the distance between users.
- Squash and racquetball courts open only for individual use and facilities must allow 30 minutes of non-use between each session.
- Outdoor group fitness classes limited to a maximum of 20 participants per class at a time in stable cohorts of 5. Face coverings required at all times. Outdoor structures, in order to be considered outdoors, should have no more than two walls to provide appropriate ventilation unless they meet this ventilation requirement; structures can have three walls if another opening exists that is large enough to create cross ventilation. For detailed guidelines please consult [Open Air and Outdoor Seating requirements](#).
- Unstaffed indoor fitness facilities (examples include apartment and hotel fitness centers) allowed one user per room, scheduled in advance, face coverings required, use of the facilities for no longer than 45 minutes at a time.

Phase 2:

- The occupancy of the facility may not exceed 25 percent of the fire code occupancy rating.
- Squash and racquetball courts open for games. Facilities must allow 30 minutes of non-use between each session.
- Outdoor group fitness classes limited to a maximum of 30 participants. Face coverings required at all times. Outdoor structures, in order to be considered outdoors, should have no more than two walls to provide appropriate ventilation unless they meet this ventilation requirement; Structures can have three walls if another opening exists that is large enough to create cross ventilation.
- Unstaffed indoor fitness facilities allowed one user per room or up to 4 users from the same household, scheduled in advance, face coverings required.

No in-facility child care services will be permitted, unless consistent with Department of Health guidance for [Child Care, Youth Development, and Summer Day Camps](#). Children in child care do not count toward the overall occupancy limit for the purpose of calculating fitness facility occupancy and the minimum required square footage per person.

Safety and Health Requirements all phases

Stay home when sick or if a close contact of someone with COVID-19

Staff and participants should be required to stay home if they feel unwell, show any signs of COVID-19, or are a close contact of a confirmed case. Screening should consider [symptoms listed by the CDC](#). Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 or who is a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19

should not be allowed to participate and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.

Masks

Masks required for staff and participants at all times.

Physical Distance

A minimum of 6 feet of physical distance must be maintained between staff and clients at all times where possible. This distance should be increased when clients are engaged in high-intensity aerobic activities. A minimum of six feet of distance must be maintained among participants when not engaged in fitness and training activities.

Hygiene

Staff and participants to practice good hygiene including washing their hands frequently and covering their sneezes and coughs. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after practice, especially after touching shared objects or blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol content. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they are dry.

Provide handwashing or hand sanitizing stations at training and contest locations.

Limit the use of locker rooms to handwashing and restroom use only. Showers should not be used due to potential spread of aerosolized droplets. If use of locker rooms for changing is necessary, maximize ventilation and use tape, spots, or cones to signal 6 feet of distance for participants who need to change. If locker rooms are used cleaning protocols must be included in the facility safety plan. Limit occupancy of the locker rooms to avoid crowding.

Cleaning

Clean high touch surfaces and disinfect shared equipment before and after each use. Ensure restrooms are cleaned and disinfected regularly. Current CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19 states that disinfectants should be registered by the EPA for use against the COVID-19. Find the current list here: [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#). Disinfectants based on hydrogen peroxide or alcohol are safer than harsher chemicals. The University of Washington has a [handout with options for safer cleaning and disinfecting products that work well against COVID-19](#).

Ventilation

Ventilation is important to have good indoor air quality. Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly. Increase air circulation and ventilation as much as possible by opening windows and doors. Offer more outside time, open windows often and adjust mechanical ventilation systems to bring in as much outside air as possible. Increase filters to MERV 13 if the HVAC can accommodate. Use of fans for cooling is acceptable. In indoor spaces, fans should only be used when windows or doors are open to the outdoors in order to circulate indoor and outdoor air. They should blow away from people. Outdoors locations are preferred to indoors locations, and should be utilized to the greatest extent possible to allow for maximum fresh air circulation and social distancing. Outdoor temporary structures may be used. Outdoor structures, in order to be considered outdoors, should have no more than two walls to provide appropriate ventilation unless they meet this ventilation requirement; structures can have three walls if another opening exists that is large enough to create cross ventilation. For detailed guidelines

please consult [Open Air and Outdoor Seating requirements](#).

Records and Contact Tracing

Keep contact information for staff and participants to assist with contact tracing in the event of a possible exposure. Contact information must be kept on file for 28 days after each class or use of the facilities.

Employees

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).