



## MUSEUMS & ZOOS OUTDOOR ONLY

In Phase 1, museums and zoos can open outdoor exhibits at up to 50% capacity.

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## OVERVIEW

As Connecticut reopens its museums and zoos, the State wants to enable its citizens to continue to enjoy its rich cultural and historical heritage, as well as some quality times outdoors. Such activities must be undertaken only after prioritizing the health and safety of employees and consumers. Museums and zoos inherently present lower risks of contagion. There is little touching, and density of visitors in any particular space is usually low and can be further limited. This set of rules developed by the State of Connecticut aims to minimize the risks presented by these establishments while allowing its citizens to enjoy the state's cultural treasures.

Museums and zoos must exercise caution throughout the reopening, ensuring strict adherence to the protocols listed here.

While these provide a way for museums and zoos to reopen as safely as possible, risks to visitors and employees cannot be fully mitigated. Visitors who choose to come to museums and zoos during this time should be aware of potential risks. Individuals over the age of [65] or with other health conditions should not visit museums and zoos, but instead continue to shelter in place (unless museums/zoos are able to reserve times for them).

Museums and zoos should take these rules as the minimum baseline of precautions needed to protect public health in Connecticut. Individual establishments should take additional measures as recommended by industry guidelines or by common sense applied to their particular situation. We also urge visitors to stay vigilant and pay attention as to whether museums and zoos they visit are faithfully implementing these rules.

## STATE RULES FOR MUSEUMS & ZOOS

Museums and zoos shall calculate maximum safe occupancy for each exhibit area/room to allow for social distancing between groups and to comply with state social gathering size guidance. Establishments should leverage signage, floor markings and enhanced presence of attendants and other personnel to enforce such occupancy rate.

These rules are intended to help museums and zoos safely get back to work. The information here can be supplemented with information developed by professional organizations and by other industry groups, some of which are listed below. These rules may be updated.

## FURTHER RESOURCES

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

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## PLAN FOR REOPENING

Share these rules with your employees and inform them of any additional specific measures being taken in response to COVID-19.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Appoint a program administrator who is accountable for implementing the rules.

## TRAINING

Institute a training program and ensure employee participation in the program. Training shall include relevant subcontractors, such as cleaners. There should also be weekly refreshers on policies. Training shall include:

- The guidelines outlined in this document.
- Protocols on how to clean and use cleaning products (incl. disinfectants) safely.

Additional guidance can be found here:

[https://osha.washington.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FactSheet\\_Cleaning\\_Final\\_UWDEOHS\\_0.pdf](https://osha.washington.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FactSheet_Cleaning_Final_UWDEOHS_0.pdf)

**Note:** If any on site duties are subcontracted, it is the employers responsibility to ensure subcontractors are also appropriately trained.



## CLEANING PLAN

Develop cleaning checklists that incorporate these rules. Ensure it is clear which employees are responsible for implementing the plans.



## LOG EMPLOYEES

Maintain a log of employees on premise over time, to support contact tracing.



## PERSONAL PROTECTION

Estimate required personal protection for employees and begin procuring.



## THOROUGH CLEANING

Complete of facility prior to reopening, including but not limited to:

- Backroom common areas, high traffic areas such as ticket counters, restrooms.

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## SHIFTS

Stagger shift start/stop times, break times, and lunchtimes to minimize contact across employees.



## CERTIFICATION

Complete the self-certification on the DECD website to receive a Reopen CT badge. Once complete, businesses can choose to post the badge on-site and on social media to advertise adherence to CT rules & build customer confidence.



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## INTERACTIVE OR INDOOR EXHIBITS

Close all interactive or indoor exhibits.



## GIFT SHOPS AND FOOD PLACES

Close all gift shops and food places.

- Outdoor food counters/snack bars permitted in accordance with restaurant rules.



## GUIDED TOURS

No guided group tours.



## SHARED EQUIPMENT

Ensure employees do not share equipment to the extent possible; if shared, clean after each use.



## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Calculate maximum number of people allowed under the rules for each exhibition room/area.

- Attendants to remain at same workstation throughout the day to minimize movement.
- Install physical barriers for ticket counters where possible.
- Attendants to enforce maximum occupancy per exhibition room/area where possible.



## SOCIAL DISTANCING MARKERS

Install visual social distancing markers to encourage customers to remain 6ft apart (e.g., lines outside of the museums/zoos if applicable, lines to purchase tickets, lines to use the restroom).



## ONE-WAY FLOW

Post floor markings to direct visitors in a one-way flow where possible.

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## SIGNAGE

Post clear signage that reinforces new policies, including:

- Maximum occupancy of each exhibit area/room
- Social distancing protocols
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols
- Personal protection protocols (face masks, gloves) for customers and employees
- Employees shall stay home if sick/experiencing symptoms
- Customers shall not enter if they are experiencing symptoms



## TOUCHLESS APPLIANCES

Install touchless appliances wherever possible, including:

- Paper towel dispensers, soap dispensers, trash cans



## HOTLINE FOR VIOLATIONS

Post clear signage that includes the state hotline (211) for employees and customers to report potential violations of these rules.

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## PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES

- All employees are required to wear a facemask or other cloth face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth, unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to medical conditions.
- Employees may utilize their own cloth face covering over that provided by their employer if they choose.
- Gloves and eye protection is required when using cleaning chemicals.

## EMPLOYERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING PERSONAL PROTECTION TO THEIR EMPLOYEES

- If businesses do not have adequate personal protection, they cannot open.

## PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR CUSTOMERS

- Customers are required to bring & wear masks or cloth face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to a medical condition.

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## HAND SANITIZER

Hand sanitizer shall be made available at entrance points and common areas, where possible.



## HANDWASHING

Ensure employees wash their hands routinely using soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



## CLEANING, DISINFECTANT PRODUCTS, &/OR DISPOSABLE DISINFECTANT WIPES

Make available near commonly used surfaces, where possible (e.g., ticket counters).



## BATHROOMS

Clean and disinfect frequently, implement use of cleaning log for tracking. Clean multiple times a day and hourly during busy times.



## AUDIO-GUIDES

Disinfect after each use.



## CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Businesses shall follow federal guidelines (CDC, EPA) on what specific products shall be used and how:

- Disinfectants are irritants and sensitizers and should be used cautiously. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (for example, door handles, cash registers) at least daily and shared objects (for example, payment terminals) after each use.
- Use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 and that are appropriate for the surface. Prior to wiping the surface, allow the disinfectant to sit for the necessary contact time recommended by the manufacturer. Train staff on proper cleaning procedures to ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants.



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## DAILY HEALTH CHECK

Ask employees resuming on-premise work to confirm they have not experienced COVID-19 CDC-defined symptoms and to monitor their own symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath, or any two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Employees shall stay home if sick.



## IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

Employees shall inform their employers and follow state testing and contact tracing protocols.

## WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Employers may not retaliate against workers for raising concerns about COVID related safety and health conditions.

- Additional information can be accessed at [www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov)
- Additional information for the public sector can be accessed at [www.connosha.com](http://www.connosha.com)



## LEAVE

Employers shall adhere to federal guidance pertaining to paid leave for employees and provide this guidance to employees.

Employers shall post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

Department of Labor poster. The poster can be accessed at:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/posters>

- Additional guidance can be accessed at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>