



Guidance for Fair Openings in Nebraska to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 Updated 6/19/20

On June 15, 2020, Governor Pete Ricketts announced the next phase of expanded gatherings – including county fairs. The new Directed Health Measures (DHMs) can be viewed [here](#).

All fairs this summer must adhere to the DHM requirements for their county including occupancy requirements.

In addition to the requirements found in the DHM, fairs are asked to follow the below guidelines developed in cooperation with representatives from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, the Nebraska State Fair, Nebraska Extension, Nebraska FFA and several local health departments.

The decision to move forward, or not, with a county fair will fall to the local board or organization that oversees that particular fair.

*In the event of changes to the DHM or additional statewide restrictions or relaxations, this document will be updated as needed.

Important Questions for County Fair Officials to Discuss:

- 1) Are you in communication with your local health department?
- 2) Will you be able to adhere to the requirements set forth in the current DHM?
- 3) Have you discussed the situation with your general liability insurance provider and are you in agreement that if you choose to move forward that you have the proper coverage?
- 4) Financially, are you able to move forward with a fair with the DHM restrictions?
- 5) Does your fair have a plan to enforce the guidance you set forth?
- 6) Is there a way to spread events out over several days or a larger area to minimize the number of participants on the grounds at any given time?

Guidance from the State of Nebraska:

- 1) Have controlled ingress/egress points on the fairgrounds for traffic flow.
- 2) Fair staff and volunteer workers are encouraged (not required) to wear a cloth face mask ([cloth masks](#)), if their duties do not allow a consistent social distance of 6 feet.
 - a. If using washable masks, they must be laundered or replaced daily. Employees must wash hands before and after putting on the face mask and after every time they touch it.
 - b. Print and post the “How to safely wear and take off a cloth mask” [CDC poster](#).
 - c. Things to consider: will you be providing face coverings to those that request them and if so will you have a sufficient supply as well as be able to afford them?
- 3) Any fair staff or volunteer considered “at-risk” are discouraged from working at or volunteering at the fair.
- 4) Common surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected with frequency as recommended by

- [CDC](#). (Common surfaces include tables, counters, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, ATMs, etc.)
- 5) Bleacher seats, tables where food is served, restrooms, etc. will require more frequent cleaning/disinfecting.
 - a. Consider how to eliminate or frequently disinfect commonly touched items like interactive game elements or educational attractions that require touching.
 - 6) Touchless hand sanitizer stations should be located throughout the fairgrounds.
 - a. Fairs interested in obtaining hand sanitizer at no cost – should fill out the request form [here](#).
 - 7) Anywhere there is a potential for people to stand in a line, queue lines should be set up to control distancing and should be either a straight line or an “L” shaped line. 6 feet distancing should be marked in those queue lines (using tape, spray paint, flag rope and cones, etc.)
 - a. Areas to consider include: ticketing, restrooms, food stands, etc.
 - 8) Signage must be posted throughout the fairgrounds reminding people to practice good social distancing and encouraging hand washing.
 - a. Signage may be printed from [here](#).
 - 9) Consider ways to increase the availability of contactless transactions.
 - a. Areas to consider include everything from payments to applying hand stamps or wristbands.

Commercial Exhibits:

- 1) Create ingress/egress points for commercial exhibit buildings – encouraging one way traffic if able.
- 2) Ensure that exhibit spaces will allow for vendors to practice 6 foot distancing from other vendors and fair goers.
- 3) Food/drink sampling will not be permitted.
- 4) Commercial exhibit vendors are encouraged (not required) to wear a cloth face mask ([cloth masks](#)), if their duties do not allow a consistent social distance of 6 feet.

Food and Beverage:

- 1) Work to ensure that trailers/tents/stands are spaced far enough apart to allow for queue lines see directions posted above.
- 2) Seating areas must allow for adequate distancing between tables and seating areas.
- 3) There should be no common source touch points (i.e. condiments, reach in coolers, etc.) Condiment packets should be handed to patrons, not placed in a grab and go style containers.
- 4) Food and beverage vendors are encouraged (not required) to wear a [cloth face](#) mask, if their duties do not allow a consistent social distance of 6 feet.
- 5) There will be no self-serve food vendors allowed (i.e. flavor your own snow cone).
- 6) Food and beverage vendors should review the applicable guidelines set forth in the [restaurant in-room dining reopening guidelines](#), including the use of face masks.

Livestock Shows:

- 1) Livestock shows should follow the livestock show guidance document found [here](#).

Educational Spaces:

- 1) All activities that are based upon common touching (i.e. milking cow, whether real or artificial, or touch screen devices) are cleaned based on [CDC](#) guidelines.
- 2) Group activities (including spectator seating) should maintain 6 feet social distancing guidelines.
- 3) Consider how to allow social distancing in the stands/bleachers (i.e. seating taped off/blocked off so that only every third seat on every other row can be utilized).
- 4) Petting zoos should move to a “looking only” zoo atmosphere and not allow the touching of animals.

Static Exhibits:

- 1) One-way traffic through buildings is encouraged.
- 2) Food/drink sampling will not be permitted, including at cooking demonstrations.
- 3) Judges should not sample food entries.
- 4) Judges should follow [UNMC guidelines](#) on touching exhibits.
- 5) Ensure that adequate spacing exists for traffic to maintain 6 feet social distancing guidelines.
- 6) Signage must be posted throughout the building reminding people to not touch the exhibits.
- 7) Consider utilizing plastic to cover exhibits, or ropes to prevent spectators from touching exhibits.

Campgrounds:

- 1) If applicable, campgrounds should follow the [current guidance](#) as outlined by the Nebraska Game and Parks. Please check their website for current updates in regard to campgrounds.

On-site first aid/medial facility:

- 1) Ensure adequate PPE supply.
- 2) Eliminate “waiting room” scenarios.
- 3) Have designated rest areas for those visiting the on-site first aid / medical facility ensure the 6 feet social distancing guidelines are followed.

Ground transportation:

- 1) Buses, shuttles, trolley, etc. should ensure that social distancing can take place and should be frequently cleaned/disinfected.
- 2) Information on recommendations for buses can be found [here](#).

These guidelines are intended as a supplement to assist with safe operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and are subject to change. Please continue to check the Nebraska Department of Agriculture website (www.nda.nebraska.gov/COVID-19) as your event approaches.