



OKLAHOMA

# Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

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## Agriculture Event Reopening Guidance



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### Guidance for Livestock Competitions and other Agriculture Events

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry understands the difficulties COVID-19 has created for planning and executing agriculture events and competitions. If an agriculture event or livestock show is to take place, the main priority by event organizers should be the health of their participants – all while keeping local, state and federal regulations and guidelines in mind.

This document contains no one-size-fits-all practice – COVID-19 creates different challenges depending on countless factors, including the size of the event, its geographic location, the physical space and the anticipated attendees. We have identified reasonably foreseeable health risks and suggested options to mitigate those risks. We want to emphasize this is a guidance document and local officials have final jurisdiction on what is enforced in their counties.

We have also attached social distancing, mask requirement and COVID-19 general information signage for your use. Please feel free to print these out and post them at your event.

## BEFORE THE EVENT

- Make yourself aware of all local, state and federal guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19. The community where the venue is located may have additional restrictions in place.
- Convey thoroughly that any person showing any sign of illness should stay home. Consider using COVID-19 symptom screen questions and/or signage we have provided or additional signage available through the CDC.
- Speak with the venue manager.
  - Discuss expectations, including your role in cleaning and disinfection procedures, and if they will be requiring PPE from your event staff and exhibitors.
- Consider requiring/offering pre-registration to eliminate in-person interaction on site.
- Develop flexible and understanding refund policies for high-risk individuals or those in contact with high-risk individuals who can no longer attend your event.
- Reduce the size and duration of your event to minimize time spent on site and in-person.
- Consider posting results, scoresheets or other aspects of your event online.
  - Offer online options for watching the show.
- Be prepared to change, adjust or cancel plans if guidance or mandates are changed prior to the beginning of your event.
  - Make it clear to your participants how they will be notified of this decision. All communication should be offered through the same streams.
    - I.e. Instagram, Facebook pages, GroupMe or the Remind app.
- Create guidance and posters for handwashing and social distancing to post around the event grounds or use signage available from the CDC.



## **DURING THE EVENT**

- Implement cleaning and disinfection practices according to CDC guidelines, with regular sanitation of high-touch surfaces at least every two hours
- Regardless of the event layout (indoor or outdoor), the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in settings where it is difficult to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between people.
  - Note that children under the age of 2 should not wear cloth face masks because of suffocation danger.
- Provide handwashing or sanitizing stations throughout the event grounds.
  - Places to consider include near the show ring, the show office and any concession areas.
- Any persons not showing or directly involved with the preparation of a show animal should consider staying at home.
- Limit the number of people allowed in an arena to only those showing, judging and event staff.
  - Arenas include show arenas, warm-up arenas and make-up arenas.
  - Trainers, relatives and spectators should watch from a socially-distant appropriate area.
- Disinfect pens and writing utensils at the show office between participant usages.
- Require anyone who may demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19 or other sickness to isolate themselves immediately and notify event staff.
  - Consider arranging an area for staff and participants who may become sick and require quarantine.

### **Distancing Guidance**

- Participants should NOT congregate. At least 6 feet of distance must be maintained between people, including in the prep rings, warm-up rings, at the gate and while in the show ring.
  - Additional show staff and printed guidance may be needed in these areas to provide reminders and guidance to participants.
- Parking areas, campground, show offices, tie areas and stalls should be set up and managed to ensure the 6 feet of distance can be maintained between family groups.
- Spectators should be limited and if present, appropriately distanced.
  - Consider restricting access to bleachers and group seating areas.
- Plan ahead for traffic flow and crowd control.

### **Concessions and Food Guidance**

- Consider prohibiting group meals.
- Concession stands should use single use condiments.
- Create menus on single-use paper or use a large menu board showing food options where no physical interaction is necessary.
- Utilize prewrapped eating utensils, straws and stirrers.
- Sanitize high-touch items frequently.



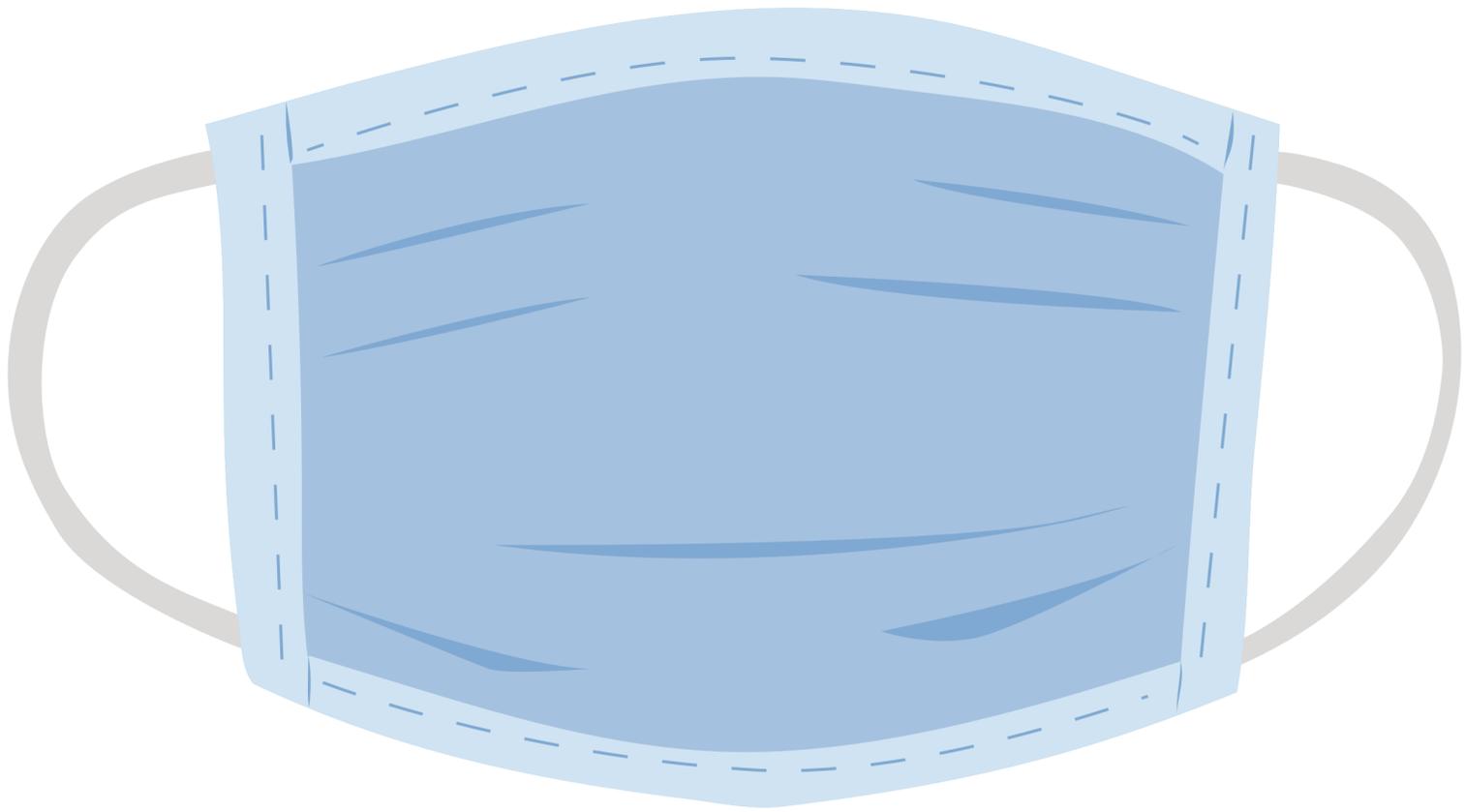
## **IF SOMEONE BECOMES SICK AT YOUR EVENT**

Event staff and participants must notify staff if they have symptoms of acute respiratory illness consistent with COVID-19 – such as fever, cough, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or shortness of breath – that is not explained by another medical or allergic condition.

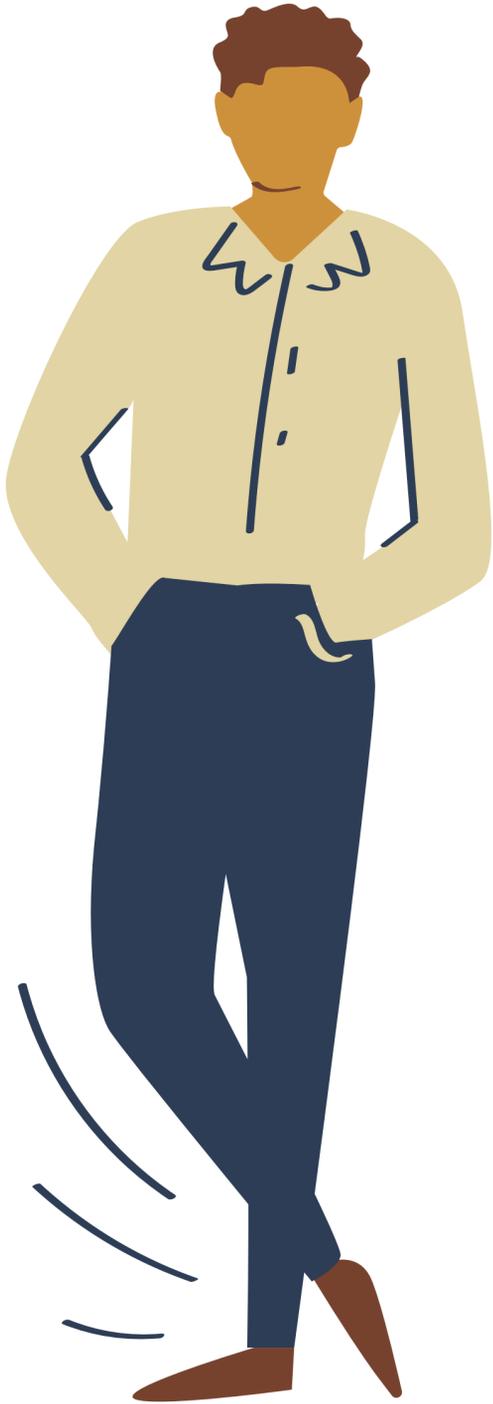
- Create a Communications Action Plan including protocols and contact information for local hospitals and health authorities.
- **Symptomatic Individual Guidance**
  - Require anyone who may demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19 or other sickness to isolate themselves immediately and notify event staff.
    - Consider arranging an area for staff and participants who may become sick and require quarantine.
    - Consider requiring participants to sign an agreement to abide by guidance set by event coordinators.
  - If a staff member exhibits symptoms of acute respiratory illness upon arrival to the event or becomes sick during the day, separate them from other events and exhibitors. Then send them home or to a designated isolation area immediately.
  - Assess what areas of the venue were visited, used or impacted by the infected individual and implement CDC-approved cleaning guidelines immediately.
- **Documentation of illness**
  - Document the circumstances of the individual's illness to help with contact tracing.
- **Messaging**
  - If someone becomes sick with COVID-19, it is the event staff's duty to inform participants of a potential case. Anyone in close contact with the sick individual should behave as if they are infected, isolate themselves and contact their physician.
  - If someone is confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, their supervisor should immediately notify the local public health authority.
  - Be prepared for communication to the public
    - Have someone prepared and ready to deal with a member of the press.
    - Be prepared to tell them what you have done to assist your event participants to protect themselves.
    - Have a trusted, well-spoken customer ready to share a positive comment with them on why you are continuing your event.
  - Over communicate with your participants, staff and local authorities on the situation of your event and the health status of all individuals involved.



OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE,  
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**PLEASE WEAR A  
MASK WHEN  
ENTERING THIS AREA**



Please  
maintain  
**SIX FEET**  
of physical  
distance.



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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AGRIBUSINESS AND CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

[coronavirus.health.ok.gov](https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov) | Call Center: 877.215.8336

## WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WARM WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.

Agriculture is incredibly important to a sustained food supply. We appreciate all of the hard work you all do and support you all. To continue supporting our food supply, please implement the following practices at your facilities:

### Protect Employees and Volunteers

The virus spreads primarily from person to person. The health and safety of employees/volunteers should be the focus of every agribusiness.

- Follow all CDC guidelines on preparing your place of work for continuing business
- Employees and volunteers who are sick or show signs of respiratory illness should not work until they are symptom free.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before eating, after using the bathroom, coughing or sneezing, and touching surfaces. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Have hand washing stations and plenty of hand sanitizer available.
- Frequently sanitize common areas with EPA registered products for use against COVID-19 that are safe to use in and around livestock.
- Maintain 6 feet of space in between workers
- Keep groups of employees congregated in one area to less than 10.

### Meals

- Consider not having an open type (buffet style) meal. If you want to serve a meal, consider individual boxed type service.
- Have individually packaged items available rather than open choice settings. Bottled water and can soda are good options and for snacks, individually packaged muffins rather than boxed dozen donuts

### Symptoms

People who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 have reported fever, cough and difficulty breathing. These symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

### How do I help prevent the spread of illnesses?

- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### How does COVID-19 spread?

- Coughing/sneezing without proper cover.
- Close personal contact (within six feet of a laboratory confirmed person).
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.



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