



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

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Business Guidance During COVID-19 Pandemic

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. **Community spread of COVID-19 remains active within the State. Therefore, the Arkansas Department of Health makes the following recommendations for how to best prevent transmission of COVID-19 at businesses in Arkansas.**

All businesses, manufacturers, and construction companies should implement the following protocols for diminishing the threat of COVID-19:

- a. Limit the number of people who can enter the facility at any one time to ensure that people in the facility can easily maintain a minimum six (6) feet distance from one another.
- b. At places where lines form at a facility (inside or outside), facilities should mark off six (6) foot increments at a minimum, establishing where individuals should stand to maintain a physical distance of six (6) feet.
- c. Employees entering a facility should wear a face covering to diminish potential spread if they are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19, especially when maintaining a physical distance of six feet is not possible.
- d. Customers or members of the public entering a facility should be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering to reduce the potential for introducing COVID-19 into the facility.
- e. Employees should be screened for fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell as they are entering the building at the beginning work.
- f. Provide hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility and in other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees, and in locations where there is frequent employee interaction with members of the public.
- g. Retail businesses are encouraged to provide contactless payment systems or provide for the disinfection of all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use.

- h. Regularly disinfect any high-touch surfaces.
- i. Signs should be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if they have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, or if they have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days and they themselves have not been fully vaccinated. An example can be found here:
https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/COVID-19_No_Entry.pdf
- j. Signs should be posted at all building entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if they are 65 years of age or older or have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity. See above link for an example.
- k. Employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must be reported to the Arkansas Department of Health. Businesses should assist ADH staff in conducting contact tracing in their facilities to help prevent an outbreak from occurring.
- l. Consider maintaining a log with dates and time of persons entering a facility to facilitate contact tracing in the event an outbreak occurs.

Arkansas State Parks follow separate guidelines with updates found at <https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/covid-19-update>,