

# Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

## Seating Considerations

### Seating arrangements

- Consult with local health and safety officials and other authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) when developing or revising seating and audience plans.
- Though there are many ways to arrange seating, be certain that there is six-foot spacing between guests or between groups from the same household. [1, 2, 3]
  - This will require blocking off rows and skipping seats.
  - Also remember that guests seated near aisles should be six feet away from where others will be walking past, or have a strict seating procedure from front to back.
- It is recommended to err on the side of caution when determining maximum capacity of the house, since there will be many bottleneck points in the aisles, restrooms, and lobby that are more difficult to calculate and control. [1, 2, 3]
- Open areas are patrolled by ushers providing information, enforcing rules, and modeling healthy behavior, especially for outdoor events where guests bring their own seating. [1]

### Seating traffic control

- Open the house at the same time as the lobby to allow time and safe spacing of guests. [3]
- Could seat the house from front to back to eliminate crossover contact. [3]
  - This would have to work with any scheduled seating times that you implement. [1]
- Consider ways to remove passing of paper and items:
  - Prepaid/digital ticketing processes, touchless in-person payment methods. [3]
  - Use e-tickets and phone scanners, or guests retain the ticket after scanning. [1]
  - Create a digital program that is emailed out or projected in the theatre. [3]
  - Discontinue reuse of paper programs for multiple performances. [3]
- Late seating policies may need revision, consider if it would be possible in your venue.
- You may choose to implement a one way traffic pattern throughout your venue if it makes sense to do so. Signs or arrows on the floor are necessary with this method. [4]
- Pulse dismissal from seats to reduce crowding at bottleneck points. [3]
- Establish direct exit routes — do not allow guests to congregate in the lobby. [3]
- Intermissions will be difficult, see Audience Arrival and Exit page for more details.

### Announcements

- Public addresses can repeat messages about the importance of maintaining physical distance and the importance of washing and sanitizing hands in addition to other best practices shared from medical and government authorities. [2, 4]
  - These can occur while the house is open and ensures that expectations are clear.

### Cleaning (also reference the separate cleaning document)

- Disinfect theatre between performances (spray application). [3]

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## Resources:

1. Event Safety Alliance Reopening Guide, pages 11-16,  
<https://www.eventsafetyalliance.org/esa-reopening-guide>
2. CDC Events and Gatherings, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>
3. PACC Reopening, pages 22-24,  
<https://www.apap365.org/Portals/1/PDFs/Advocacy/PACC%20Reopening%20Advisory%20%20Draft%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20Ver%204.0.pdf>
4. SISO Standards, pages 3 and 9,  
[https://www.siso.org/\\_media/PDFs/Industry-All-Secure-Standard-051420.pdf](https://www.siso.org/_media/PDFs/Industry-All-Secure-Standard-051420.pdf)

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