

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES



CONVENTION CENTER

INTRODUCTION

The Fort Worth Convention Center (FWCC) and the City of Fort Worth are committed to providing exceptional experiences which begins by ensuring the health and safety of our employees and guests.



The facility's proactive cleaning and sanitation protocols have been enhanced, at every touch point, following the recommendations that are being provided by state, city and local public health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). FWCC achieved the GBAC STAR™ accreditation by demonstrating compliance with the program's 20 elements which range from standard operating procedures and risk assessment strategies to personal protective equipment and emergency preparedness and response measures.

Our goal: find the best practices across all industries and then vet those practices with public health and medical health safety professionals to ensure we are at the forefront of health and safety for our employees and customers.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

From June 3, 2020 through March 10, 2021 a phased approach, Open Texas, was in effect based on state and local mandates. This phased approach included all event organizers to follow the mandated protocols for mask-wearing, social distancing, health screening, and reducing contact through set capacity limits. On March 2, 2021 the Texas Governor lifted the mask mandate and increased capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100% effective March 10, 2021.

In response to Texas Governor Greg Abbott's May 18, 2021 executive order to county and city governments regarding mask wearing, the City of Fort Worth will no longer require its employees or visitors to wear a mask in city facilities, including the Fort Worth Convention Center. The updated policies are listed below:

- Mask-wearing is optional by everyone who enters the public corridors, concourses and lobbies in the FWCC.
- FWCC staff and contractors will have the option of wearing a mask in unlicensed or public spaces. Mask wearing is required if working in a licensed space where the client has mandated maskwearing.
- FWCC will continue to employ state-of-the-art sanitizing and disinfecting programs.

The FWCC client shall have the responsibility to determine and communicate the following for all licensed space:

- Mask-wearing requirements for client-provided event staff and attendees.
- Temperature and other types of screening procedures at the entrance to the licensed event space.
- Enforcement of mask wearing regulations.
- Social distancing seating or standing requirements for the licensed spaces, which will determine capacity for an event.

Client's decisions shall be communicated to the FWCC management, who will support each event accordingly.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES

Employee & Guest Standards

The health and safety of our employees and guests is our number one priority.

Physical Distancing. Guests and employees will be advised to practice physical distancing by standing at least six feet away from other guests while standing in lines, using elevators and escalators or moving around the property. Registration, room setups, exhibitions as well as all other physical layouts will be arranged to ensure appropriate distancing as determined by the client.

Hand Sanitizer. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed at key guest and employee contact areas such as entrances, concourses, meal functions, concessions stands and restrooms.

FOH Signage. There will be health and hygiene reminders throughout the facility with special attention to restrooms, concourses, lobbies, and other high traffic areas.

Case Notification. If we are alerted to a case of COVID-19 at the facility, we will work with the local health authorities and will follow the appropriate steps. We will conduct additional cleaning and disinfecting protocol of all areas that the guest has visited.

Employee's Responsibilities

City of Fort Worth employees are the first line of defense for an effective health and sanitation program.

Employee Health and Temperature Screening. Our employees have been given clear instructions on how to respond swiftly and appropriately to all presumed cases of coronavirus infection on property in accordance with local guidelines and will be ready to provide full support to our guests addressing any health concerns. All facility employees are reminded to stay home if they do not feel well.

Hand Washing. Proper and frequent handwashing with soap is vital to help combat the spread of virus. All FWCC employees will wash their hands every 60 minutes (for 20-seconds) and after any of the following activities: using the restroom, sneezing, touching the face, blowing the nose, cleaning, sweeping, mopping, smoking, eating, drinking, entering and leaving a building, going on break and before or after starting a shift.

COVID-19 Training. All employees will receive training on COVID-19 safety and sanitation protocols with more comprehensive training for our teams with frequent guest contact including Operations, Security, and our service providers. Signage will be posted back of house reminding employees of the proper way to wash hands, sneeze and to avoid touching their faces as well as to practice physical distancing by standing at least six feet away from guests and others whenever possible.

GUEST ARRIVAL

The Guest Journey

Parking Garages

- Parking pay stations at the Houston Street garage are available in the lobby
- Elevator landing and stairwell handrails will be disinfected throughout the day

Inside the FWCC

- Everyone will have the option to wear a mask or face covering in the public concourses
- Elevator landing and stairwell handrails will be disinfected throughout the day
- Signs will ask guests to limit elevators to 4 people at a time
- Signs will ask guests to keep 2 escalator steps between the next person
- Doors will be placed open to limit touch, when practical
- Signage throughout the common areas with special attention to restrooms and public concourses asking everyone to practice social distancing and good hand hygiene
- Recommend event contacts to pick up own packages from loading dock rather than having FWCC staff deliver packages
- Work with meeting planner to determine where Lost & Found will be stored
- Site inspections and meetings will be conducted virtually and when in person, using the six-foot distance standard

Meeting Rooms, Exhibit Hall, Lobby or Concourse Areas

- Social distancing or standard occupancy rooms set in leased space will be determined by client
- Mask-wearing requirements will be determined by client for client-provided event staff and attendees
- Doors will be placed open to limit touch, when practical
- Additional ushers to enforce proper distancing and control attendance will be the client's financial responsibility if required

Event Registration or Ticket Purchase

- Mask-wearing requirements will be determined by client for client-provided event staff and attendees
- Client will determine the need for the creation of physical distancing for lines for queuing for ticket and merchandise sales
- On-line registration or paperless systems are recommended

Arena Events

- Social distancing or standard occupancy rooms set in leased space will be determined by client
- Mask-wearing requirements will be determined by client for client-provided event staff and attendees
- Controlled ingress and egress by section or row to encourage physical distancing, will be determined by client
- Client will determine the need for the creation of physical distancing for lines for queuing for ticket and merchandise sales
- Additional ushers to enforce proper distancing and control attendance will be the client's financial responsibility if required

FWCC OPERATIONAL SANITIZATION POLICIES

Cleaning Products and Protocols

Our facility uses cleaning products and protocols which meet EPA guidelines and are approved for use and effective against viruses, bacteria, and other airborne and bloodborne pathogens. We are working with our vendors, distribution partners and suppliers to ensure an uninterrupted supply of these cleaning supplies and the necessary PPE is available.

Public Spaces and Communal Areas. The frequency of sanitizing and disinfecting has been increased in all public spaces including an emphasis on frequent contact surfaces including elevators and elevator buttons, door handles, public restrooms, ATMs, escalator and stair handrails, other common areas and office counters.

High Traffic Areas. Meeting and banquet spaces, lobbies, concourses, concession stands and bars and FWCC offices will each have area-specific cleaning guidelines and protocols that meet or exceed all local or national authority recommendations.

Back of House. The frequency of cleaning and disinfecting will also increase in high traffic back of house areas with an emphasis on the employee break rooms, employee entrances, facility equipment, employee restrooms, loading docks, offices, concession stands and the kitchen.

Shared Equipment. Shared tools and equipment will be sanitized before, during and after each shift or anytime the equipment is transferred to a new employee.

Air Filter and HVAC Cleaning. The frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC system cleaning has been increased and the amount of air exchange will be maximized to increase external air flow.

Event Services and Public Areas

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Counters, conference rooms and office areas to be sanitized throughout the day
- All FOH and BOH high traffic areas and restrooms to be sanitized throughout the day and entry door placed open when possible
- Electrostatic sprayers to be used on completed set-ups, staging and handrails prior to the event and overnight
- Stage or A/V equipment to be sanitized throughout the day or after each session
- Event Services to sanitize the following areas throughout the day:
 - Building entry and meeting room doors
 - Elevators
 - Escalators and stair handrails
 - 2nd Level Concourse seating
 - Trash bins
 - Vending Machines

Physical Distancing Protocol

- Minimize small package delivery services
- Maintain six-foot physical distancing minimums with guests when possible
- Use e-mail for all guest transactions whenever possible
- Provide multiple options and various layouts
- Recommend all event shipments be delivered to event management

FOOD & BEVERAGE GUIDELINES

Catering, Banquets and Concessions

Employee PPE & Hygiene

- TFBS staff & contractors will have the option of wearing a mask in unlicensed or public spaces. Mask wearing is required (if) working in a licensed space where the client has mandated mask wearing.
- Associates who prepare or handle food will be required to wear gloves and hairnets/hats while preparing food or in any food preparation area
- All associates must be current on their Food Handler and/or Food Manager Certifications: <https://www.statefoodsafety.com/CustomPortal/FortWorth#/>
- Hand sanitizer dispensers to be made available near service stations

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Service stations, service carts, beverage stations, counters, bar tops and trays to be sanitized before and after use
- POS terminals to be assigned to a single server, only where possible, and sanitized between each user and before and after each shift
- Sanitize all open bottles of liquor and wine at the end of a shift or change of bartender
- Associates will increase frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing high touch services and areas with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended cleansers capable of combating COVID-19

Physical Distancing Protocol

- TFBS staff & contractors will be advised to stand at least six feet away from guests and others whenever possible

SERVICE PARTNER GUIDELINES

Ushers and Security Operations

Employee PPE & Hygiene

- Posted signs at entrances to remind guests to sanitize upon entry/exit to the building

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- All contact surfaces to be sanitized at the completion of an incident or report
- Shift managers will assign specific responsibilities and ensure proper protocols are followed

Physical Distancing Protocol

- Standard protocols will be followed unless a specific incident requires more invasive contact
- Ushers or security guards to assist with enforcing physical distancing protocols in guest queuing areas as required

Guest Considerations

- Guards will be familiar with sanitizer, restrooms and guest PPE distribution areas (when provided by event)

Parking Operations

Employee PPE & Hygiene

- Change gloves or sanitize hands after each guest contact
- Attendants will wear masks and gloves when working with guests

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- All parking booths, entrance and exit touch control panels to be sanitized throughout the day
- Elevator landing and stairwell handrails will be disinfected throughout the day

Physical Distancing Protocol

- Maintain proper distance from guests
- Contactless payment is encouraged, when not available, contact should be minimized
- Parking pay stations at the Houston Street garage are available

Electrical and Data/Internet Service Providers

Employee PPE & Hygiene

- Change gloves or sanitize hands after each guest contact

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Equipment and service connections provided should be sanitized once set-up is completed

Physical Distancing Protocol

- Maintain proper distance from guests

Guest Considerations

- Credit card transactions or online service ordering recommended

ENTRY SCREENING & RESOURCES

Employees and customers are encouraged to self-screen before entering the facility for any signs or COVID-19 symptoms.

At this point, we will follow the guidance from the Tarrant County Public Health Department and City of Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management officials. Based on these instructions, we will also notify the Meeting Planner(s) and/or Show Producer(s).

Symptomatic Guest Protocol

- When asked, FWCC staff will work with event organizers to implement a symptomatic guest protocol for guests. It is ultimately the event organizer to administer the protocol with support from FWCC staff.
- For guests who become sick while in the venue they will be asked to a temperature screening area. After it is determined that the guest has an elevated temperature over 99.6°, they will be asked to leave the venue and seek medical attention.
- If it is a multi-day event, their name should be kept on the event list as having failed the health screen and not be allowed back into the venue the remainder of the event.
- When possible, tracing guests movements, FWCC staff will determine if any additional cleaning & disinfecting should be done.

Resources

CDC Guidance Documents

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance-list.html?Sort-Date%3A%3Adesc>

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/public-health/disease-control---prevention/coronaviruses.html>

THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT TO OPEN TEXAS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>

TDEM - GA-20 "Essential Services" & "Reopened Services"

<https://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>