



San Francisco is reopening or expanding activities consistent with the State’s Framework for a Safer Economy, with additional modifications in many instances under its health orders and directives. San Francisco’s decisions to reopen or expand balance the public health risks of COVID-19 transmission with the public health risks of economic and mental health stress.

Even though COVID-19 case rates have come down significantly since their peak during the third surge, and more people are vaccinated, there remains a risk that people who you come into contact with when you are outside your Residence may have COVID-19. Most COVID-19 infections are caused by people who have no symptoms of illness. Due to limited supply of vaccine, only a minority of San Franciscans are fully vaccinated. We also have confirmed there are new, more contagious virus variants in the San Francisco Bay Area and that some of these variants are more likely to cause serious illness and death in unvaccinated people.

The opening or expansion of sectors does not necessarily signify that these activities are “safe.” The purpose of the required safety protocols contained in the health orders and directives is to make these activities and sectors safer for workers and the public. But reopening and expansion requires that all individuals and businesses use particular care and do their part to make these activities as safe as possible by strictly and consistently wearing Face Coverings and following Social Distancing Requirements and all other safety protocols.

People at risk for severe illness with COVID-19—such as unvaccinated older adults, and unvaccinated individuals with health risks—and members of their household are urged to defer participating at this time in activities with other people outside their household where taking protective measures of wearing face masks and social distancing may be difficult, especially indoors or in crowded spaces.

**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. 2020-32e**

**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF  
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING REQUIRED BEST  
PRACTICES FOR INDOOR MUSEUMS, ZOOS, AND AQUARIUMS**

**(PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE)**  
DATE OF DIRECTIVE: April 14, 2021

**By this Directive, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”) issues industry-specific direction that indoor museums, zoos, and aquariums, as described below, must follow as part of the local response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic. This Directive constitutes industry-specific guidance as provided under Sections 4.e and 11 of Health Officer Order No. C19-07v issued on April 14, 2021 (the “Stay-Safer-At-Home Order”) and, unless otherwise defined below, initially capitalized terms used in this Directive have the same meaning given them in that order. This Directive goes into effect at 8:00 a.m. on April 15, 2021, and remains in effect until suspended, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer. This Directive has support in the bases and justifications set forth in the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. As further provided below, this Directive automatically incorporates any revisions to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order or other future orders issued by the Health Officer that supersede that order or reference this Directive. This Directive is intended to promote best practices as to Social Distancing Requirements and sanitation measures, helping prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard the health of workers, customers, and the community.**



**Health Officer Directive No. 2020-32e**

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER DIRECTS AS  
FOLLOWS:**

- 1. This Directive applies to all owners, operators, managers, and supervisors of any museum, zoo, or aquarium that opens indoor galleries, exhibits, other indoor space (“Indoor Museum”).**
- 2. Before it opens any indoor space to the public, or allows Personnel onsite, each Indoor Museum must create, adopt, and implement a written health and safety plan (a “Health and Safety Plan”) consistent with this Directive and conforms to the requirements posted by the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) in the Indoor Museum Plan template, located at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/covid-guidance/2020-32-HSP-Museums-Zoos-Aquariums.pdf>.**
- 3. Each Indoor Museum must (a) submit the Health and Safety Plan to DPH at [healthplan@sfcityattty.org](mailto:healthplan@sfcityattty.org), (b) provide a summary of the Health and Safety Plan to all Personnel working on site or otherwise in the City in relation to its operations and make the Health and Safety Plan available to Personnel upon request, (c) make the plan available to the public on its website on a permanent URL (the URL must be included when the plan is submitted to DPH), and (d) post the Health and Safety Plan at each entrance to any physical business site within the City. Also, each Indoor Museum must provide a copy of the Health and Safety Plan and evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Directive upon demand.**
- 4. Attached as Exhibit A to this Directive is a list of best practices that apply to Indoor Museums (the “Best Practices”). Each Indoor Museum must comply with all of the relevant requirements listed in the Best Practices.**
- 5. If an aspect, service, or operation of an Indoor Museum is also covered by another Health Officer directive (all of which are available at [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives)), then the Indoor Museum must comply with all applicable directives, and it must complete all relevant Health and Safety Plan forms.**
- 6. Each Indoor Museum subject to this Directive must provide items such as Face Coverings (as provided in Health Officer Order No. C19-12, and any future amendment to that order), hand sanitizer or handwashing stations, or both, and disinfectant and related cleaning supplies to Personnel, all as required by the Best Practices. If any such Indoor Museum is unable to provide these required items or otherwise fails to comply with required Best Practices or fails to abide by its Health and Safety Plan, then it must cease operating until it can fully comply and demonstrate its strict compliance. Further, as to any non-compliant Indoor Museum, any such Indoor Museum is subject to immediate closure and the fines and other legal remedies described below, as a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.**
- 7. For purposes of this Directive, “Personnel” includes all of the following people who provide goods or services associated with an Indoor Museum: employees; contractors and sub-contractors (such as those who sell goods or perform services onsite or who deliver goods for the business); independent contractors; vendors who**



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are allowed to sell goods onsite; volunteers; and other individuals who regularly provide services onsite at the request of the Indoor Museum. “Personnel” includes “gig workers” who perform work via the business’s app or other online interface, if any.

8. This Directive and the attached Best Practices may be revised by the Health Officer, through revision of this Directive or another future directive or order, as conditions relating to COVID-19 require, in the discretion of the Health Officer. Each Indoor Museum must stay updated regarding any changes to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive by checking the Department of Public Health website ([www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives)) regularly.
9. Implementation of this Directive augments—but does not limit—the obligations of each Indoor Museum under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order including, but not limited to, the obligation to prepare, post, and implement a Social Distancing Protocol under Section 4.d and Appendix A of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. The Indoor Museum must follow these industry-specific Best Practices and update them as necessary for the duration of this Directive, including, without limitation, as this Directive is amended or extended in writing by the Health Officer and consistent with any extension of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, any other order that supersedes that order, and any Health Officer order that references this Directive.
10. This Directive does not apply to indoor retail art galleries, which may operate pursuant to the In-Store Retail Directive, Health Officer Directive 2020-17, as that directive may be amended from time to time. The In-Store Retail Directive is available at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/files/Directive-2020-17-Instore-Retail.pdf>.

This Directive is issued in furtherance of the purposes of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Where a conflict exists between this Directive and any state, local, or federal public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, without limitation, the Social Distancing Protocol, the most restrictive provision controls. Failure to carry out this Directive is a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, constitutes an imminent threat and immediate menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

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Susan Philip, MD, MPH,  
Health Officer of the  
City and County of San Francisco

Date: April 14, 2021



**Exhibit A to Health Officer Directive No. 2020-32e (issued 4/14/2021)**

**Best Practices for Indoor Museums**

**In addition to preparing, posting, and implementing the Social Distancing Protocol (Appendix A of Health Officer Order No. C19-07, and any amendments to that Order) (the “Social Distancing Protocol”), each Indoor Museum that operates in San Francisco must comply with each requirement for Indoor Museums listed in Directive 2020-32e, each requirement included in these Best Practices, and prepare a Health and Safety Plan substantially in the format of the Indoor Museum Plan template, available online at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/covid-guidance/Museums-Zoos-Aquariums-HSP.pdf>.**

**1. Section 1 – General Requirements for all Indoor Museums:**

- 1.1.** Follow all applicable public health orders and directives, including this Directive and any applicable State orders or industry guidance. In the event of any conflict between a State order or guidance and this directive, follow the more restrictive measure.
- 1.2.** Require patrons and Personnel to wear Face Coverings as provided in Health Officer Order No. C19-12, and any future amendment to that order (the “Face Covering Order”). Add signage to elevators and on all floors reminding individuals to wear Face Coverings. Health Officer orders are available online at [www.sfdph.org/healthorders](http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders). The City also has flyers, posters, fact sheets, and social media graphics available in multiple languages for use by the community. These resources include posters regarding use of Face Coverings, and these resources are available online at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>.
- 1.3.** Provide hand sanitizer (using touchless dispensers when possible) at key entrances and contact areas such as driveways, reception areas, lobbies, elevator and escalator landings, and stairway entrances.
- 1.4.** Clean all high-touch areas and surfaces (such as lobbies, ticket counters, help counters, doorknobs, handles, rails, light switches, sanitizing stations, restrooms, sinks, toilets, benches, keyboards, computers, phones, break rooms and lunch areas, changing areas, loading docks, kitchens, and areas of ingress and egress, including stairways, stairwells, handrails, and elevator controls is performed), at least daily, or more frequently if required by industry standards, and consistent with CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfection.
- 1.5.** If necessary, modify operating hours to ensure time for regular and thorough cleaning.
- 1.6.** Indoor Museums must limit the number of people, excluding Personnel, who are present in the facility to the lesser of: (1) 50% of the facility’s normal maximum occupancy or (2) the number of people who can maintain at least six feet of physical distance from each other in the facility at all times. This requirement includes limiting the number of people, excluding Personnel, who are present in individual galleries or public spaces to the lesser of: (1) 50% of the room’s normal maximum occupancy or (2) the number of people who can maintain at least six feet of physical distance from each other in the room at all times.
- 1.7.** Indoor Museums must advise all patrons to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from people outside of their Household at all times.



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- 1.8.** Group reservations and guided tours are permitted, subject to distancing and masking requirements at all times. Indoor Museums must include notices on their websites and post signage at each entrance reminding patrons to self-screen by answering the questions in the DPH screening form, located at <https://www.sfdcp.org/screeningvisitors>.
- 1.9.** Post signage reminding Personnel, and Guests that SARs-CoV-2 can be spread by individuals who do not feel sick or show outward symptoms of infection. Sample signage is available at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>
- 1.10.** Due to the increased risk of transmission presented by prolonged exposure to other households while in enclosed spaces, Indoor Museums must provide signage advising patrons of this risk, and have procedures (e.g. signage or prompts by Personnel) to circulate through the facility and not gather or linger in one area.
- 1.11.** Auditoriums may open in accordance with the requirements for Indoor Movie Theaters (Health Officer Directive 2020-35) and Live Events and Performances with Live Audiences (Section 27 of Appendix C-1 to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order), as the requirements for those sectors may be modified by the Health Officer.
- 1.12.** Although cash payments must be permitted, touchless payment by patrons should be encouraged. Where social distancing of at least six feet is not possible at ticketing booths or other points of contact, Indoor Museums must use an impermeable barrier between Personnel and patrons.
- 1.13.** Rentals for events, conferences, and receptions are permitted, subject to the safety precautions in Section 28 of Appendix C-1 of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- 1.14.** Interactive exhibits must be cleaned and disinfected at least once daily, or more frequently if required by industry standards. Indoor Museums must provide hand hygiene stations near any high touch element, and additional cleaning and disinfection is required if a patron appears symptomatic or there is visible contamination from nasal or oral secretions.
- 1.15.** Rental equipment, such as strollers and audio self-tour equipment may be used, as long as the Indoor Museum cleans the equipment consistent with the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfection.
- 1.16.** If all or part of an Indoor Museum has been vacant or dormant for an extended period, ensure that plumbing is functioning and that pipes are flushed before use. The San Francisco PUC provides guidance for flushing and preparing water systems at <https://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=1327>.
- 1.17.** All Indoor Museums must comply with the ventilation protocols at Section 4.i of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Review SFDPH's guidance for improved ventilation available at: <https://www.sfdcp.org/COVID-ventilation>.
- 1.18.** Indoor Museums must post signage informing employees how to report COVID-19 health order violations.
- 1.19.** Make stairways accessible to Personnel and patrons, where feasible. Encourage patrons and Personnel who are physically able to use the stairs.



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- 1.20.** Limit capacity in elevators to the lesser of: (1) four people (if not from the same household), or (2) the number of people who can fit in the elevator while maintaining at least six feet of distance from each other.
- 1.21.** Each Indoor Museum must designate a Worksite Safety Monitor. Indoor Museums must require Personnel screening for coming to work, and provide information regarding the availability of testing. If any Personnel tests positive for COVID-19, that individual or supervisor should report the result immediately to the Worksite Safety Monitor. The Worksite Safety Monitor must be ready to assist DPH with any contact tracing or case investigation efforts.
- 1.22.** Personnel must be trained for use of Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”). Specifically, the establishment must:
- 1.22.1.** Perform Hazard Assessment to Safety to determine the necessary PPE and safety supplies required for Personnel.
- 1.22.2.** Supply PPE to employees based on department needs, job responsibilities, and the level of risk to exposure.
- 1.22.3.** Provide training to Personnel on the use of PPE. In most circumstances, glove wearing is not recommended by OSHA and the CDC.
- 1.23.** All Personnel who can work remotely must continue to do so. Only Personnel who cannot work remotely, and who must be onsite to facilitate allowed operations, may work onsite. In office space where such Personnel are working, the establishment must comply with all relevant provisions of Section 1 of the Appendix A to Health Officer Directive No. 2020-18 regarding office facilities, including any amendments to that directive.
- 1.24.** Indoor Museums must follow all applicable directives (e.g. Dining Establishments, In-Store Retail, and Offices), and prepare applicable Health and Safety Plans required by those directives. The full list of Health Officer directives is available at [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives).