



Even though COVID-19 case rates have come down significantly from their peak in the third surge and more people are vaccinated, there remains a risk that people who you may 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. There are many people you may come into contact with in San Francisco who are not yet fully vaccinated. We have also seen surges in other parts of the country and the world, increasingly impacting younger adults.

The opening or expansion of sectors does not necessarily signify that these activities are “safe.” The purpose of the required safety protocols contained in San Francisco’s Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and companion health 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 indoors and outdoors in large crowds and following social distancing requirements and all other safety protocols.

Everyone who is eligible, including people at risk for severe illness with COVID-19 – such as unvaccinated older adults and unvaccinated individuals with health risks – and members of their households are urged to get vaccinated as soon as they can if they have not already done so.

**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. 2020-27e**

**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF  
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING REQUIRED BEST  
PRACTICES FOR OUTDOOR GYMS OR OUTDOOR FITNESS CENTERS**

**(PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE)**  
DATE OF DIRECTIVE: May 6, 2021

**By this Directive, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”) issues industry-specific direction that businesses offering outdoor gyms and fitness centers 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 Section 4 of Health Officer Order No. C19-07w issued on May 6, 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 This Directive goes into effect immediately and remains in effect until suspended, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer.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.**

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



**Health Officer Directive No. 2020-27e**

1. This Directive applies to all owners, operators, managers, and supervisors of any business operating outdoor gyms or outdoor fitness centers, as set forth in Section 16 of Appendix C-1 the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order (“Outdoor Gyms”).
2. Attached as Exhibit A to this Directive is a list of best practices that apply to Outdoor Gyms (the “Best Practices”). Each Outdoor Gym must comply with all of the relevant requirements listed in the Best Practices.
3. Each Outdoor Gym, before it begins to offer outdoor gym space, services, or equipment, or allow Personnel onsite, must create, adopt, and implement a written health and safety plan (a “Health and Safety Plan”). The Health and Safety Plan must be substantially in the form attached to this Directive as Exhibit B.
4. Guidance from the Department of Public Health related to Outdoor Gyms is attached to this Directive as Exhibit C, each Outdoor Gym must follow that guidance. The guidance is available at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>.
5. If an aspect, service, or operation of the Outdoor Gym is also covered by another Health Officer directive (all of which are available at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>), then the Outdoor Gym must comply with all applicable directives, and it must complete all relevant Health and Safety Plan forms.
6. Each Outdoor Gym must (a) make the Health and Safety Plan available to a customer and Personnel on request, (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 (c) post the Health and Safety Plan at each entrance to any physical business site within the City. Also, each Outdoor Gym must provide a copy of the Health and Safety Plan and evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Directive upon demand.
7. Each Outdoor Gym subject to this Directive must provide items such as Face Coverings (as provided in Health 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 Outdoor Gym 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 Outdoor Gym, any such Outdoor Gym is subject to immediate closure and the fines and other legal remedies described below, as a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
8. For purposes of this Directive, “Personnel” includes all of the following people who provide goods or services associated with an Outdoor Gym: 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 are permitted to sell goods onsite; volunteers; and other individuals who regularly provide services onsite at the request of the Outdoor Gym. “Personnel” includes “gig workers” who perform work via the business’s app or other online interface, if any.
9. 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



**Health Officer Directive No. 2020-27e**

relating to COVID-19 require, in the discretion of the Health Officer. Each Outdoor Gym must stay updated regarding any changes to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive by checking the Department of Public Health website (<https://www.sfdph.org/directives>) regularly.

- 10. Implementation of this Directive augments—but does not limit—the obligations of each Outdoor Gym 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 Outdoor Gym 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.**

**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.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Philip".

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

Date: May 6, 2021



**Exhibit A to Health Officer Directive No. 2020-27e (issued 5/6/21)**

**Best Practices for Businesses Offering Outdoor Gym Services**

**In addition to preparing, posting, and implementing the Social Distancing Protocol required by Section 4.d and Appendix A of Health Officer Order No. C19-07 (the “Social Distancing Protocol”) as it may be amended, each Outdoor Gym that operates in the City must comply with each requirement listed below and prepare a Health and Safety Plan substantially in the format of Exhibit B, below.**

**1. Section 1 – General Requirements for Outdoor Gyms:**

**1.1.** All gym or fitness services, equipment, and space must be provided entirely outdoors including, but not limited to, therapy or other services unless such services are permitted under the Ambulatory Care Directive (Health Officer Directive No. 2020-20,) in which case all requirements of that directive must be met. All indoor spaces such as, lounges, and lobbies must remain closed to customers and the general public, except as expressly provided in this Section 1.1 below.

**1.1.1.** Customers must remain outdoors at all times except they may enter an establishment to use the restroom, locker room, shower, sauna, or steam room or to reach an outdoor space that is only accessible by traveling through the establishment. Outdoor gyms should encourage customers to use the restroom before coming to the gym. Customers must not use the restroom solely to wash their hands and must sanitize their hands before and after touching common use surfaces in bathrooms such as door handles. Indoor and outdoor hot tubs may operate in accordance with Health Officer Directive No. 2020-24 (Pools) as it may be amended in the future.

**1.1.2.** Locker rooms, showers, changing areas, saunas and steam rooms (“Amenities”) may open subject to all of the following applicable requirements:

**1.1.2.1.** Amenities are allowed to open subject to applicable restrictions in this Section 1.1.2. People are strongly encouraged to shower and change at home rather than using indoor showers and locker rooms or changing areas.

**1.1.2.2.** Fixtures or appliances such as hairdryers, blowing hand dryers, and swimsuit dryers are prohibited and must be removed or disabled. Exercise equipment, including for stretching, must be removed from the locker room. Personal services, such as facials or massage therapy, must be done in a separate room from the locker room and must comply with the separate Health Officer directive on personal services.

**1.1.2.3.** The Facility must reduce capacity of Amenities to the lesser of: (1) 25% of the maximum capacity for each area or (2) the number of people who can consistently maintain at least six feet of physical distance at all times. Capacity limits must be strictly enforced. Group or team meetings are prohibited in locker rooms.

**1.1.2.4.** Amenities may only open if proper distancing is possible and partitions are in place or signs have been posted to specify physical distancing requirements. The Facility must ensure the layout of Amenities will allow for appropriate



physical distancing at all times.

- 1.1.2.5.** The Facility must make physical modifications to the Amenities to ensure patrons can maintain at least six-feet of physical distance at all times. As required by the State guidelines, stagger available lockers, sinks, and showers, such as by using signage, physical barriers, or disabling certain lockers or showerheads.
- 1.1.2.6.** Also, indoor locker rooms and shower facilities may only open if they use at least one of the following ventilation measures in such areas (separate from the overall requirements for the overall Facility): (1) opening windows or doors (or preferably both); (2) using an HVAC system that brings in outdoor air and/or recirculates filtered air with an appropriate filter; or (3) using air purifiers with an appropriate filter. The Facility must post signage outside the entrance to the locker room or shower facility showing which ventilation measures are being used. It is the Facility's responsibility to determine whether any ventilation measure can be safely implemented. If due to safety hazards, smoke, or other conditions the Facility cannot implement any of these measures in relation to the indoor locker room or shower area, then the Facility must temporarily close the indoor locker room or shower area for the period the Facility cannot implement any of those measures.
- 1.1.2.7.** Face Coverings (as defined by Health Officer Order C19-12 (the "Face Covering Order") as it may be amended in the future) must be worn while in locker rooms and to and from other Amenity areas, but are not recommended while using showers, saunas, and steam rooms. Anyone using such Amenities must put their Face Covering back on as soon as possible upon exiting. The Facility must encourage patrons who plan to use Amenities to bring an extra, clean Face Covering for use afterwards.
- 1.1.2.8.** Provide hand sanitizer for Personnel and others at all entrances and exits to locker rooms and shower facilities. Ensure that the socially-distanced allowable number of sinks stay operational and are continuously stocked with hand cleaning supplies at all times.
- 1.1.2.9.** High-touch surfaces in locker rooms and showers, such as faucets, toilets, counters, door handles, and light switches must be cleaned at least once daily or more frequently if required by industry standards and current CDC guidelines using EPA-registered disinfectants approved for use on SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus. Personnel are not required to clean surfaces after each individual customer touches a surface unless the patron appears symptomatic or there is visible contamination with nasal or oral secretions.
- 1.1.2.10.** Implement strategies for reducing the amount of time patrons spend in Amenities. Prohibit patrons from engaging in unnecessary personal hygiene activities in locker rooms and shower areas, such as shaving, brushing teeth, or applying makeup. To help prevent lingering and congregating in locker rooms, no televisions or similar programming are allowed to be used in locker rooms or shower facilities at this time.
- 1.1.2.11.** Post the following required signage: (1) a poster discouraging locker room usage, reminding patrons to minimize their time in locker rooms and shower



facilities, requiring mask-wearing except when showering, and strictly limiting capacity and (2) a ventilation checklist demonstrating ventilation compliance. A sample locker room poster can be found at <https://sf.gov/file/locker-room-poster> and the ventilation checklist can be found at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>.

- 1.1.3.** Customers may enter an establishment if otherwise permitted under the State Health Order, Health Officer Order No. C19-07 (the “Stay-Safer-at-Home Order”), and any applicable industry-specific directives or guidance. For example, customers may enter a space that currently qualifies as an In-store Retail business that operates in compliance with all applicable Health Officer Orders and Directive No. 2020-17. Copies of industry-specific directives are available online at <https://www.sfdph.org/directives>.
- 1.1.4.** Outdoor gyms must consider the risks associated with local streets, sidewalks, traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Outdoor Gyms must take all reasonable and feasible efforts to reduce customer and Personnel exposure to traffic and bike lanes, minimize blocking visibility of other travelers (whether vehicle, pedestrian, or bicyclist), and minimize or eliminate potential blockages of passageways, including ADA-compliant public access to sidewalks for persons with disabilities. Outdoor Gyms must comply with state and local laws, regulations, and permitting requirements (e.g., ADA access and compliance with applicable zoning), including, but not limited to, the placement of outdoor structures and service stations. Outdoor Gyms must take all reasonable and feasible steps to protect passersby from exposure to exhalations of customers using the Outdoor Gym and must arrange the Outdoor Gym space to allow pedestrians (including, but not limited to, those using wheelchairs or other assistive devices) sufficient adjacent sidewalk space so that they may pass by the Outdoor Gym while maintaining at least six feet of physical space from customers. For example, Outdoor Gyms may post signage or use tape to directing passersby to move along the building line to maximize gym space while maintaining social distance.
- 1.1.5.** Outdoor Gyms must address the potential hazards that result from moving outside, including: (1) ensuring use of electrical devices and extension cords in compliance with Cal/OSHA’s Guide to Electrical Safety; and (2) ensuring there are no tripping hazards from cords or other equipment.
- 1.1.6.** Outdoor Gyms must comply with the Cal/OSHA standards for heat and air quality illness prevention for outdoor Personnel, including an effective heat illness prevention plan with written procedures. Outdoor Gyms are permitted to use sun or weather shelters in accordance with Section 1.8 of this Directive and any applicable SFDPH guidance.
- 1.2.** Customers and Personnel must adhere to all Social Distancing requirements of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order including maintaining physical distancing (six feet recommended) from members of other Households at all times and maintaining a minimum of six feet of physical distance from members of other Households whenever they are engaging in aerobic exercise, cardio, or any other activity that increases breathing rates. Customers must be reminded of their obligation to maintain appropriate physical distancing from Personnel, particularly when Personnel are carrying out sanitation or other work-related duties.



- 1.3.** Outdoor Gym capacity is determined by the number of people who may safely fit in the Outdoor Gym space at any time while at all times adhering to Social Distancing requirements under this Directive and the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
  - 1.3.1.** Evaluate the facility to determine the number of people (including customers and Personnel) who may safely fit in the Outdoor Gym area at any time while at all times adhering to Social Distancing Requirements under this Directive and the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. For assistance in understanding the impact of occupancy on social distancing, see: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/planning\\_response/occupancy\\_social\\_distancing.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/planning_response/occupancy_social_distancing.html). Educate Personnel about capacity limits and require them to enforce limits by, for example, spacing out customer reservations.
  - 1.3.2.** Arrange Outdoor Gym equipment and space to facilitate appropriate physical distancing between and among Customers and Personnel. Alter or enhance the physical space to encourage appropriately-distanced movement into, out of, and within the Outdoor Gym. For example, use signage, floor tape, or other indicators to assist Personnel and customers in maintaining Social Distance and moving safely around the Outdoor Gym space.
  - 1.3.3.** Create a system for managing capacity, enforcing Social Distancing and Face Covering requirements, and conducting Customer symptom screening. To more effectively fulfill these requirements, it is strongly recommended that Outdoor Gyms create a reservation system for gym access or particular high-use equipment.
  - 1.3.4.** If an Outdoor Gym cannot ensure maintenance of at least six-foot distance within the facility between and among customers and Personnel, such as by moving workout stations or spreading Personnel out, then it must reduce the number of people permitted in the facility at any given time accordingly.
  - 1.3.5.** Outdoor Gyms are strongly encouraged to set aside spaces or times for use by community members who are particularly vulnerable to poor health outcomes from COVID-19.
- 1.4.** Customers and Personnel must be screened in accordance with the Social Distancing Protocol before entering the Outdoor Gym. Customers who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in the past 14 days, have come into close contact with a person who tested positive for the virus in the past 14 days, or have any of the symptoms listed in Attachments A-1 or A-2 to the Social Distancing Protocol must not enter the Outdoor Gym.
- 1.5.** Customers are generally not required to wear a Face Covering when outdoors. Customers must wear a Face Covering or alternative face covering when indoors and as otherwise required in Health Officer Order No. C19-12 (the "Face Covering Order"). Personnel must wear a Face Covering or alternative face covering at all times they are working with members of the public as required by the Face Covering Order. If any customer refuses to comply with the Face Covering Order or other provision of this Directive, then the Outdoor Gym must refuse service to the individual and request that the individual leave the facility.
- 1.6.** Customers may only engage in self-directed fitness in the Outdoor Gym space unless otherwise permitted by the Stay-Safer-At-Home-Order. For example, customers may





individually use treadmills, free weights, or other fitness equipment and may engage in outdoor fitness classes in accordance with this Directive and Section B.(9) of Appendix C1 to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.

- 1.7.** Outdoor Gyms must develop a plan and implement sanitation requirements that exceed standard industry requirements. Outdoor gyms must implement all applicable sanitation requirements of the Social Distancing Protocol.
  - 1.7.1.** Equip the entrance with a hand washing station or hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes. Encourage customers and Personnel to wash hands for 20 seconds in soap and warm water or use hand sanitizer before entering the Outdoor Gym space. Place hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipe dispensers in the Outdoor Gym space for use by customers and Personnel particularly near any common touch equipment.
  - 1.7.2.** Make disinfectant spray and wipes available to customers at convenient locations around the Outdoor Gym space.
  - 1.7.3.** Place signage around the Outdoor Gym emphasizing basic infection prevention measures, including the requirements to wear a Face Covering while indoors and maintain proper social distance at all times, stay home when feeling sick, and wash or sanitize hands frequently.
  - 1.7.4.** Disinfecting products must be approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – approved list available at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>). Outdoor Gyms must follow all product and safety instructions.
  - 1.7.5.** Require Personnel to clean high touch areas and surfaces, fitness machines, gear, accessories, sanitation stations, or other equipment that can be safely cleaned in a manner that complies with industry standards, but no less than once daily following current CDC guidelines available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>. Personnel are not required to clean surfaces after each individual customer touches a surface unless the customer appears symptomatic or there is visible contamination with nasal or oral secretions. Provide Personnel adequate time and space to complete all sanitation duties.
- 1.8.** Consistent with the limitations of the State Health Order, the Stay-Safer-at-Home Order, and guidance from SFDPH, Outdoor Gyms may, subject to any applicable permit requirements, conduct their operations under a tent, canopy, or other sun or weather shelter. Any use of impermeable barriers, or area umbrellas, canopies, and other shade structures must be consistent with guidance in Section 4.c of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- 1.9.** If all or part of an Outdoor Gym’s establishment has been vacant or dormant during the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, then the Outdoor Gym must ensure 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>. Outdoor Gyms must conspicuously post a copy of this Directive and all attachments, the Health and Safety Plan, and the Social Distancing Protocol (1) on any public facing website and (2) at the physical Outdoor Gym site.



### Health Officer Directive No. 2020-27e (Exhibit B) Health and Safety Plan (issued 5/6/21)

Each Outdoor Gym must complete, post onsite and online, and follow this Health and Safety Plan.

Check off all items below that apply and list other required information.

*Business/Entity name:*

*Contact name:*

*Facility Address:*

*Email / telephone:*

*(You may contact the person listed above with any questions or comments about this plan.)*

- Reviewed, implemented, and completed all requirements set forth in Health Officer Directive No. 2020-27e, available at: <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>.
- Completed any necessary adjustments to the layout of the business to allow for proper social distancing.
- Obtained any necessary permits needed for outdoor shelters.
- Completed evaluation of electrical safety and implemented all required precautions.
- Plumbing is functioning and, if the facility was dormant, then the pipes are flushed.
- Developed a plan to ensure Personnel and customers comply with social distancing requirements and to limit the number of people at the outdoor business at a given time, consistent with the requirements in the Stay-Safer-at-Home Order.
- Require customers to wear a Face Covering or alternative Face Covering when indoors. Personnel are required to wear Face Coverings as provided in the Face Covering Order.
- Ensure daily COVID-19 symptom self-verifications are completed for all Personnel as required by the Social Distancing Protocol. Ensure that all Customers complete verbal COVID-19 screening before entering the Outdoor Gym space. Anyone who answers "yes" to a screening question must be prevented from entry.
- Provided hand washing stations or hand sanitizer at entrance to Outdoor Gym and at convenient locations throughout Outdoor Gym Space.
- Implemented all sanitization requirements as described in Directive 2020-27e.
- Personnel and customers have access to cleaning supplies so that they can clean surfaces as required by Directive 2020-27e or industry standards.
- High touch surfaces in common areas are cleaned at least once daily or more frequently if required by industry standards. Personnel are not required to clean surfaces after each individual customer touches a surface unless the customer appears symptomatic or there is visible contamination with nasal or oral secretions.
- Posted signage reminding customers of their obligations to maintain social distance, wear a Face Covering while indoors, and wash or sanitize hands frequently.
- Reviewed and implemented all industry-specific guidance in the Directive.

**Additional Measures:**



ALERT: Remain Cautious

In alignment with the State’s recommendations, San Francisco began reopening at the State’s Yellow Tier starting May 7, 2021, to allow some additional activities and increased capacity for others. The decision to reopen balances 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, and more people are vaccinated, there remains a risk that people who you come into contact with may have COVID-19. Most COVID-19 infections are caused by people who have no symptoms of illness and to date, only about 50% of people you may come into contact with in San Francisco are fully vaccinated. We have also seen surges in other parts of the country and the world, increasingly impacting younger adults. Therefore, the opening of sectors does not necessarily signify that these activities are “safe” but getting fully vaccinated can help us get there.

We have made our best efforts to create guidance to help these activities and sectors provide safer environments for workers and the public. However, this requires that everyone do their part to make these activities as safe as possible, including wearing a well-fitted mask that covers your mouth and nose in all recommended settings (refer to Face Covering Health Order and Gatherings Directives for more information), avoiding indoor settings to the extent possible, maintaining at least 6 feet distance from those you don’t live with, getting tested and isolating if you are ill, and complying with additional health protocols required of open businesses. People at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 — such as older adults, people with health risks, and those who live with or care for them are urged to get fully vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated (i.e., 14 days have passed since your final dose), you can feel safer about your own health risks when participating in activities permitted by our state and local health departments. However, please consider the possible risk your exposure may have on those around you, especially those you live with and those who are unvaccinated, when you take part in activities that involve people outside your household.

San Francisco Department of Public Health Guidance Notice of Suspension or Restrictions of Indoor and Outdoor Activity (March 5, 2021)

San Francisco continues to experience a rapid and significant surge in COVID-19 cases with serious implications for our health and healthcare systems. In coordination with the State’s recent Yellow Tier guidance, San Francisco will temporarily suspend or restrict certain activities to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Activities that are suspended or restricted include indoor and outdoor dining and drinking establishments, bars, clubs, and entertainment venues, and other activities that are not necessary for the health and safety of the community. These activities have been implemented for their respective effective dates, and any new changes will take effect on the dates listed in the table below.

Table with 4 columns: Activity and Location, Address/Address Range, Effective Date, and Change in Activity Date. Rows include Retail (Downtown), Dining (Downtown), Events & Festivals (Downtown), and Personal Services (Downtown).

Business Capacities and Activities Table or BCAT

The Health Officer ordered suspensions or restrictions on capacity limits of the activities as shown in the table. These suspensions or restrictions amend any related orders, directives, or guidance. All impacted people and entities are required to adhere to these new limits and must otherwise continue to monitor and comply with all applicable Health Orders and Directives.

Refer to the BCAT (English, Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian) for all current restrictions, limitations and suspensions.



## Interim Guidance: Gyms, and Fitness Centers (Indoor and Outdoor) During the COVID-19 Pandemic

UPDATED May 6, 2021

**AUDIENCE:** Gyms and Fitness Centers operating indoors and/or outdoors, and their patrons. Patrons of Gyms and Fitness Centers should read this because it conveys the risks associated with indoor exercise versus outdoor exercise and relays best practices to help keep patrons and Personnel healthy and safe.

**NOTICE:** The following guidance was developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) for use by Gym and Fitness Centers and will be posted at <http://www.sfdcp.org/businesses>. Guidance in this document **may be revised** due to changes in the **COVID-19 risk level tier** for San Francisco as assigned by the **California Department of Public Health**. Please see the associated changes in the **Business Capacities and Activities Table (BCAT)** at the top of this document: any changes made on the Table override the conflicting information in this document.

**BACKGROUND:** The Stay Safer at Home Health Order (C19-071) authorizes Outdoor Gyms and Fitness Centers and Indoor Gyms and Fitness Centers to operate. Outdoor and Indoor Gyms and Fitness Centers are required to adhere to these guidelines and must monitor forthcoming Health Orders and Directives which are posted at [www.sfdph.org/healthorders](http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders) and [sfdph.org/directives](http://sfdph.org/directives).

### Summary of Changes since the 4/14/2021 Version

- Saunas and steam rooms are allowed with specific capacity limits.
- Indoor and Outdoor hot tubs may open under the Health Office [Directive No. 2020-24](#) (Pools)
- In rooms with at least one ventilation measure implemented, 6 ft is the minimum distance that patrons maintain at all times. If no ventilation measure is present, then patrons must maintain a distance of 12 ft when engaged in aerobic exercise.
- Cleaning requirements aligned with the [CDC](#) and industry standards

## COVID-19 BASICS

The number of people inside a gym is limited to the capacity listed in the [Business Capacities and Activities Table \(BCAT\)](#).

### How Does COVID-19 Spread?

Our current understanding is that COVID-19 is mostly spread from person-to-person in the air through virus-containing droplets in the breath of someone with COVID-19. These droplets enter the air when a person breathes. Even more droplets can get in the air when infected people talk, sing, cough, or sneeze. People with COVID-19 may have no symptoms and can still be breathing out virus-containing droplets that can infect others. Transmission can occur through:

- Larger droplets. These larger droplets are sometimes called “ballistic droplets” because they travel in straight lines and are pulled down by gravity. People nearby, usually within 6 feet, are infected when they breathe in these droplets or if the droplets land in their eyes, nose, or mouth.



- Smaller droplets or infectious particles. These can float in the air for a period of time and/or travel beyond 6 feet on indoor air currents, especially in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation. People sharing the same space are infected when they breathe in these smaller droplets and particles or the droplets or particles land on their eyes, nose, or mouth – even if they are further than 6 feet away. These droplets are sometimes referred to as “aerosols” or “bioaerosols”.

COVID-19 can also spread if a person touches their eyes, nose or mouth after touching a contaminated surface (also known as a fomite), however this is less common.

### **COVID-19 Prevention**

- [Wash your hands often with soap and water](#). If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% ethanol or 70 % isopropanol.
- [Avoid Close Contact](#). To the greatest extent, maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing between yourself and the people who don't live in your Household.
- [Wear a Face Covering](#). Cover your mouth and nose with a Face Covering in public settings and when around people who don't live in your Household.
- Routinely [clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces.
- [Monitor Your Health Daily](#). Be alert of symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, stay home, and **get tested**.

### **Flu vaccines**

Flu vaccines are critical in the fight against COVID-19 by (1) keeping workers and communities healthy and (2) reducing strain on our healthcare and testing systems that are responding to COVID-19. **Strongly encourage all Personnel to get a flu shot.** Post signage to encourage flu vaccine among patrons, visitors, etc.

### **COVID-19 vaccine is here!**

The vaccine is one of the most important ways to end the pandemic. The FDA, CDC, and California's own Scientific Safety Review Workgroup have reviewed data from clinical trials to ensure the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. **We strongly encourage all persons to get vaccinated.** The first vaccines approved in the US are about 95% effective in preventing sickness from COVID-19, however we do not know how well they prevent infections that do not cause symptoms. This means that we do not know how common it is for a person who got the vaccine to carry the virus and transmit to others, including [those who have increased risk for severe illness or death](#). Therefore, it is still very important for those who are vaccinated, and for the rest of the population who waits for their vaccines, to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic: wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose when outside your home, avoid get-togethers/gatherings, avoid being indoors with people you don't live with, stay at least 6 feet away from others, and wash your hands after touching shared objects or after touching your face. Find out more about the vaccine, including where and when to get it at: [sf.gov/covidvax](http://sf.gov/covidvax).

If you have received the COVID-19 vaccine, read more about whether you need to quarantine at: [sfcdcp.org/quarantineaftervaccination](http://sfcdcp.org/quarantineaftervaccination). Information on safer social interactions for vaccinated individuals can be found at: [sfcdcp.org/lifeaftervaccine](http://sfcdcp.org/lifeaftervaccine).

### **CA Notify – another way for us to stop the spread**

**CA Notify** ([canotify.ca.gov](http://canotify.ca.gov)) is an app you can add on your smartphone. It uses Bluetooth technology to

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Updated 5/6/2021. <http://www.sfcdcp.org/businesses>



recognize when you and your phone have been in close proximity to others infected with COVID-19 to help stop the spread of the virus in our community.

If you are using **CA Notify** and you test positive, **your diagnosis will not be shared** with others. However, if other people were in close contact with you are also enrolled in the app, they will be told they had an exposure. They will be told the date of the exposure, but not the time, location or identity.

If you are using **CA Notify** and you were exposed to someone who tested positive and they entered their result into the app, you will be told the date of the exposure, but not the time, location or identity.

**CA Notify** is available through Apple and Google. See [canotify.ca.gov](https://canotify.ca.gov) for more information.

### Additional Requirements for Gyms/Fitness Centers

Indoor activities with people outside of your household have a much higher risk of COVID-19 transmission to you and your community than outdoor activities. You must consider the impact of this increased risk on yourself and your community. Gyms and Fitness Centers are **strongly encouraged to prioritize and use outdoor space** whenever feasible and may use outdoor AND indoor space as conditions allow under the current Order.

Please see Indoor Risk During the COVID-19 Pandemic at <https://www.sfdcp.org/indoorrisk>

- Exercising increases rate and intensity of exhalation and the risk of viral transmission. **Unless stated elsewhere in this guidance**, for ANY activity that may increase breathing rate and/or intensity (including but not limited to cardio/aerobic activities or weight-lifting), facilities **must** ensure individuals must follow the physical distancing requirements listed in the **BCAT**. **The greater the space** between patrons who are breathing heavily, **the safer**.
- Ensure everyone is wearing a face covering at all times except while hydrating with normal breathing intensity.

Fitness Centers and Gyms may be allowed to open with limitations listed in the **BCAT** and must adhere to the requirements relayed in this guidance. Gyms in locations such as apartment buildings, condominiums or offices may operate if they can be staffed to ensure adherence to all indoor gym protocols and comply with current restrictions listed in the BCAT.

## PLANNING – Applicable to Indoor and Outdoor Establishments

Indoor and Outdoor Gyms and Fitness Facilities must fill out the applicable Health and Safety Plan outlining how the facility will implement the requirements in this guidance and any relevant Health Officer Directives or Orders. This plan must be shared with Personnel, patrons, and other members of the facility. Gyms and Fitness Facilities operating indoor and outdoor must complete and post a Health and Safety Plan for each space being utilized. Health and Safety Plans can be found at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-health-directives.asp#31>

- Post the Health and Safety Plan in a highly visible location for Personnel and patrons
- All mention of “Personnel” shall include but is not limited to salaried and hourly staff and independent vendors and contractors
- The Health and Safety Plan must also be posted on any gyms or fitness center’s public facing website.



- Prepare and post the Social Distancing Protocol (see Appendix A of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, posted at [sfdph.org/healthorders](https://sfdph.org/healthorders)). The Social Distancing Protocol must also be posted on any gym or fitness center's public facing website.
- Designate a COVID-19 staff liaison to be the single on duty point of contact at each site for questions or concerns around practices, protocols, or potential exposure. This person will also serve as a liaison to SFDPH.
  - Assign a **designated site safety monitor** to ensure patrons' compliance with all aspects of the Health and Safety Plan and this guidance, such as wearing masks, **monitoring space capacity limits**, preventing congregation or crowding, and generally maintaining social distance. When the designated Site Safety Monitor is not on duty (off work, sick or on vacations), assign another staff member to ensure compliance.
- It is strongly recommended that a reservation system be established to manage capacity for gym access and high-use equipment. Facilities should determine in advance how they will monitor in real time the capacity inside the facility and the steps to be taken to make sure it is not exceeded.
  - Equip the front desk area with Plexiglas or other impermeable barriers, if feasible, to minimize the interaction between reception workers and patrons.
  - Implement virtual, touchless check-in tools, if possible, so that patrons do not have to utilize the reception space.
  - Train staff on health and safety practices that must be followed. Share information on [COVID-19, how to prevent it from spreading](#), and which [underlying health conditions](#) may make individuals more susceptible to contracting the virus.
  - All Personnel must wear face coverings AT ALL TIMES while in the gym and/or fitness center. [See the Face Covering Health Order No. C19-12c.](#)

All Personnel must maintain minimum physical distances as listed in the [BCAT](#).

Consider having all staff development meetings remotely by using electronic means, such as email and teleconferencing, to the extent possible.

### **Metering System - Enforce Capacity Limits**

Implement a **Mandatory Metering System** to ensure maximum Capacity Levels specified in the Business Capacities and Activities Table are not exceeded.

- Develop and implement a written procedure to track the number of persons entering and exiting the facility to ensure at or below allowable capacity.
- Consider designating personnel to monitor facility capacity.
- Consider increasing the number of on-premises staff to prevent crowding situations during busy hours.

**Indoor retail spaces, cafes, or dining spaces** within an indoor fitness center are **limited** to current use and **capacity limitations**. View **restrictions** in the [BCAT](#). In addition, all protocols detailed in Health Officer Directive 2020-17 must be followed. Any indoor workspace such as offices or employee break rooms that are physically part of the facility and required to operate the facility may be used (if current restrictions allow) but must follow all protocols detailed in Health Officer Directive 2020-18. All office functions that can be done remotely must continue to be done so to the maximum extent possible. The





number of workers counts towards the current capacity limit for the facility. View restrictions in the [BCAT](#).

**Indoor Dining Spaces such as restaurants or café**, If the gym or fitness center has a restaurant or café, that space can operate subject to Health Officer Directive [No. 2020-16](#) (Dining) as long as there is 12 feet of distance between the dining space and patrons or others who are not dining. (For example, a restaurant may operate adjacent to a hallway or lobby only if people using the hallway or lobby can maintain 12 feet of distance from seated diners). The 12-foot buffer does not apply, if the restaurant or café is in its own separate room that is closed off by walls from non-diners. The dining space must meet one of the ventilation requirements to operate.

**Personal care services**, such as **massage therapy**, must follow all protocols detailed in Health Officer Directive No. 2020-30.

## MANDATORY SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

### Indoor Gyms/Indoor Fitness Centers

All **businesses operating indoors** must:

- Review the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) [Ventilation Guidance](#) and keep an annotated copy available. Ventilation guidance from recognized authorities such as the Centers for Disease Control, ASHRAE, or the State of California may be used instead.
- Indoor Gyms and Fitness Centers must conspicuously post signage, including at all primary public entrances and break rooms, indicating which of the following ventilation systems are used at the facility:
  - All available windows and doors accessible to fresh outdoor air are kept open
  - Fully operational HVAC systems
  - Appropriately sized portable air cleaners in each room
  - None of the above



*Doors and Windows required to be kept closed for fire/life safety purposes are exempt. For example, **fire doors must remain closed**. Make sure open windows **do not create falling hazards** especially for children.*

**Sign templates** can be found at: <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>

- Post all applicable COVID-19 related signage to the establishment as required by Sections 4.g and 4.h of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. The County is making available templates for the signage available online at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>. Industry specific signage for gyms and fitness centers can be found here: <https://sf.gov/resource/2020/reopening-guidance-gyms-and-fitness-centers>.





- Display a set of clearly visible rules for patrons and Personnel at the entrance that are to be a condition of entry. The rules must include instructions to wear facial coverings at all times except when hydrating; the relevant physical distancing requirements for the activity; no eating; wash hands or use hand sanitizer; and to go home if you're sick. Whenever possible, these rules must also be available on the public facing website.
- Post signage in break rooms or other Personnel common areas informing Personnel they can confidentially report violations of health orders by calling 3-1-1.

## FACE COVERINGS

Heavy breathing increases the risk of spreading and contracting the virus that causes COVID-19. Face coverings protect the wearer AND those around them and are critically important in Gyms and Fitness Centers.

Face masks and other cloth face coverings keep people from spreading the virus to others by trapping respiratory droplets before they can travel through the air. The most recent research shows that face coverings ALSO protect the wearer by reducing amount of virus that reaches the wearer and thus decreases the risk of severe illness in the wearer. Face coverings are one of the most important measures to protect Personnel and patrons from COVID-19.

All patrons **MUST wear face coverings AT ALL TIMES** while at the gym and/or fitness center except while hydrating with normal breathing. See the Face Covering Health Order No. C19-12. [Gyms must post signage reminding patrons that they must comply with the following rules.](#) Sample signage is available at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>.

- Heavy exertion. Patrons must avoid exerting themselves to the point where they may want to remove their face covering. They must be able to wear the face covering continuously while exercising and should be advised to check with their health care professional if they are unsure what activities they can safely participate in while continuously wearing a face covering.
- Hydration. Patrons should slow their breathing to a regular intensity before temporarily removing their face covering to hydrate and should then immediately replace their face covering, and wash or sanitize their hands if they touch their face.
- Eating. Eating is not allowed in the gym or fitness center because it provides additional time that patrons may remove their face covering which leaves those around them at higher risk.
- Replacing soiled face coverings. Recommend patrons bring a replacement face covering in case their face covering becomes wet or soiled.
- Soiled face coverings should be disposed of in a lidded container or impermeable bag like a sealed/tied plastic bag.
- Face covering with vents are not permitted. The facility must indicate in their Health and Safety Plan how they will train Personnel to monitor and respond to patrons wearing face coverings with vents.

Consider providing face coverings for free or available to purchase for patrons.

Learn about [better masking](#), when and how to use higher quality masks.



**Best protection**

- Surgical mask or multi-layered cloth mask
- If using multi-layered cloth mask, it should be tightly woven or high thread count cotton or cotton blend
- Good fit – securely fits over nose, mouth, and under the chin

**Good protection**

- Single-layer cloth mask
- Double-layered neck gaiter

**Not recommended**

- Masks that are loosely woven/loosely knit, folded bandana, single-layer neck gator
- Unbreathable material such as plastic or leather
- Overly porous material such as nylon or fleece
- Poor fit – does not securely fit over nose, mouth, and under the chin

**GOOD VENTILATION CAN REDUCE COVID-19 TRANSMISSION**

**The Role of Ventilation**

All indoor gyms and fitness centers 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>.

Ventilation is important to prevent transmission. Rooms or spaces which are known to have poor ventilation, such as squash courts, are prohibited. Indoor courts and fitness rooms can be utilized only for activities currently permitted in an indoor gym setting IF physical distancing requirements can be maintained at all times, face coverings are worn continuously, the room is not known to have poor ventilation, and listed as currently allowable in the [BCAT](#). Each separate room must also adhere to currently allowed capacity and restrictions. Having poor ventilation in a shared space that is used for exercise, even if the exercise is non-aerobic, can substantially increase the risk of transmission.

- Outdoor Gyms may, subject to any applicable permit requirements, conduct their operations under a tent, canopy, or other sun or weather shelter, but only so long as not more than one side is closed, allowing sufficient outdoor air movement. Ventilation is key to mitigating the spread of COVID-19

**Good ventilation controls droplets and infectious particles to prevent COVID-19 transmission by:**

- removing air containing droplets and particles from the room,
- diluting the concentration of droplets and particles by adding fresh, uncontaminated air,
- filtering room air, removing droplets and particles from the air.

**Make Necessary Ventilation Improvements, If Feasible, Including:**

- Open windows to increase natural ventilation with outdoor air when health and safety allow. When possible, consider also leaving room doors slightly open to promote flow of outdoor air through the indoor space.
  - Do not prop or wedge open fire doors. Continue to follow fire and building safety requirements.



- If open windows pose a risk of falls for children, use window locks to keep windows from opening more than 4 inches, or other safety devices to prevent falls.
- If your program has an HVAC system (sometimes called mechanical ventilation, forced air, or central air), follow the recommendations in [SFDPH Ventilation Guidance](#). Prioritize maximizing the intake of outdoor air and minimizing recirculated air during the COVID19 pandemic. Recommendations include:
  - Make sure the HVAC system is checked by a professional and is working properly.
  - Open outdoor air dampers and close recirculation dampers (“economizers”). This will maximize the amount of outdoor air that the HVAC system takes in and minimize the amount of indoor air that is recirculated.
  - If you can use higher-efficiency air filters without reducing airflow or damaging your HVAC system, use air filters rated MERV13 or better.
  - Disable “demand-control ventilation controls” so fans keep running even when a room doesn’t need to be heated or cooled.
  - Keep the HVAC system running even when the building is not being used, if you can. If your HVAC system has a timer, set it to run, at a minimum, from 1-2 hours before the building opens until 2-3 hours after everyone has left the building, including custodial staff.
  - Consider using portable air cleaners (“HEPA filters”).
  - If the establishment uses pedestal fans or hard mounted fans, adjust the direction of fans to minimize air blowing from one individual’s space to another’s space.
  - If operating any indoor restaurant, café, locker room or shower area, or allowing patrons to engage in aerobic exercise 6 feet apart, **the Gym must implement one** of the following three ventilation measures:
    - a) opening windows or doors (or preferably both);
    - b) using an HVAC system that brings in outdoor air and/or recirculates filtered air with an appropriate filter; or
    - c) using air purifiers with an appropriate filter.
- The Gym must post signage outside the entrance to the locker room or shower facility showing which ventilation measures are being used. It is the Gym’s responsibility to determine whether any ventilation measure can be safely implemented. If due to safety hazards, smoke, or other conditions the Gym cannot implement any of these measures in relation to the indoor locker room or shower area, then the Gym must temporarily close the indoor locker room or shower area for the period the Gym cannot implement any of those measures.

Email Ventilation questions to: [dph.doc.ventilation@sfdph.org](mailto:dph.doc.ventilation@sfdph.org)

### Contact Tracing

The San Francisco Department of Public Health, in partnership with community, including gyms and fitness centers, helps identify those who have had close contact with anyone who has COVID-19. People can transmit the virus 48 hours before they develop symptoms. Some people never develop symptoms and can still transmit the virus. **We can help prevent COVID-19 transmission by contact tracing which**



helps identify people who may have been exposed and helping them quarantine so they don't inadvertently spread the disease. We do this whenever there is an outbreak of infectious diseases like measles, tuberculosis, and others to protect the community's health.

Help ensure the health of your Personnel, patrons, and our community. Retain the attendance/schedules of all personnel at your organization for up to three weeks. It is recommended that organizations maintain a list of patrons willing to voluntarily provide their name and contact information for contact tracing purposes. Any lists should be discarded after three weeks. Patrons are not required to provide contact information.

If Personnel or a patron tests positive for COVID-19, the organization must assist the Department of Public Health in identifying other Personnel or patrons who may have been exposed.

**Cover your face, test early, and trace!** Find out more at <https://covid19.ca.gov/contact-tracing>.

## SETTING UP THE SPACE

The Guidance below must be followed for Indoor **AND** Outdoor facilities **except** for when clearly stated. Review and comply with ventilation guidance and refer to the **BCAT** when preparing your space. Refer to this table frequently as it will be updated as we follow the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).

### Physical Distancing for Indoor Gyms

Physical exertion from exercising can increase exhalation rate and intensity, making physical distancing even more important to lower the risks of transmitting the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Follow the minimum distance requirements listed in the [BCAT](#). around patrons performing any aerobic activity for indoor exercise (including indoor fitness classes). Patrons may participate in aerobic activities 6 feet apart **if at least one of the following three ventilation measures is implemented in the room:** 1) all available windows and doors accessible to fresh outdoor air are kept open; (2) fully operational HVAC system; or (3) appropriately sized Portable Air Cleaners (as defined in the Ventilation Guidance) in each room.
  - Patrons and instructors must maintain 6ft of distance while training, this applies to any movement around the room in fitness classes (cross fit, circuit training).. See the [BCAT](#) for capacity limits for fitness classes.
- Whenever possible increase the distance.
- The maximum number of people, including Personnel and Patrons, allowed inside the indoor facility at any time is limited to the capacity listed in the **BCAT**, or the number that can maintain at least 6 feet or 12 feet physical distance as described in the **BCAT**.
- The capacity limit applies to discrete spaces within the facility. For example, a gym's 50% capacity for an entire facility may be 25 people, but 50% capacity for a smaller room or space within the gym may only be two or three people.



### **Physical Distancing for Outdoor Gyms and Fitness Center**

Evaluate the outdoor space to determine the number of people (including patrons and Personnel) who may safely fit in the Outdoor Gym area.

- Patrons must maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet from people outside their household at ALL TIMES. Use signage, floor tape and/or directional guidance to help to ensure physical distancing as Personnel and patrons move around the space.

### **Tips For Maintaining Physical Distance At Gyms and Fitness Center**

- Use signage and on-going monitoring to ensure that individual rooms and spaces within a facility and the outdoor space do not exceed their capacity.
- Arrange the space and/or develop processes to monitor and maintain required physical distancing at all times. Consider one or more of the methods below:
- Arrange equipment at the correct distance apart according to the requirements for the activity listed in the [BCAT](#). Develop a monitoring plan or reservation system to assure that the required physical distancing is always maintained.
- Arrange equipment in an "X" pattern to provide greater distancing.
- Block off every other machine or move equipment so that they are farther apart.
- Physical barriers can be helpful to minimize exposure between patrons and Personnel or to segregate exercise areas but should not significantly block overall airflow in the space.

### **Additional Gyms Regulations**

Outdoor gyms must address potential hazards and comply with state and local laws, regulations and permitting requirements.

- For more information about setting up your outdoor space please visit San Francisco's Shared Spaces Program at <https://sf.gov/shared-spaces>.
- Outdoor Gyms must be in compliance with the [Cal/OSHA Guide to Electrical Safety](#) and the [Cal/OSHA standards for heat illness prevention](#).
- Patrons may engage in self-directed fitness. For example, patrons may individually use free weights or other fitness equipment. Patron pathways to and from equipment must allow required physical distance be maintained at all times.
- One-On-One Personal Training is allowed subject to the distancing requirements. In some instances it may be subject to distancing requirements for aerobic activity that increases breathing listed in the [BCAT](#).
- Patrons are not permitted to engage in activities that require others to be within 6 feet for safety reasons or otherwise, such as spotting while lifting weights.

### **Activity and Space Considerations**

#### **Climbing Walls**

Climbing Walls may be permitted with additional requirements listed below. View current restrictions in the [BCAT](#).

- Consider making hand sanitizer available for patrons of climbing walls.



- Climbing walls must be separated by tape or other visual cues so climbers stay in their “lanes” and maintain required 6 feet of distance
- Renting equipment to patrons is allowed. All equipment must be cleaned in accordance with Section 5 of Appendix C-1 of the latest update to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order ([Health Order C19-07](#)), which may be modified by the Health Officer as new information becomes available
- Encourage climbers to limit their climbing partners to a select few.

### **Group Classes**

Group cardio/aerobic fitness classes (such as spinning, kickboxing, etc.) are permitted at this time with restrictions. View current restrictions in the [BCAT](#). Check the Indoor Recreation section of the BCAT to learn which team sports may be allowed.

- People (including Personnel) participating in group fitness classes are required to wear a face covering at all time.
- Please refer to the [BCAT](#) for capacity limits. Fitness class capacity is limited (1) by the size of the individual room used for the class and (2) by the ability of all people to maintain required physical distancing.

Example. If your Gym has a total capacity of 400 people and includes 3 groups fitness class spaces with a capacity 100 people each, then, assuming the required amount physical distance is maintained between people at all times, you may have at any time no more than 200 patrons in your entire facility (50% of 400) and no more than 50 patrons in each of the 100-person fitness class spaces (50% of 100).

### **Amenities**

- Access to childcare spaces, indoor playgrounds, and/or sensory walls/stations/tables are subject to posted limitations in **BCAT**
- Please refer to the [BCAT](#) for capacity limits and key restrictions including for locker rooms, and showers. Businesses are encouraged to monitor use of restrooms by either requiring a key to access or stationing a restroom/locker room attendant nearby.
- Indoor and outdoor hot tubs may operate in accordance with [Health Office Directive No. 2020-24 \(Pools\)](#)
- Locker rooms, showers, changing rooms, saunas and steam rooms present a high risk for transmission of COVID-19 but may operate subject to the following restrictions:
  - People are strongly encouraged to shower and change at home rather than using indoor showers and locker rooms or changing areas.
  - Amenities or appliances such as hairdryers, blowing hand dryers, and swimsuit dryers are prohibited and must be removed or disabled. Exercise equipment, including for stretching, must be removed from the locker room.
  - Personal services, such as facials or massage therapy, must be done in a separate room from the locker room and must comply with the separate [Health Office Directive on Personal Services](#).



- The Gym must reduce capacity of these facilities to the lesser of: (1) 25% of the maximum capacity for each area or (2) the number of people who can consistently maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance at all times. Capacity limits must be strictly enforced. Group or team meetings are prohibited inside.
- Under State guidelines, these facilities may only open if proper distancing is possible and partitions are in place or signs have been posted to specify physical distancing requirements. The Gym must ensure the layout of these rooms will allow for appropriate physical distancing at all times.
- The Gym must make physical modifications to these facilities to ensure patrons can maintain at least 6-feet of physical distance at all times. As required by the State guidelines, stagger available lockers, sinks, and showers, such as by using signage, physical barriers, or disabling certain lockers or showerheads.
- Indoor locker rooms and shower facilities may only open if they use at least one of the following ventilation measures in such areas (separate from the overall requirements for the overall Gym): (1) opening windows or doors (or preferably both); (2) using an HVAC system that brings in outdoor air and/or recirculates filtered air with an appropriate filter; or (3) using air purifiers with an appropriate filter. The Gym must post signage outside the entrance to the locker room or shower facility showing which ventilation measures are being used. It is the Gym's responsibility to determine whether any ventilation measure can be safely implemented. If due to safety hazards, smoke, or other conditions the Gym cannot implement any of these measures in relation to the indoor locker room or shower area, then the Gym must temporarily close the indoor locker room or shower area for the period the Gym cannot implement any of those measures.
- Face Coverings must be worn to and from the shower, sauna, or steam room but are not recommended while using these facilities. Anyone using the shower, steam room or sauna must put their Face Covering back on as soon as possible upon exiting.. The Gym must encourage patrons who plan to use these amenities to bring an extra, clean Face Covering for use afterwards
- Provide hand sanitizer for Personnel and others at all entrances and exits to locker rooms and shower facilities. Ensure that the socially-distanced allowable number of sinks stay operational and are continuously stocked with hand cleaning supplies at all times.
- High touch surfaces in locker rooms and showers, such as faucets, toilets, counters, door handles, and light switches must be cleaned at least once daily or more frequently if required by industry standards and current CDC guidelines using EPA-registered disinfectants approved for use on SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus. Personnel are not required to clean surfaces after each individual customer touches a surface unless the patron appears symptomatic or there is visible contamination with nasal or oral secretions.





- Implement strategies for reducing the amount of time patrons spend in locker room and related facilities. Prohibit patrons from engaging in unnecessary personal hygiene activities in locker rooms and shower areas, such as shaving, brushing teeth, or applying makeup. To help prevent lingering and congregating in locker rooms, no televisions or similar programming are allowed to be used in locker rooms or shower facilities at this time. Post the following required signage: (1) a poster discouraging locker room usage, reminding patrons to minimize their time in locker rooms and shower facilities, requiring mask-wearing except when showering, and strictly limiting capacity and (2) a ventilation checklist demonstrating ventilation compliance. A sample locker room poster can be found at <https://sf.gov/file/locker-room-poster> and the ventilation checklist can be found at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>

## HEALTH SCREENINGS OF PATRONS

Facilities must screen all patrons entering the indoor and/or outdoor facility with the questions about COVID-19 symptoms and exposure to COVID-19. Facilities must ask the questions and relay the information found at: <https://www.sfc-dcp.org/screeningvisitors>.

Facilities must exclude those who answer yes to any of the questions on the above form.

### **Temperature Screening of patrons**

SFDPH does not recommend that organizations conduct pre-entry temperature measurements to identify potential cases of COVID-19, but State and other regulatory agencies may still require these measures. Temperature measurements have limited effectiveness in preventing the spread of COVID-19. SFDPH continues to recommend that people monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms at home and if they have symptoms, they should stay home, except to get tested or seek medical care when necessary. Review industry-specific regulations, as applicable, to determine if on-site temperature measurements might be compulsory for you or your organization, and if so, how to conduct them in a manner that satisfies requirements and protects screeners.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Refer to [CDC guidance](#) to decide how frequently to clean or disinfect a workplace or business to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Gyms may be required to follow more stringent industry-specific regulations (e.g, CalOSHA).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What if someone at my Gym or Fitness Center tests positive for COVID-19?**

People may be able to transmit the virus 48 hours before they develop symptoms of COVID-19. Some people never develop symptoms and can still transmit the virus. See SFDPH guidance on [What to do if Someone at the Workplace Has COVID-19](#) which can be found at: [www.sfc-dcp.org/covid19-positive-workplace](http://www.sfc-dcp.org/covid19-positive-workplace).

### **Some of our patrons use gloves for weightlifting and other exercise activities. Are they allowed?**

Yes, patrons may wear their own gloves while working out.

### **Should we encourage the use of face shields?**

There is currently no recommendation that the general public wear eye protection for most day to day



activities. However, your eyes can theoretically be a route of infection for COVID-19. A face shield or goggles (but not regular glasses) could provide protection against these types of exposures. Therefore, individuals, particularly those at high risk of exposure or serious disease from COVID, may decide to wear eye protection in addition to face covering as an extra layer of protection against acquiring COVID-19 infection.

## RESOURCES

Stay informed. Information is changing rapidly. Useful resources can be found at:

- San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)  
<https://www.sfdcp.org/covid19>
- Printable resources from SF.GOV for businesses, Including signage  
<https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>
- California Blueprint for a Safer Economy issued by the State of California  
<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#reopening-data>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Industry Guidance for Fitness Facilities  
<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
List of Guidance documents (searchable)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance-list.html>  
Using Gyms, Fitness Centers, or Studios  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html#gyms>