

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 21-38

Series of 2021

SUBJECT: MINIMUM PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS FOR CINEMAS AND MOVIE HOUSES, NON-CONTACT SPORTS COURTS VENUES, AMUSEMENT PARKS AND THEME PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL VENUES UNDER THE PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF ALERT LEVELS SYSTEM FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

WHEREAS, on 13 October 2021, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) issued Resolution No. 143, Series of 2021, amending the *Guidelines on the Implementation of Alert Levels System for COVID-19 Response in Pilot Areas¹ (Pilot Guidelines)*;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the need to gradually re-open the economy while managing the potential risk of exposure, spread and transmission of COVID-19, and consistent with the principle of 3Cs (Closed, Crowded, and Close Contact), the Pilot Guidelines provides for the list of establishments, persons or activities allowed to operate, work or be undertaken under the various Alert Levels, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols as may be applicable;

WHEREFORE, foregoing premises considered, this Memorandum Circular (“MC”) is hereby issued for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned --

SECTION 1. Minimum Public Health Standards and Protocols for Cinemas and Movie Houses, Non-Contact Sports Courts Venues, Amusement Parks and Theme Parks, and Recreational Venues. In addition to the minimum public health standards and protocols under *DOH AO 2021-0043, Series of 2021, DTI-DOLE JMC No. 2020-04-A, Series of 2020, DOLE Department Order No. 224-21, Series of 2021*, other sector-relevant protocols and local government rules and regulations, the aforesated business establishments or activities allowed to operate, work or be undertaken under the various Alert Levels shall also strictly comply with the guidelines and protocols provided in Annex “A.”

SECTION 2. Compliance Monitoring. The DTI, through the Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau and Regional or Provincial Offices, shall continue its strict compliance monitoring through its post-audit mechanism. Inspection by the DOLE, DOH, and the LGU’s Health Office may also be conducted at any time. Violations of this Circular shall be subject to corresponding penalties under relevant rules and guidelines including the temporary suspension of business operations, as may be necessary and applicable.

SECTION 3. Complaints Handling. All feedback and complaints from the general public may be coursed through the DTI Consumer Care Hotline 1-384.

SECTION 4. Repealing and Separability Clause. Provisions of other relevant Memorandum Circulars that are inconsistent with this Circular are hereby superseded or amended accordingly.

¹ As of 13 October 2021

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

If for any reason, any part or provision of this Circular be declared invalid, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. Given the presence of a public health emergency, this MC shall immediately take effect upon its publication and filing with the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Issued on 27 October 2021.



RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary

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ANNEX “A”

SECTOR-SPECIFIC PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS FOR CINEMAS AND MOVIE HOUSES, NON-CONTACT SPORTS COURTS AND VENUES, AMUSEMENT PARKS AND THEME PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL VENUES

To prevent transmission of COVID-19, Management are required to implement and maintain the following minimum public health standards:

ENGINEERING CONTROLS

1. Enforce at least one-(1) meter physical distancing in all areas of the establishment or facility. In areas where physical distancing might be compromised or crowding may take place, install physical barriers such as sneeze guards (acrylic plastic sheets), fixed glass panels, theater ropes and stanchions, hazard warning tapes, etc.
2. Ensure adequate air exchange in enclosed areas through the implementation of strategies as cited in DOLE Department Order No. 224-21¹, such as:
 - a. Maximizing natural ventilation through opening of windows;
 - b. Use of low-cost modifications to improve air flow (e.g. addition of fans² or exhaust fans);
 - c. Identification of multi-occupant spaces that are used regularly and are poorly ventilated. Air flow shall be controlled to ensure indoor CO2 concentrations be maintained at-or below 1,000 parts per million (ppm);³ and
 - d. Installation and regular maintenance of exhaust fans and air filtration devices (e.g. air purifiers) with High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.
 - e. Continuous monitoring of air quality is recommended, when possible.
3. Install any of the following hand hygiene and sanitation facilities and supplies in strategic locations:
 - a. Hand washing station or sink with adequate and safe water supply;
 - b. Soap and water or 70% Isopropyl (or Ethyl) Alcohol; and
 - c. Hands-free trash receptacles, soap and paper towel dispensers, door openers, and other similar hands-free equipment.

¹ Entitled “Guidelines on Ventilation for Workplaces and Public Transport to Prevent and Control the Spread of COVID-19.” <https://bit.ly/DOLEDO224-21>

² Position free-standing fans in a way that does not direct air from one patron to another.

³ Note that outdoor CO2 concentration directly impacts indoor CO2 concentration. It is critical to measure outdoor CO2 levels when assessing indoor concentrations. Indoor CO2 levels shall not exceed the outdoor concentration by more than about 600ppm. Measurements should be done at maximum allowed capacity.

4. Designate separate entry and exit points in high traffic areas by:
 - a. Using unidirectional markers;
 - b. Installing signages for queuing and unidirectional movement; and
 - c. Enforcing sectioning and queuing protocols to maintain physical distancing.

5. Establish a screening area at the point/s-of-entry. The following protocols must be implemented thereat:
 - a. Health declaration or symptom assessment through the use of the Staysafe.ph application, or any national and certified contact tracing application integrated with the same, in the conduct of contact tracing activities. Those with symptoms or exposure to probable, suspect, and confirmed COVID-19 cases, regardless of vaccination status, shall not be allowed entry.
 - b. All personnel, suppliers, and customers must undergo a non-contact temperature check. Those with a temperature higher than 37.5 degrees centigrade shall not be allowed entry.
 - c. The use of foot baths, disinfection tents, misting chambers, or sanitation booths are not recommended.
 - d. Enforce IATF Guidelines on catering indoor services/operations to fully vaccinated individuals only, as may be applicable to the establishment.

6. Install visual cues or signages to communicate the following:
 - a. Maintaining physical distancing of at least one (1) meter distance between patrons and employees;
 - b. Cough and sneeze etiquette;
 - c. Proper hand hygiene and infection control;
 - d. Proper use and disposal of Personal Protective Equipment; and
 - e. Other critical reminders in the Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat, Reintegrate (PDITR+) strategy and BIDA Solusyon⁴, and Resbakuna for the promotion of the Government's Vaccination Program⁵.

7. Provide a proper facility for proper storage, collection, treatment, and disposal of used PPE and other infectious waste in accordance with DOH AO 2021-0043.

⁴ bit.ly/BIDAPartners

⁵ <https://doh.gov.ph/vaccines>

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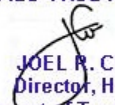
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

1. Ensure adequate provision of personal protective equipment to all employees, regardless of employment status, which includes:
 - a. Cloth or surgical masks, or face shields, as necessary; and
 - b. Gloves and other appropriate PPE for all personnel tasked to do regular cleaning and disinfection of furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
2. Enforce limits on on-site capacity in accordance with the latest guidelines set by the national government or limitations on venue capacity or other prohibitions as may be imposed by the Local Government Unit (LGU).
3. Use digital tools to enable establishments to receive payments via cashless modes; and to operate on a by-appointment or reservation basis to adhere to venue capacity requirements.
4. Disinfect premises in accordance with DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0157, its amendments and *Cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in the context of COVID-19* by the WHO. For this purpose, all furniture, fixtures, and equipment, especially those that are considered high-touch surfaces or high-risk areas (e.g. acrylic barriers, handrails, restrooms, etc), must be properly and regularly sanitized.
5. Designate a health and safety officer who, at all times, will be physically present in the establishment to ensure that the MPHS outlined herein and government-imposed limitations on venue/seating capacity are strictly followed. Any non-compliance with this requirement or to the MPHS shall serve as ground for the temporary closure of the establishment, until such time that their violation is rectified.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1. Ensure that well-fitted face masks are worn at all times.
2. Ensure that gloves and other appropriate PPEs are used for cleaning and disinfection, subject to proper donning and doffing practices.

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SPECIFIC FOR CINEMAS AND MOVIE HOUSES

1. Ensure that patrons are seated at least one (1) meter from each other (in all directions). This physical distancing requirement shall apply to all, including patrons who come from the same household groups.
2. Consider the use of calibrated CO2 monitors⁶ to identify areas with inadequate air exchange and introduce necessary ventilation strategies as provided in DOLE DO 224-21⁷.
3. Ensure that well-fitted face masks are worn at all times.
4. Face shields may only be removed temporarily during the screening proper.
5. Consider staggering movie start times to reduce crowds in lobby, concession stands, and queuing areas.
6. Prohibit food to be consumed inside the cinema and in other areas that do not have adequate physical distancing. Food shall only be consumed in designated eating areas, subject to the sector-specific protocols for food preparation establishments.
7. In consideration of possible emergencies and other health risks, allow drinking water to be consumed inside cinemas.
8. Allow private screenings subject to the same health and safety standards (e.g. physical distancing, maximum venue capacity requirements, vaccination requirements, etc.)
9. Consider running pre-show announcements to communicate the following:
 - a. Maintaining physical distancing of at least one (1) meter distance between other household groups;
 - b. Cough and sneeze etiquette;
 - c. Proper hand hygiene and infection control;
 - d. Proper use and disposal of Personal Protective Equipment;
 - e. Proper waste disposal (consider requiring patrons to throw out their own waste at designated bins as they leave the cinema);
 - f. Reminders such as staying seated and keeping conversations to a minimum for the duration of the show; and

⁶ Note that outdoor CO2 concentration directly impacts indoor CO2 concentration. It is critical to measure outdoor CO2 levels when assessing indoor concentrations. Indoor CO2 levels shall not exceed the outdoor concentration by more than about 600ppm. Measurements should be done at maximum allowed capacity.

⁷ Entitled "Guidelines on Ventilation for Workplaces and Public Transport to Prevent and Control the Spread of COVID-19." <https://bit.ly/DOLEDO224-21>

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DTI MC 21-38
Page 6 of 9

- g. Other critical reminders in the Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat, Reintegrate (PDITR+) strategy and BIDA Solusyon⁸, and Resbakuna for the promotion of the Government's Vaccination Program⁹.
10. Designate a health and safety officer at every scheduled screening who, at all times, shall be physically present in the establishment to ensure that the MPHS outlined herein and government-imposed limitations on venue/seating capacity are strictly followed. Any non-compliance with this requirement or with the MPHS shall serve as ground for the temporary closure of the establishment, until such time that their violation is rectified

SPECIFIC FOR NON-CONTACT SPORTS COURTS AND VENUES INCLUDING TRACK AND FIELD OVALS AND SIMILAR VENUES, RACQUET SPORTS COURTS SUCH AS TENNIS AND BADMINTON, VENUES FOR ARCHERY AND RANGE SHOOTING, AND EQUESTRIAN CENTERS

1. Enforce IATF restrictions on live audiences and live voice and wind performers, as may be applicable.
2. Allow lockers and shower areas, subject to regular disinfection procedures and restrictions on occupancy. Consider scheduling the use of these areas to comply with physical distancing requirements and allow for regular disinfection.
3. Prohibit the use of water fountains, except for no-touch bottle refill stations. Patrons and employees may be encouraged to bring their own water bottles.
4. Disallow sharing of personal items of players such as drinking bottles, towels, etc., and touching other players' equipment (e.g. helmets, rackets, etc.)
5. Disallow consuming food within playing areas. Food shall only be consumed in designated eating areas, subject to the sector-specific protocols for food preparation establishments.

SPECIFIC FOR GOLF COURSES

1. Increase physical distancing to at least three (3) meters.
2. Require caddies to stay at least three (3) meters from their player **at all times**. They may pull the cart and position it near their player's next shot and step away for their player to get a club but they are not allowed to touch or clean the clubs or golf ball. They may assist their player in computing distances and reading the

⁸ bit.ly/BIDAPartners

⁹ <https://doh.gov.ph/vaccines>

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greens, but they may only do so while observing the foregoing physical distancing prohibitions.

3. Require players to load their golf bags on golf carts at all times.
4. Control the number of caddies who will be asked to report for work corresponding only to the number of confirmed players with a little allowance for no-show caddies. Caddies must be asked not to stay at the premises earlier than 1 hour before their scheduled tee times and to leave the premises immediately after their game assignments. Congregation especially during meal or snack periods of caddies and employees shall be strictly disallowed.
5. Schedule flights at twelve (12) minutes apart each. The maximum number of players per flight shall be four (4).
6. Allow golf driving ranges to operate but they must limit the number of tee boys and tee girls they will ask to report for work to the bare minimum and keep them at safe distances from each other at all times. Other than delivering balls, tee boys and tee girls are not allowed to either tee golf balls for the patrons or touch any of their golf equipment.
7. Enforce IATF restrictions on live audiences and live voice and wind performers, as may be applicable.

SPECIFIC FOR BILLIARD HALLS, BOWLING ALLEYS, SKATING RINKS

1. Leave open lanes / tables in between those being used to comply with venue capacity and physical distancing requirements. Use markers to indicate which lanes/tables may be used.
2. Allow private or non-professional tournaments subject to the same health and safety standards (e.g. physical distancing, maximum venue capacity requirements, vaccination requirements, etc.)
3. Consider setting a maximum number of players per billiard table / bowling lane.
4. Disinfect equipment (e.g. bowling balls, bowling or skating shoes, billiard tables, billiard balls, cue sticks, etc.) after every use.
5. Disallow consuming food within playing areas. Food shall only be consumed in designated eating areas, subject to the sector-specific protocols for food preparation establishments.
6. Disallow spectators and audiences and other forms of mass gathering.

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DTI MC 21-38
Page 8 of 9

SPECIFIC FOR AMUSEMENT PARKS AND THEME PARKS

1. Develop specific loading and spacing procedures to ensure physical distancing in rides and queuing areas. Use markers to indicate which seats in rides may be occupied.
2. Arcade areas may be allowed, subject to sector-specific protocols for amusement arcades.
3. Close rides that do not allow physical distancing between guests, and rides that would prohibit guests from wearing masks.
4. Disallow consuming food within queuing and rides areas. Food shall only be consumed in designated eating areas, subject to the sector-specific protocols for food preparation establishments.
5. Enforce IATF restrictions on live audiences and live voice and wind performers, as may be applicable.

SPECIFIC FOR INTERNET CAFES

1. Ensure that the distance between computer cubicles is 1-meter on all sides.
2. Install physical barriers between cubicles. Barriers should be regularly sanitized.
3. Disallow bystanders inside internet cafes.
4. Disallow consuming food inside internet cafes.
5. Disinfect computer paraphernalia such as monitors, mouse, keyboards, and headsets among others, after every use.

SPECIFIC FOR AMUSEMENT ARCADES

1. Use markers to indicate which machines may be used.
2. Designate a waiting area 1-meter from machines / play area in case of repair or servicing.
3. Enforce IATF restrictions on operating playlands, soft play, playhouses, KTV rooms, and stage-type videoke rooms.
4. Disinfect high contact surfaces every two (2) hours or as often as may be deemed necessary.
5. Disallow spectators and other forms of mass gathering.

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DTI MC 21-38
Page 9 of 9