



August 2021

On July 29, 2021, Gov. Asa Hutchinson reinstated the statewide public health emergency for two months. See the [Executive Order to Declare a Statewide Public Health Emergency for the Purpose of Meeting and Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19](#). You may watch the [news conference](#). The announcement came two months after the emergency had been lifted.

We will implement the following guidelines/recommendations based on the latest release from the Arkansas Department of Health. This is for the month of August, 2021.

TAKING PRECAUTIONS IN THE WORKPLACE AND CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS

- Wash your hands frequently with hot water and soap for at least 30 seconds and/or use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol base.
- Avoid touching your eyes, face and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs
- All staff should maintain 6 feet of social distancing while on campus. There are red markings on the floor to signal 6 feet. If both of you have been vaccinated, the spacing is optional.
- You are discouraged from sharing desks, tools (even pens), phones, and work spaces.
- Masks do not have to be worn when you are alone in your office; however, if you are “on the move” around the facilities or going into another person’s office, a mask is strongly recommended. In regards to office work, if you have both been vaccinated and agree to not wear the masks, the mask is optional.
- Everyone that enters an ARESC facility will take or have their temperature taken and record information onto an admittance form.
- In addition to the staff cleaning and custodial/maintenance staff routine cleaning measures, we will have sites cleansed and sanitized by an outside company called [Ecovasive](#). They will perform quarterly treatment as an added measure.
- Signs will be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if they have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. They have had known

exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days unless they themselves are fully vaccinated.

- Signs will be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if: They are 65 years of age or older, they have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, or weakened immunity.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at all entrances and exits.
- If you are in high traffic office areas and/or classrooms, you should use the sneeze guards to separate students and staff.

TAKING PRECAUTIONS IN MEETING AND PD SESSION ENVIRONMENTS

While onsite professional development is an option that will be available to Districts and ESCs across the state, there are necessary steps that must be taken to ensure the safety of those in attendance. The safety of our workforce must be paramount as we provide onsite professional development these next two weeks and welcome students back the next. The information below shall guide districts and ESCs in preparing and providing on site professional learning for school staff.

- Any presenter should be separated from the audience by at least twelve (12) feet.
- Lines for entrance, exit, sign-in, restrooms, or other reasons should be marked or monitored to maintain a distance of six (6) feet between people.
- All seating should be arranged to maintain six (6) feet distancing from occupied seat to occupied seat if possible. If not possible, participants are encouraged to wear masks if seated less than 6 feet from one another.
- A face covering for the presenter is not required as long as the presenter maintains 12 feet distance from participants.
- If multiple sessions will be conducted on site, careful consideration must be given to measures to mitigate the opportunity for congregating during breaks, lunch, entering and exiting the facility. (Consider staggering start and stop times, serve lunch in the meeting room, stagger break times, and signage concerning all safety precautions.)
- Lines or cues for entrance and exit must be marked or monitored for maintaining 6 feet between participants.
- Those in attendance are encouraged to wear face coverings in accordance with the Face Coverings Guidance. The ADH makes the following recommendations:
1) The general public should wear face coverings in all indoor environments where they are exposed to non-household members and distances of 6 feet or more cannot be assured.

2) *Regarding the type of face covering, medical masks may be somewhat more protective than cloth masks (if they are clean and dry), but more and more evidence supports cloth masks as being sufficient for the general public and effective in preventing transmission. Cloth masks should consist of at least two layers of fabric.*

3) *All face coverings should cover both the mouth and nose at all times in order to be effective*

- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after use. Frequently touched surfaces shall be disinfected periodically during the course of the event. Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are presumed to be effective against Covid-19.
- Accommodations should be made for participants that may be prohibited from attending onsite.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments should be served in accordance with the Restaurant Dine-in Operations Directive. These recommendations are:

- *Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets, and condiment bars shall not be allowed.*

- *Catered events are allowed with the caterer-served buffets or plated meals.*

Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned periodically during the course of the day.

- Continue to serve individually packaged meals when appropriate.
- Self-service meals or coffee stations should operate with the following requirements:
 - 1) *Capacity of the buffet area should be dependent on the ability of customers to maintain six (6) feet physical distance from each other at all times.*
 - 2) *Facility should provide an employee to monitor a physical distance of six (6) feet.*
 - 3) *Masks are required for all persons within the customer self-service area.*
 - 4) *Hand sanitizer and single-use food service gloves should be located at the start of the buffet or coffee station, along with signage stating: "Use of hand sanitizer and food service gloves are required for all patrons in this area—Please use a new plate and a new glove for each trip to the buffet/salad bar".*
 - 5) *Serving utensils should be replaced every sixty (60) minutes and/or every time food items are replaced on the buffet.*