

**Application for Variance  
Douglas County Variance for Theaters**

**Douglas County**

**As Approved on June 26, 2020**

**1. List the sections of Executive Order D 2020 091 and/or Seventh Amended Public Health Order 20-28 that a variance is being sought for.**

Douglas County requests a variance to Section I.H.4.b of the Seventh Amended Public Health Order 20-28 (the “Order”) restricting the number of patrons at indoor movie theaters, performance theaters, opera houses, concert halls, and music halls (together, “Theaters”) to 100 people within their usable space per room.

**2. Summarize alternate restrictions being proposed to replace the above-referenced restrictions and indicate where in the Plan these alternate restrictions are addressed**

Response

To exceed the limits established in Public Health Order 20-28, Theaters must be operated in accordance with the following guidelines. Theaters may operate with an occupancy of 50% of the posted occupancy code limit ensuring a minimum of 28 square feet per person not to exceed more than 175 people gathered in a confined indoor space. In addition to the requirements below, Theaters must follow Safer at Home Best Practices for All Businesses available [here](#). Any matter not addressed herein remains subject to Public Health Order 20-28, as amended.

- Seats, armrests, handrails, doors, doorknobs, and door handles in each Theater must be thoroughly sanitized before and after each showing.
- Perform environmental cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and high touch surfaces every hour and maintain a public cleaning log.
- Post signage for customers and employees on good hygiene, mask wearing, and safety measures in place.
- Post signs at all entrances informing customers that they may not enter if exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Provide flexible ticket policies that encourage guests to stay home when sick.
- Provide hand sanitizer at all entrances, including individual Theater entrances, and encourage their use.
- Consider creating special hours for more vulnerable customers and discourage vulnerable people from attending the Theater outside of those hours.
- Implement touch-free options wherever possible
  - Prop doors where safe to do so
  - Contactless payment options
- Implement remote ticketing options whenever possible to lessen the number of touch points and help manage capacity limits.
- A robust communication plan must be in place to address steps to be taken by employees and customers to ensure that participants are aware of safety protocols.

- Spacing between showings should allow sufficient time for thorough cleaning.
- Consider staggering show times to decrease the number of patrons coming and going at one time.