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## COVID 19 CRISIS: STEPS TO MOVE FORWARD

*State and local officials are setting forth reopening guidelines for events, and how fairs function might not be fully understood. The following may be items of consideration for having discussions with the governing health authorities for your fair or event.*

**1. Fairgrounds facilities consist of multiple venues operating together in one encompassing facility. Whether for the annual fair or for non-fair events, ask if the authority will take into consideration the following differences between:**

- \*Open and outdoor spaces (i.e. rodeo arena/bleachers)
- \*Open air building (i.e. livestock facility with showing and bleachers, covered by roof, but open on most or all sides)
- \*Totally enclosed building (identify air-handling mechanism for each individual facility as that may vary amongst enclosed buildings on property)
- \*Typical capacity use (i.e. at capacity for concerts, marginal for other events, scarce attendees at some livestock events, etc.)
- \*Historic attendance total is not the complete picture. The number of people on the grounds and how long they remain on the grounds at any one time are critical factors. For example, 10,000 people per day does not equate to all there at one time, all day.
- \*Does the fairgrounds have a perimeter fence and thus ingress/egress control

*Not all fairgrounds facilities are equal – there can be vast differences within one region, state, or province*

*Not all "mass gatherings" are created equal.*

**2. Conduct a risk assessment and analysis of all program areas of the fair to determine feasibility and capability for each and review with the health authority**

Livestock/Horse Shows (inside)	Livestock/Horse Shows (outside)
Competitive (static) Exhibits	Commercial Trade Show (inside)
Food & Beverage (outside)	Food & Beverage (inside)
Fixed location Entertainment (inside)	Fixed location Entertainment (outside)
Carnival Rides	Carnival Games
Grandstand Entertainment	Arena Entertainment (indoors)
Commercial Exhibits (outside)	

**3. If your fair has done recent demographic survey, you may be able to point out that many attendees are not in high-risk category.**

**4. Fair should put forward a safety plan to cover these areas:**

- \*Worker safety (for most fairs this means volunteers, but for some will be paid staff as well)
- \*Areas of interaction with guests – ticket booths, security control checkpoints, entrance queues, etc.
- \*Signage in abundance with straight-forward language

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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS**

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**Fair should put forward a safety plan to cover these areas, continued**

- \*Increased hand sanitization plan (i.e. more hand wash and/or hand sanitizers)
- \*Control of restroom areas to limit capacity and step up the cleaning
- \*Staff and supplies in place to follow CDC guideline for cleaning and disinfecting in all areas
- \*Maximum capacity of buildings; with ingress/egress procedures

**5. Safe practices are possible for livestock and horse shows**

- A. It is possible to do social distancing:
- \*Split classes to limit number in show ring
  - \*Cattle, horse, sheep, and goat shows naturally lend to social distancing when on the walk; can adapt line-up
  - \*Hog shows can be adapted by penning and only letting one hog/exhibitor at a time into the ring
  - \*Proper ventilation in livestock facilities is crucial to human and animal safety
  - \*Strategic scheduling of shows so that typical simultaneous activities (i.e. washing and grooming) can be spaced out
  - \*Strategic scheduling of animal move-in/move out
  - \*Most venues have fixed seating so sections might be taped off and/or limit number of people within that specific area
    - (a) fair will need to have the human resources (volunteers, paid staff) to control the seating areas
    - (b) seating areas could be removed, and spectators limited to standing room only in space to accommodate physical distancing
    - (c) some shows could be moved to temporary show rings outdoors
- B. The youth participants are typically NOT high-risk population for COVID 19
- C. The spectators can be limited to immediate family if necessary
- D. Virtual market auctions are viable, easily supported
- E. Show times and length of stay for animals on grounds in barns can be shortened

**6. Mobile Amusement Operators' Plans**

*Each fair should verify with their operator in advance of discussions with health authorities their specific plans and safety practices; but some may include:*

- \*Operator may be able to space out the rides and/or reduce the number of rides (this may or may not be possible due to other activities on grounds)
- \*Games could safely operate if spaced out and operator limits number of people participating at one time to allow distancing and with regular cleaning of high-touch game elements
  - \*Operator will have in place agreed-upon protocols for
    - \*Protecting Worker Safety
    - \*Cleaning/Disinfecting protocol for the rides and games
    - \*Some rides are naturally conducive to “distancing”

## **7. Food Concessions Operations**

\*It may be possible to spread out professional trailer operations to provide social distancing in queue lines, if space allows

\*Common seating areas can be limited or controlled to manage distancing

\*Licensed food and beverage operators will be complying with local regulations anyway – and these always go above and beyond what is expected in other settings – and are expected to have additional steps because of COVID 19

\*Communal high-touch items (i.e. condiments, reach-in coolers, straw dispensers, etc.) can be eliminated

\*Concessionaires can hand food items to patrons on a tray or with gloved hands

## **8. Static, competitive exhibits displays**

\*Fair may be able to control access to building to manage capacity

\*Lay it out to make one-way flow

\*Adjust entry acceptance protocols and judging procedures to manage distancing and common-touch situations (i.e. no judging done in public setting, staggered assigned times for entry delivery/pick-up, etc.)

## **9. Commercial/trade vendors**

\* Fair may be able to control access to building to manage capacity

\*Lay it out to make one-way flow

\*Perhaps need to limit number of spaces sold to spread out

\*Protocols in place for items guests normally need to touch to evaluate (i.e. pillows, mattresses, etc.)

## **10. Entertainment**

\* Fair may be able to control access to building to manage capacity

\*A band/act on stage should not be required to "social distance" between themselves – but that should not be a risk for the public.

\*Create a buffer zone between seating and stage

\*Everyone should remain in assigned seats (no mosh pits)

\*Elimination of meet and greets

\*Move entertainment scheduled for indoors (or in tented space) outside in open-air setting.

### **Resources/References:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/cleaning-disinfecting-decision-tool.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.fairsandexpos.com/files/galleries/EventAllianceReopeningGuide.pdf>

<https://www.golivetgether.com/safety>

<https://www.fairsandexpos.com/files/galleries/CAFairJrLivestockMarketGuidance.pdf>

<https://www.fairsandexpos.com/files/galleries/PASafePlay.pdf>

<https://www.fairsandexpos.com/files/galleries/FairContingencyPlanning.pdf>