



## COVID-19 Operating Plan & Mitigation Strategies

Designated COVID Director: Jamee Skerbeck (906) 786-2802

[skerbeckfamilycarnival@gmail.com](mailto:skerbeckfamilycarnival@gmail.com)

[www.skerbeckcarnival.com](http://www.skerbeckcarnival.com)

*Prepared with considerations from:*



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	3
Why Carnivals Differ from Other Mass Gatherings .....	3
General Principles .....	4
General Health & Safety .....	4
Social Distancing .....	5
Face Masks .....	5
Information Systems & Responsibilities .....	6
Employee/Employer Responsibilities .....	7
Cleaning & Sanitizing .....	8
Food & Games .....	9
Additional Considerations/Resources .....	10

## **INTRODUCTION**

The health and welfare of carnival employees and guests on the midway is our top priority in re-opening our industry. The procedures and mitigation strategies presented below have been recognized by our industry for protecting carnival employees and guests from potential exposure to COVID-19. By minimizing contacts, promoting social distancing, and increasing cleaning protocols and sanitization, we can welcome guests back to the midway experience.

The principles, considerations, and recommendations outlined within this document include the optimal elements of mitigation plans from amusement parks, carnivals, fairs, and festivals that successfully reopened with operational restrictions during the summer of 2020 following guidance from the CDC alongside state and local health organizations. They are presented to provide approaches to consider and build upon as we collaborate with our local partners and their Health Departments in preparation for the 2021 season. Our plan can be adjusted, relaxed and/or eliminated based on current requirements.

## **WHY CARNIVALS DIFFER FROM OTHER MASS GATHERINGS**

Carnivals are uniquely different from other mass gatherings such as concerts, movie theaters, and sporting events in the following ways:

1. Carnivals can manage and reduce capacity by:
  - a. Reducing number of rides, games, and concessions brought to the event
  - b. Widening midway walkways while laying out the lot (placement of attractions)
  - c. Reconfiguring ride, game, and concession layouts to allow for as many straight or “L” shaped queue lines as possible
  - d. Utilizing employees to control seating positions in rides and at games by directing nonfamily members to sit in every other seat or station.
  - e. Offering ride promotions or pricing discounts during opening hours to draw more guests to less popular times
2. Carnivals operate entirely outside where they are subject to the well-recognized, cleansing effects of the wind and sun.
3. Most carnival attendees travel as a family, which means that they live in the same home and thus do not need to be physically distanced from each other.
4. Potential exposure times between strangers is generally incidental and below recognized minimum threshold levels because carnival guests move freely through the midway and are not sitting in a single location, elbow to elbow, for an extended period of time.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- If a guest or employee is sick with COVID-19, was recently exposed (within 14 days) to someone with COVID-19, or just does not feel well, they should not visit the midway.
- Anyone who is in a high-risk category, as defined by the CDC, should not visit the midway.
- All guests and employees shall wear a cloth face covering in public areas.
- All guests and employees shall practice social distancing protocols in public areas per local regulations.
- Carnivals shall communicate and inform guests and employees of all the new protocols and procedures prior to arrival through employee training, social media, traditional media, and on the website, then upon arrival through signage, flyers, and announcements.
- There should be a designated individual on staff responsible for coordinating COVID-19 policies and procedures with the event producer and local health department.
- The COVID-19 coordinator shall document the execution of all protocols on a daily basis.

## **GENERAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

The following considerations must be worked through in conjunction with event organizers:

- Cleaning of the entire midway area – Use commercially available products to spray long lasting sanitation protectant to all surfaces.
- Establish protocols for interim sanitation of all high touch points for each ride, game, or concession.
- Establish increased protocols for sanitizing all public and communal areas, i.e., restrooms, ATMs, ticket purchase/exchange locations, etc. Encourage purchases be made online or in advance.
- Utilize touch-free or contactless payment options where possible. This includes transactions for rides, games, and concessions.
- Provide additional handwashing and/or hand sanitizing stations throughout the midway at entry and exit points, key thoroughfares, attractions, rides, games, food and beverage concessions, and outside restrooms.
- Place protective screens (plexiglass or other hygienic barriers) where there are interactions between employees and guests.
- Establish protocols when an employee or guest exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 when on the midway. Coordinate action with the fair to remove the party from public interaction and provide medical services off the midway.
- Establish pedestrian traffic flow plans to reduce bottlenecks and ensure the ability to maintain social distancing on the fair grounds.
- Increase the number of available restroom and handwashing facilities to alleviate crowding caused by waiting guests.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- Establish overall capacity limits based on local formulas.
- We will limit the number of and capacity of individual rides and games to comply with local regulations for social distancing. Recognize that family members from the same household can be closer together. (Note: If space allows, we can consider 10-foot distancing when groups are permitted. If you have family units in line next to each other, it is difficult to make social distancing with groups only six feet apart.)
- Implementation of straight or L lines and indicate local requirements (usually six-foot increments) with signs and ground stickers. Implementation must occur at all queue lines. No switchback or serpentine lines.
- Employees will avoid physically assisting/lifting guests. If a guest needs assistance, ask another family member to help.

## **FACE MASKS / CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

When social distancing cannot take place, the wearing of face masks or cloth face coverings (covering nose and mouth) provides an additional level of safety for guests and employees and reduces the likelihood of contagious virus droplets transferring from one person to another.

We will designate “mask/face covering-free” areas where employees and guests can remove their masks for a short period of time to take a break. These designated mask-free areas will be large and open enough to allow people to follow physical distancing guidelines for your area when they are not wearing their masks. Signage will clearly identify these areas so they are easy to find.

We will provide staff with information on proper use, removal, and washing of masks.

Guests will be encouraged to follow CDC and local guidelines pertaining to wearing masks.

- Note: Masks should not be placed on:
  - Babies and children younger than 2 years old
  - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
  - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

## **INFORMATION SYSTEMS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Implementation of a public awareness campaign for social media (paid and non-paid), mass media (paid and non-paid), web-based platforms, signs and public address announcements to advise the public of new policies and procedures for their safety.
- Signs with health and hygiene reminders will be visible throughout the midway. The CDC, and many states, have PDF bilingual signs available on their websites. With the use

of signage developed by Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity guests will be instructed of proper hand washing, and other hygiene precautions. Guests will be reminded to practice social distancing in all areas of the midway per local regulation.

- Signs with the following or similar language should be on display: “We have taken enhanced health and safety measures for our guests and employees. You must follow all posted instruction while visiting the midway. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to sever illness and death. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting the midway, you voluntarily assume all risks relate to the exposure of COVID-19
- The on-midway cleaning/sanitizing team will be highly visible to provide guest reassurance.
- Contact information to report problem areas or customer concerns will be posted so situations can be promptly remediated.

## **EMPLOYER / EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

A designated member of our staff will be responsible for coordinating COVID-19 policies and procedures with the event as well as with local Health Departments.

- Each employee’s temperature will be checked and logged before work shifts and they will not be allowed to work should they register a fever above 100.4 degrees.
- Staff will be educated on COVID-19 to include sanitation procedures for public and personal areas, social distancing requirements, use of PPE, and guest responsibilities.
- Staff will be trained with protocols developed for the specific ride, game, or food concession they work.
- Staff will be provided cloth protective face coverings, face shields, and other PPE as needed to be worn during all interactions with the public.
- Employee rotation cycles will be monitored to keep work teams together to reduce interactions between different groups of employees when possible.
- Absenteeism of employees will be monitored and staff will be cross-trained in order to respond to staffing shortages that may be COVID-19 related.
- Employees will be instructed to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer at least every 60 minutes and after any of the following: using the restroom, sneezing, touching their face, blowing their nose, cleaning, sweeping, mopping, eating, drinking, smoking, entering or leaving a guest area, and before and after their shift.
- We will discourage workers from using other workers’ phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment, when possible.

- There will be pre-opening daily meetings with staff and key stakeholders to review problem issues and plans to improve the experience and to incorporate customer comments and concerns.
- Staff travel between locations will incorporate safe protocols and will include limiting the number of people per vehicle.
- A policy regarding employees that feel ill or show symptoms of virus or infection, encouraging them to stay home without fear of being punished or losing their jobs will be implemented. Staff will be educated on when they can return to work.
- When appropriate, following CDC guidelines, shields and temporary barriers will be used between employees and the public.
- As a general rule, carnival employees should avoid physically assisting/lifting guests. If a guest needs assistance, they will first ask another family member to help. It is understood that carnival employees may still need to physically assist/lift guests in the event of a ride evacuation.
- Employees will be reminded they have a duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and to not adversely affect the health and safety of others.

## CLEANING & SANITIZING

The CDC defines cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting as follows:

- **Cleaning** removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- **Sanitizing** lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects.
- **Disinfecting** works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

High touch surfaces should be cleaned throughout the day with an alcohol-based disinfectant. Additionally, surfaces can be sprayed with a water-based photocatalyst Titanium Dioxide solution. It slowly destroys any microorganism that touches the surfaces such as viruses, bacteria, mold, fungi, or any other microorganism for 6 months and lasts for up to 28 days following the photocatalyst sanitizing process. Surfaces can be monitored and measured with an ATP meter to measure microbial contamination. The OABA can provide processes and product that have been used by our members. OABA does not endorse or promote any of these products.

## FOOD & GAMES

- Food stands will endeavor to follow the most current CDC and health department guidelines as issued.
- Commonly used areas around food stands will be cleaned and sanitized periodically throughout the day.
- Food stands will separate payment handling employees from food handling employees.
- Open access condiments will be eliminated and replaced with single-use packets or portions available upon request.
- Self-service drink stations will be eliminated.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be made available.
- Barriers can be erected between food service employees and the public.
- Self-service napkins and cutlery dispensers will be eliminated, and items provided to guests with meals upon request.
- Customers and staff can exchange cash or card payments by placing them on a receipt tray or on the counter to avoid direct hand-to-hand contact.
- Contact can be minimized by handing food items to guests on a tray or with gloved hands.
- Games will be reconfigured whenever possible and/or strategies employed to maintain social distancing and minimize contact.
- Game equipment touched by the public will be wiped after each use.
- Prizes will be sanitized and quarantined before being placed into service in a game and will be kept out of the guest's reach before selecting.
- Social distancing between players not in the same family/group can be implemented.

## Additional Considerations and Resources

- Guidelines from the CDC, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Governors office, and other regulating authorities are constantly changing. This mitigation strategy can be altered and/or changed to meet the most current guidelines.
- Considerations and mitigation strategies listed in this document have been compiled from best practices documents provided by:
  - State of Michigan
  - MIOSHA
  - OSHA
  - CDC
  - Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)
- Skerbeck Family Carnival is in compliance with any and all workplace safety requirements that pre-date the new Covid-19 regulations.
- Websites:
  - [www.michigan.gov/leo](http://www.michigan.gov/leo)



- [www.oaba.org](http://www.oaba.org)
- [www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus)
- [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org)
- [www.sbam.org/covid-19-resources](http://www.sbam.org/covid-19-resources)
- Additional documents for consideration (copies available if requested):
  - Governor's Tourism Reopening Workgroup Recommendations
  - Covid-19 Workplace Safety Guidance for Sports and Entertainment Facilities
  - Proposed Covid-19 Guidelines for Michigan Ski Areas
    - Document not specific to outdoor entertainment or carnivals but has many aspects that can apply to both ski and outdoor entertainment venues
  - South Florida Fair Covid-19 Safety Plan
    - [www.southfloridafair.com/p/thefair/safety-plan](http://www.southfloridafair.com/p/thefair/safety-plan)
  - Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity MISafeStart: Entertainment Guidelines and Recommendations
- Proposed signage examples available at:
  - [www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-100207\\_101272---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-100207_101272---,00.html)