Reopening: Operations Assessment

The Center for Disease Control currently advises that COVID-19 is spread through person-to-person transmission among individuals who are in close contact with each other (approximately six feet) and through respiratory droplets. Surface transmission may also be possible.

Prior to deciding to reopen, theater operators should survey their space to determine if safe social distancing is possible.

Survey theater space and take inventory of how, when, and where people interact:

- Is it possible to maintain 6-feet of distance between audience members and staff?
- Where do people congregate?
- Is it possible for everyone in line to stand 6-feet apart? Can you offer designated line markers?
- How big are your theaters? Is it possible to operate at 25% capacity? Do you have enough room to seat audience members 6 feet apart?
- Are office spaces well-ventilated? Do they have windows?
- Do staff sit 6-feet apart in office spaces?
- What is the layout of your restroom area? Is it possible for people queuing to stand 6-feet apart?
- What are your theater’s high-touch surfaces? Can they be cleaned regularly?
- Will patrons be required to wear masks? Will you be providing these masks if they do not have one?
- Is it possible for you to obtain enough cleaning supplies and PPP equipment from vendors to maintain consistent cleaning schedules and keep your staff and audience members protected and safe?
- Who is your seat manufacturer? Is it possible to safely clean seats between screenings?
- Are there high-touch surfaces (popcorn seasonings, bulk candy, straw dispensers) that can be moved behind the concession stand?
- Are no-contact ticket sales possible?
- Is it possible to stagger screenings to prevent crowding in lobbies and common areas?
- Is it possible to adjust your HVAC system to increase outdoor air ventilation?

After assessing theater spaces:

- Is social distancing realistic for my theater?
○ Is it possible to provide my customers with a safe and enjoyable theater-going experience?