



INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR AUTO RACING ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

When you have read this document, you can affirm at the bottom.

As of April 24, 2021

Purpose

This Interim Guidance for the Conduct of Auto Racing Activities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (“Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Auto Racing”) was created to provide licensed or franchised operators of auto racetracks, their employees, any other personnel, and auto racing activity participants with precautions to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 as auto racetracks re-open. For the purpose of this guidance, “racing activities” means all activities undertaken in preparation for and the conduct of auto racing at an auto racetrack.

Effective April 22, 2021, auto racetracks may host races with a limited number of spectators, pursuant to the applicable spectator and patron provisions contained within the Department of Health’s (DOH) “Interim Guidance for Professional Sports Competitions with Fans or Spectators during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency,” including but not limited to outdoor and indoor venue capacity restrictions, testing/immunization/health screening, social distancing, face coverings, controlled movement, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, and communication.

These guidelines are minimum requirements only and the management of any auto racetrack is free to provide additional precautions or increased restrictions. These guidelines are based on the best-known public health practices at the time of issuance, and the documentation upon which these guidelines are based can and does change frequently. The Responsible Parties – as defined below – are accountable for adhering to all local, state and federal requirements relative to auto racing activities. The Responsible Parties are also accountable for staying current with any updates to these requirements, as well as incorporating same into any racing activities and/or Site Safety Plan.

Background

On March 7, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued Executive Order 202, declaring a state of emergency in response to COVID-19. Since May 15, 2020, New York State has developed and deployed a phased economic reopening strategy based on science and data, which has allowed specific industries to safely resume or increase activities and operations while protecting public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the following standards, all auto racetracks must continue to comply with the guidance and directives for maintaining clean and safe work environments issued by the DOH.

Please note that where guidance in this document differs from other guidance documents issued by New York State, the more recent guidance shall apply.

Standards for Responsible Auto Racing Activities in New York State

No Auto Racing Activities can occur without meeting the following minimum State standards, as well as applicable federal requirements, including but not limited to such minimum standards of the Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The State standards contained within this guidance apply to all auto racing during the COVID-19 public health emergency until rescinded or amended by the State. The owner or management of the auto racetrack (in either case, "the Responsible Parties"), shall be responsible for meeting these standards.

The following guidance is organized around three distinct categories: people, places, and processes.

I. PEOPLE

A. Physical Distancing

- Responsible Parties must ensure that all individuals practice physical distancing by standing at least six feet away from other individuals or groups of people not traveling with them while standing in lines, using elevators or escalators, or moving around the property, to the extent possible, provided that certain functions at an auto racetrack require coming within six feet of other individuals. These functions shall be identified and a protocol for mitigation of risk for affected individuals shall be implemented. Any time any person must come within six feet of another, at a minimum, an acceptable face covering must be worn. Employees and participants must be prepared to don a face covering if another person unexpectedly comes within six feet, and should have one available at all times.
 - Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and nose.
 - However, cloth, disposable, or other homemade face coverings are not acceptable face coverings for workplace activities that typically require a higher degree of protection for personal protective equipment (PPE) due to the nature of the work. For those activities, N95 respirators or other PPE used under existing industry standards should continue to be used, as is defined in accordance with [OSHA guidelines](#).
- Audience, fans, or spectators shall only be authorized to attend or permitted entrance to any auto racetrack as advised above, effective April 22, 2021.
- To the extent possible, Responsible Parties shall arrange physical layouts for fixed workstations to ensure appropriate distancing between individuals
- Responsible Parties may modify the use and/or restrict the number of work stations and employee seating areas, so that workers are at least six feet apart in all directions (e.g. side-to-side and when facing one another) and are not sharing workstations without cleaning and disinfection between use. When distancing is not feasible between workstations, Responsible Parties must provide and require the use of face coverings, or may enact physical barriers, such as plastic shielding walls, in lieu of face coverings in areas where they would not affect air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation.
 - If used, physical barriers should be put in place in accordance with [OSHA guidelines](#).
 - Physical barrier options may include: strip curtains, plexiglass or similar materials, or other impermeable dividers or partitions.
- Responsible Parties should prohibit the use of small spaces (e.g. elevators, vehicles) by more than one individual at a time, unless all individuals in such space at the same time are wearing acceptable face coverings. However, even with face coverings in use, occupancy must never exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the space or vehicle, unless it is designed for use by a single occupant.

Responsible Parties should increase ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g. opening windows and doors), while maintaining safety protocols. Responsible Parties should take additional measures to prevent congregation in elevator waiting areas and limit density in elevators, such as enabling the use of stairs.

- Responsible Parties must ensure that when employees or participants use vehicles, each vehicle is limited to single riders unless all occupants are wearing appropriate face coverings.
 - All vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected after use and before the vehicle is used by another individual.
- It is recommended that maintenance staff are assigned to pairs/small groups, to limit the number of close or proximate contacts.
- Responsible Parties should put in place measures to reduce bi-directional foot traffic using tape or signs with arrows in narrow aisles, hallways, or spaces, and post signage and distance markers denoting spaces of six feet in all commonly used areas and any areas in which lines are commonly formed or people may congregate (e.g. health screening stations).
- Responsible Parties must post signs throughout the site, consistent with DOH COVID-19 signage. Responsible Parties can develop their own customized signage specific to their workplace or setting, provided that such signage is consistent with the Department's signage. Signage should be used to remind employees to:
 - Cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when six feet of social distance cannot be maintained.
 - Properly store and, when necessary, discard PPE.
 - Adhere to physical distancing instructions.
 - Report symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19, and how they should do so.
 - Follow hand hygiene and cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
 - Follow appropriate respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

B. Gatherings in Enclosed Spaces

- Responsible Parties must limit in-person employee gatherings (e.g. meetings, trainings) to the greatest extent possible and use other methods such as video or teleconferencing whenever possible, per CDC guidance "[Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)". When videoconferencing or teleconferencing is not possible, Responsible Parties should hold meetings in open, well-ventilated spaces and ensure that individuals maintain six feet of social distance between one another (e.g. if there are chairs, leave space between chairs, have individuals sit in alternating chairs).
- Responsible Parties must put in place practices for adequate social distancing in small areas, such as restrooms and breakrooms, and should develop signage and systems (e.g. flagging when occupied) to restrict occupancy when social distancing cannot be maintained in such areas.
- Responsible Parties should stagger schedules for employees to observe social distancing (i.e., six feet of space) for any gathering (e.g. coffee breaks, meals, and shift starts/stops).

C. Workplace Activity

- All personnel shall receive training on COVID-19 safety and sanitation protocols.
- Responsible Parties must take measures to reduce interpersonal contact and congregation, through methods such as:
 - limiting in-person presence to only those staff who are necessary;
 - adjusting workplace hours;
 - reducing on-site workforce to accommodate social distancing guidelines;
 - shifting design (e.g. A/B teams, staggered arrival/departure times);
 - prioritizing tasks that allow for social distancing over those that do not; and/or
 - avoiding multiple crews and/or teams working in one area by staggering scheduled tasks and using signs to indicate occupied areas.

D. Movement and Commerce

- Responsible Parties must establish designated areas for pickups and deliveries, limiting contact to the extent possible.
- Responsible Parties should limit on-site interactions (e.g. designate an egress(es) for workers leaving their shifts and a separate ingress(es) for workers starting their shifts) and movements (e.g. employees should remain near their workstations as often as possible).
- Responsible Parties should implement a touchless delivery system, whereby drivers stay in the vehicle while delivery takes place or, where not practicable, Responsible Parties must provide acceptable face coverings, gloves, and foot booties/coverings to delivery workers at no cost for the duration of the delivery process.

II. PLACES

A. Protective Equipment

- In addition to any necessary PPE as required for certain workplace activities, Responsible Parties must procure, fashion, or otherwise obtain acceptable face coverings and provide such coverings to all personnel at no cost to the personnel. Responsible Parties should have an adequate supply of face coverings, masks and other required PPE on hand should any personnel need a replacement. Acceptable face coverings include, but are not limited to, cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), surgical masks, N95 respirators, and face shields.
- Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use and may not be shared. Please consult the [CDC guidance](#) for additional information on cloth face coverings and other types of PPE, as well as instructions on use and cleaning.
 - Note that cloth face coverings or disposable masks shall not be considered acceptable face coverings for workplace activities that impose a higher degree of protection for face covering requirements. Responsible Parties must adhere to OSHA guidelines for such safety equipment.
- Responsible Parties must allow employees to use their own acceptable face coverings but cannot require employees to supply their own face coverings. Further, this guidance shall not prevent employees from wearing their personally owned additional protective coverings (e.g. surgical masks,

N95 respirators, or face shields), or if the Responsible Parties otherwise requires employees to wear more protective PPE due to the nature of their work. Employers should comply with all applicable OSHA standards.

- Responsible Parties must put in place measures to limit the sharing of objects, such as vehicles, as well as the touching of shared surfaces, such as railings and fences; or, require workers to wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical) when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched surfaces; or, require workers to sanitize or wash their hands before and after contact.
- Responsible Parties must train employees on how to adequately don, doff, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE, including but not limited to, appropriate face coverings.

B. Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection

- Responsible Parties must ensure adherence to hygiene and sanitation requirements as advised by the CDC and DOH, including "[Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#)," and the "[STOP THE SPREAD](#)" poster, as applicable. Responsible Parties must maintain logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.
- Responsible Parties must provide and maintain hand hygiene stations on site as follows:
 - For handwashing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
 - For sanitizer: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.
 - Hand sanitizer dispensers, touchless whenever possible, shall be placed at key employee entrances and contact areas. The density of sanitizer availability shall be determined pursuant to public health guidelines.
- Responsible Parties must provide no-touch disposal receptacles to mitigate risk.
- Responsible Parties must provide appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies for shared and frequently touched surfaces and encourage employees to use these supplies before and after use of these surfaces, followed by hand hygiene.
- Responsible Parties must conduct regular cleaning and disinfection of the site and more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high risk areas used by many individuals and for frequently touched surfaces. Cleaning and disinfection must be rigorous and ongoing and should occur at least after each shift, daily, or more frequently as needed. Please refer to DOH's "[Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#)" for detailed instructions on how to clean and disinfect facilities.
 - Responsible Parties must ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. Restrooms should be cleaned and disinfected more often depending on frequency of use.
 - Responsible Parties must ensure distancing rules are adhered to by reducing restroom capacity where feasible.
 - Responsible Parties must ensure that equipment and tools are regularly disinfected using registered disinfectants, including at least as often as workers change workstations or move to a new set of tools. Refer to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) [list of products](#) registered in New York State and identified by the EPA as effective against COVID-19.
 - If cleaning or disinfection products or the act of cleaning and disinfection causes safety hazards or degrades the material or machinery, Responsible Parties must put in place hand hygiene

stations between use and/or supply disposable gloves and/or limitations on the number of employees using such machinery.

- Responsible Parties must provide for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event of a positive case of COVID-19 of a worker, with such cleaning and disinfection to include, at a minimum, all heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g. equipment, surfaces, vehicles, handles).
- CDC guidelines on "Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility" if someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 are as follows:
 - Close off areas used by the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - Responsible Parties do not necessarily need to close operations, if they can close off the affected areas.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared equipment.
 - Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
 - Workers without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the work area immediately after disinfection.
 - Refer to DOH's "Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure" for information on "close or proximate" contacts.
 - If more than seven days have passed since the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.
- Responsible Parties must prohibit shared food and beverages among employees (e.g. self-serve meals and beverages), encourage employees to bring lunch from home, and reserve adequate space for employees to observe social distancing while eating meals.

D. Communications Plan

- Responsible Parties must affirm that they have reviewed and understand the state-issued industry guidelines, and that they will implement them.
- Responsible Parties should develop a communications plan for all employees and participants that includes applicable instructions, training, signage, and a consistent means to provide licensed personnel with information. Responsible Parties may consider developing webpages, text and email groups, and social media.
- Responsible Parties should encourage individuals to adhere to CDC and DOH guidance regarding the use of PPE, specifically face coverings, when a social distance of six feet cannot be maintained, through verbal communication and signage.
- Responsible Parties should post signage inside and outside of the building to remind individuals to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfection protocols.

III. PROCESSES

A. Screening and Testing

- Responsible Parties must implement mandatory daily health screening practices of personnel and participants.
 - Screening practices may be performed remotely (e.g. by telephone or electronic survey), before entrance to the site, to the extent possible; or may be performed on site.
 - Screening should be coordinated to prevent workers from intermingling in close or proximate contact with each other prior to completion of the screening.
 - Screening should be required of each individual seeking access to the auto racetrack grounds; screening should be completed using a questionnaire that determines whether the individual has:
 - (a) knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
 - (b) tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days; and/or
 - (c) has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Responsible Parties should coordinate with team managers to facilitate screening. Screening best practices include:
 - If space and facility configuration allow, screen individuals at or near the building entrance to minimize the impact in case of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - Allow for adequate social distancing while individuals queue for screening and/or building entry.
 - Coordinate with tenants to identify individuals who have completed a remote screening.
 - Admit only individuals who have been screened either remotely by tenants or upon arrival.
 - Use contactless thermal cameras in building entrances to identify potentially symptomatic individuals and direct them to a secondary screening area to complete a follow-on screening.
- Refer to CDC guidance on "[Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)" for the most up to date information on symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- Responsible Parties must require employees and participants to immediately disclose if and when their responses to any of the aforementioned questions changes, such as if they begin to experience symptoms.
- In addition to the screening questionnaire, temperature checks may also be conducted per U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or DOH guidelines. Responsible Parties are prohibited from keeping records of employee health data (e.g. the specific temperature data of an individual), but are permitted to maintain records that confirm individuals were screened and the result of such screening (e.g. pass/fail, cleared/not cleared).
- Responsible Parties must ensure that any personnel performing screening activities, including temperature checks, are appropriately protected from exposure to potentially infectious employees or participants entering the facility. Personnel performing screening activities should be trained by employer-identified individuals who are familiar with CDC, DOH, and OSHA protocols.

- Screeners must be provided and use PPE, including at a minimum, a face mask, and may include gloves, a gown, and/or a face shield.
- An individual who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms must not be allowed to enter the auto racetrack and must be sent home with instructions to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing.
 - Responsible Parties should provide such individuals with information on healthcare and testing resources.
 - Responsible Parties must immediately notify the state and local health department about the case if test results are positive for COVID-19.
- Responsible Parties should refer to DOH's "[Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure](#)" regarding protocols and policies for employees seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the employee had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.
- Responsible Parties must designate a central point of contact, which may vary by activity, location, shift or day, responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all questionnaires, with such contact also identified as the party for individuals to inform if they later are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, as noted on the questionnaire.
- Responsible Parties must designate a site safety monitor whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the site safety plan, for employees and participants.
- To the extent possible, Responsible Parties should maintain a log of every person, including employees and participants who may have close or proximate contact with other individuals at the work site or area; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means. Log should contain contact information, such that all contacts may be identified, traced and notified in the event an employee or participant is diagnosed with COVID-19. Responsible Parties must cooperate with state and local health department contact tracing efforts.

B. Tracing and Tracking

- Responsible Parties must notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by any personnel at their site.
- In the case of any personnel testing positive, the Responsible Parties must cooperate with the state and local health department to trace all contacts in the workplace and notify the state and local health department of all employees logged and participants (as applicable) who entered the facility dating back to 48 hours before the personnel began experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive, whichever is earlier, but maintain confidentiality as required by federal and state law and regulations.
- Local health departments will implement monitoring and movement restrictions of infected or exposed persons including home isolation or quarantine.
- Individuals who are alerted that they have come into close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19, and have been alerted via tracing, tracking or other mechanism, are required to self-report to their employer at the time of alert and shall follow the protocol referenced above.

IV. EMPLOYER PLANS

Responsible Parties must conspicuously post completed safety plans on site. The State has made available a business reopening safety plan template to guide business owners and operators in developing plans to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Additional safety information, guidelines, and resources are available at:

New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Website
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

At the link below, affirm that you have read and understand your obligation to operate in accordance with this guidance:

<https://forms.ny.gov/s3/ny-forward-affirmation>