



Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County
celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service
over 120 years of community electric and a
regional wastewater, water, and municipal solid waste utility*

EVENT & GATHERING LIMITATIONS REVISED

On October 6, Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine amended their targeted mitigation orders to change the gathering limits for indoor and outdoor events and gatherings. The amendments are linked to this memo. Previously, the targeted mitigation orders capped indoor events and gatherings at 25 people and outdoor events and gatherings at 250 people. Under the new amendments, the gathering limits are based on a percentage of a venue's established occupancy limit defined by the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code (i.e., the fire code capacity), which is enforced locally by the Chambersburg Fire Department. The following capacity chart comes from an FAQ issued by Governor Wolf; also note the procedure established to calculate capacity for any venue that does not have a designated fire code capacity. A link to the FAQ is [here](#).

- In other words, a facility with an indoor fire code capacity of 1,000 people has a maximum occupancy of 200 people for an event or gathering (1,000 fire code capacity X 20% = 200 maximum occupancy).
- An outdoor facility with a fire code capacity of 1,000 people would have a maximum occupancy of 250 people for an event or gathering (1,000 fire code capacity X 25% = 250 maximum occupancy).
- A 10,000 square foot outdoor event or gathering space that has no fire code capacity established would have a calculated fire code capacity of 670 people (67 people per 1,000 square feet in a 10,000 square foot space); the new maximum under the amended order is 167 people (670 calculated fire code capacity X 25% = 167.5 maximum occupancy).

What is an "event or gathering"?

Keep in mind that the new amendments apply to "events or gatherings." People working in an office building or classroom or a regularly occurring operation of a business are *not* events or gatherings. Below is the definition of "event or gathering" provided by the governor and Department of Health:

Sporting events, conferences, seminars, and similar activities all likely constitute an "event or gathering" for purposes of the definition above. This is clearly subject to interpretation and there is no definitive authority who is responsible for making this determination.

How are municipal operations affected?

Municipalities that are performing work in their ordinary or regular course of business are not affected by these amendments and may continue to operate as they have been. This would be all regular Borough of Chambersburg activities for every municipal department. The administration's guidance still encourages local governments to follow the various orders to the extent practicable and to balance public safety while ensuring that critical infrastructure and services continue. As with prior orders, local law enforcement is authorized to enforce the new amendments.

In Chambersburg, the Police Department shall enforce by education and information.

What about recreational sports?

Attendance at and participation in youth and recreational sports is subject to the occupancy limits set out in the new amendments. The maximum occupancy includes staff, coaches, athletes, participants, media, spectators, cheerleaders — every person — at the sporting event. All individuals must comply with the universal masking order and social distancing guidelines.

What about conference centers, outdoor fields, and similar facilities that can be divided?

The FAQ states that facilities that can create physical barriers between separate events may follow the occupancy limits per each event space as long as there is “sufficient division” between the physical locations. For example, a facility may use moveable walls or floor-to-ceiling dividers to create separate spaces for indoor conferences or sporting events. The facility must make sure that common areas like bathrooms and hallways are not congested and are frequently cleaned. If multiple events are hosted, the total number of people in the facility must not exceed 50% of the facility’s total maximum occupancy.

Do the new amendments require anything else?

Yes — Venues must require attendees to comply with social distancing rules and the universal masking order. Venues must also implement “best practices” such as timed/staggered entry, multiple entrances/exits, and hygiene stations.

When do these amendments take effect?

These amendments took effect **Friday, October 9**.

If you believe that you witness an event that does not comply, or attend an event that does not comply, seeing that the enforcement is somewhat subjective and there is no ultimate authority, the only action available is to contact the organizers for further education and information.

All individuals must continue to comply with the universal masking order and social distancing guidelines pursuant to existing and ongoing Borough of Chambersburg and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines.