



Faith, Arts, Culture,  
Hotels, Entertainment  
and Sports Committee  
Additional Recommendations for  
the ReOpen DC Advisory Group



May 21, 2020

For more information, and to see the ReOpen DC Advisory Group Steering Committee's full recommendations, please visit <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>.

# FAITH, ARTS, CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS AND HOTELS COMMITTEE

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The FACES-H Committee consists of industry experts and seasoned practitioners. In addition, the Committee members received extensive input from community stakeholders, consulted ReOpen DC survey results, and obtained valuable feedback from CFO Jeffrey DeWitt, Councilmember McDuffie, and Councilmember Todd on lessons learned from the stay-at-home order and next steps for reopening. Stakeholder feedback emphasized the importance of faith, arts, culture, entertainment, sports, and hotels to the city, and the need for clarity regarding large gatherings. The FACES-H Committee held a total of four Committee meetings. The Committee was broken into four Sector Working Groups: Faith, Arts & Culture, Entertainment and Sports, and Hotels. Each sector was chaired by a Committee member and employed a consistent methodology that used various tools including but not limited to: DC resident surveys, sector-designed questionnaires, and stakeholder focus groups. Each of the sectors held several virtual meetings via WebEx and directly contacted a variety of additional industry stakeholders to identify best practices for standard operations and procedures post COVID-19. The stakeholder engagement methodology used by each sub-group is listed below.

- **Faith:** The Faith Sector distributed a questionnaire and received a total of 62 responses from faith-based institutions and houses of worship throughout the District. The Faith Sector also held a focus group on May 12 with several interfaith leaders to discuss specific issues that should not be overlooked as the city prepares for the new normal and learn about how their organizations have prepared to keep their communities and stakeholders safe.
- **Arts and Culture:** This sector reached out to a wide variety of additional industry stakeholders and captured valuable input from the arts and culture community through an industry specific questionnaire. The group received 104 responses which also included a consolidated response from the Smithsonian Institution. This group also held focus groups geared towards artists in the creative industries including filmmakers, musicians, photographers and visual artists, gaining valuable insights from the creatives who will grace the stages of cultural institutions upon reopening.
- **Entertainment and Sports:** The Entertainment and Sports group organized its work into 3 sub-groups, Live Events, Sporting Events, and Nightclubs. Each sub-group surveyed additional stakeholders and conducted conference calls to solicit feedback and gain critical insight. This sector also issued a public questionnaire to other stakeholders in the District, receiving critical feedback from venue stakeholders that varied in venue seating capacity. The Entertainment and Sports group also had 16 questionnaires completed, which represented responses from all major sports leagues in the city along with various clubs and entertainment venues.
- **Hotels:** A hotel specific designed questionnaire was issued to hoteliers around the District. This sector received feedback from 11 Hotels and Hospitality organizations. The Hotel Sector also repurposed existing industry advisory groups and consortiums to contribute to the FACES-H ReOpen DC report. Similarly, the group consulted with the Washington DC “Hospitality Alliance” a group of leaders from the labor community, Hotel and Restaurant Associations, Destination DC, and Events DC, to develop recommendations.

## STAGING RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the report’s primary guidance and universal safeguards (e.g., physical distancing of at least six feet, use of masks in public spaces, stringent sanitation and hygiene practices) the Committee proposes the following guidance for the subsectors listed below.

SUBSECTOR	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3
Places of worship	<p>Continued offering of virtual service</p> <p>Demonstrated adherence to physical distancing guidelines when providing social services</p> <p>Allowance of group activities with up to 10 people and stringent physical distancing (e.g., religious text study)</p>	<p>Continued offering of virtual services</p> <p>Places of worship may reopen to small-group (up to 50 people) services with physical distancing and safeguards</p>	<p>Continued offering of virtual services for high-risk congregants</p> <p>Places of worship open to up to 250 people with physical distancing and safeguards, including directional signage and new configurations of space</p>
Museums and galleries	<p>Closed</p>	<p>Museums open with limited capacity (5 people per 1,000 sq. ft not to exceed 50% capacity)</p> <p>Small events and receptions of up to 50 people allowed with physical distancing</p>	<p>Museums can allow limited tours (10 people per 1,000 sq. ft not to exceed 75% capacity)</p> <p>Limited tours and events of up to 250 people allowed with physical distancing</p>
Arts education organizations	<p>Continue to use virtual or digital means for arts education, programs, and services</p>	<p>Open with limited capacity (5 people per 1,000 sq. ft not to exceed 50% capacity) with physical distancing</p> <p>Small events and receptions of up to 50 people allowed</p>	<p>Open with expanded capacity (10 people per 1,000 sq. ft not to exceed 75% capacity) with physical distancing</p> <p>Limited tours and events of up to 250 people allowed</p>
Theaters	<p>Closed</p>	<p>Up to 50 persons permitted per theater with physical distancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— In person rehearsals allowed with PPE and no contact (i.e., no kissing or stage combat)</li> <li>— Reconfigured seating (family grouping style) and physical distancing protocols in lobby areas</li> </ul>	<p>Reopen with up to 250 persons permitted with physical distancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Reconfigured seating (family grouping style) and physical distancing protocols in lobby areas</li> </ul>

Bars and nightclubs	Closed	Closed	Bars and nightclubs open with capacity limits (5 people per 1,000 sq. ft not to exceed 50% capacity)
Large gatherings - entertainment	Closed	Venues reopen with up to 50 persons with physical distancing Virtual events encouraged	Venues reopen with up to 250 persons with physical distancing Virtual events encouraged
Large gatherings - sports	Professional sports teams to develop and provide DC with guidelines proposed by the leagues; possible that practice facilities open with limitations  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Start with one-on-one player workouts and graduate to multiple player workouts</li> <li>— No spectators</li> </ul>	Professional sports team practice facilities open with stringent physical distancing and PPE, as regulated by leagues  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Games held without fans for broadcast only; up to 50 people allowed onsite to facilitate broadcasting (with stringent physical distancing and PPE)</li> <li>— No spectators</li> </ul>	Games held for broadcast only; up to 250 allowed onsite to facilitate broadcasting (with stringent physical distancing and PPE)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— No spectators</li> </ul>
Hotels	Open with safeguards  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Limited access to hotel common areas</li> <li>— Reduction in guest services to check-in/check-out only, no visitors other than guests in room, no valet parking</li> <li>— Elimination of non-essential amenities</li> <li>— No daily housekeeping offered under 7 days</li> <li>— Rooms to be cleaned, but not sold for 24 hours after guest departs</li> </ul>	Open with safeguards  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Guest services and limited meetings permitted</li> <li>— Hotel restaurants allowed to open in line with industry guidance</li> </ul>	Open with safeguards  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Continuation of Stage 2 guidelines and safeguards</li> </ul>

## RECOMMENDED SAFEGUARDS

Across all stages, the committee recommends adoption of the additional safeguards outlined below.

SECTOR AND SUB-SECTORS	STAKEHOLDER	ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES
Faith, arts and culture, entertainment, sports and hotel organizations	All employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Install sneeze guard/protective customer barrier in all areas where there is customer transaction in hotels and at ticket booths in theaters and museums</li> <li>— Adopt virtual ticketing and reservation platforms and contactless check-in and check-out for customer interactions</li> <li>— Reconfigure or mark seating arrangements in theaters and venues to delineate physically distant seating</li> <li>— Register or keep visitor logs for all patrons of arts organizations, museums, hotels, bars, theaters etc. to facilitate contact tracing</li> <li>— Develop patron movement flows for all visitors to museums, theaters etc. to minimize face-to-face passing</li> </ul>

## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND ‘BIG IDEAS’

The committee and its members have identified several additional initiatives and ideas for consideration, which include:

- **Reuse dormant venues and houses of worship** to support COVID-19 response, including using venues for PPE distribution, education, and contact tracing, and using houses of worship and their networks for outreach including food drives, clothing drives, and grief counseling for vulnerable populations
- **Leverage marketing to increase tourism and associated revenue** when the city is ready to return to “new normal” (e.g., destination marketing plan) - focus on domestic tourism in months immediately following full reopening of DC and other states
- **Increase access to the arts through increased arts and culture funding**, particularly for underrepresented artists, potentially through the DC Arts and Humanities Commission
- **Develop virtual experiences and performances** to promote access to and engagement with leading arts and cultural offerings
- **Create an “Arts Equity Task Force”** that includes artists and legacy cultural businesses to make funding recommendations for budget cycles and funding appropriations