

COVID-19 Guidance

Fitness and Exercise Facilities

Phase III



Economic Development
COVID-19 Recovery



Virginia Department of Health Requirements

Fitness and Exercise Facilities must implement the below mandatory requirements or close. Businesses must strictly adhere to the physical distancing guidelines, enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices, and enhanced workplace safety practices provided.

- Post signage at the entrance that states that no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the prior 14 days, is permitted in the establishment.
- Post signage to provide public health reminders regarding physical distancing, gatherings, options for high-risk individuals, and staying home if sick.
- Facilities should screen patrons for COVID-19 symptoms prior to admission to the facility. Patrons should be asked if they are currently experiencing fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) or a sense of having a fever, a new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition, a new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition, or new muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise). Anyone experiencing symptoms should not be permitted in the facility. Screenings should be conducted in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.
- Occupancy must be limited to no more than 75% of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy, if applicable, while maintaining a minimum of ten feet of physical distancing between all individuals as much as possible.
- Facilities should separate fitness equipment to ensure ten feet of separation between patrons, members, and guests using such equipment.
- Personal trainers must maintain at least ten feet of distance between themselves and their clients.
- Instructors and all participants of group exercise and fitness classes must maintain at least ten feet of physical distancing between each other at all times.
- The total number of attendees (including both participants and instructors) in all group exercise and fitness classes cannot exceed 75% of the minimum occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy or 250 persons.
- Employees working in customer-facing areas are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth, such as using CDC Use of Cloth Face Coverings guidance. Lifeguards responding to distressed swimmers are exempt from this requirement.

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Phase II



Economic Development
COVID-19 Recovery



Virginia Department of Health Requirements

Fitness and Exercise Facilities must implement the below mandatory requirements or close. Businesses must strictly adhere to the physical distancing guidelines, enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices, and enhanced workplace safety practices provided.

- Employers must ensure cleaning and disinfection of shared equipment after each use.
- Hot tubs, spas, saunas, splash pads, spray pools, and interactive play features must be closed. Basketball courts and racquetball courts may operate provided patrons maintain ten feet of physical distancing while utilizing such courts. Swimming pools may operate in accordance with the Guidelines for Swimming Pools.
- Provide hand sanitizing stations, including at the entrance/exit and where shared fitness equipment is utilized.
- Facilities must prohibit the use of any equipment that cannot be thoroughly disinfected between uses (e.g., climbing rope, exercise bands, etc.). Facilities must also prohibit the use of equipment requiring more than one person to operate, unless those operating are from the same household (e.g., free weights when it requires a spotter).



Best Practices to Follow

Below will be the best practices for Fitness and Exercise Facilities to utilize during Phase III.

- When protective equipment such as face coverings are used, launder daily and wash hands after touching/adjusting face covering while working.
- Use disposable towels and linens where possible. All reusable towels, linens and other porous fabric should be laundered after single use. Store towels and linens in a closed, covered container prior to use.