

COVID – 19 Guidelines

FOR CASINOS



May 20, 2020

Re-Opening Taskforce of the Emergency Operations Center
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Rd #1, Philipsburg

SECURITY & ENTRANCE:

1. Display a notice at the entrance with the 'house rules', explaining what is expected of the customers (for example: do not enter if you have flu-like symptoms/keep 2 meter social distance/protect yourself and others/wash hands with water and soap or sanitize regularly, etc.).
2. Security personal should ensure that the social distancing guidelines are followed and adhered to.
3. Security personal should ensure that customers are wearing face masks. Security staff should ask customers to briefly lower their masks upon entry for age and identification purposes.
4. Customers should be asked to use hand sanitizers located at the entrance of the casino before engaging in slots play.
5. Security personnel should ensure that only the allowed number of customers is permitted inside the casino, through communication with internal security.
6. Doors should remain open or have automatic opening technology to prevent frequent touching of door knobs.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY:

1. If necessary, employers should arrange COVID-19 training from the Ministry of VSA, which provides an overview of COVID-19 mitigation protocols, including proper use and disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE), and recognition of COVID-19 symptoms. An email should be sent to taskforce@sintmaartengov.org to schedule the training.
2. All Casino staff and employees should be wearing face masks.
3. All Casino staff and employees should be advised to wash and disinfect their hands after every interaction with a customer.
4. At each employee entrance, the casino should post signs setting forth a checklist of COVID-19 symptoms and instructing employees to remain at home if they experience any of the symptoms.
5. Any staff member showing any flu like symptoms, coughing etc. should not be allowed to come in for work.
6. Break schedules and employee starting/ending times should be staggered to the extent possible to avoid congregation of individuals in back-of-house areas.
7. Employees with high touch public contact should be provided frequent breaks to wash and/or sanitize their hands to reduce the risk of surface transmission (e.g. table and security).
8. All other employees should be encouraged to wash their hands at frequent set intervals in accordance with CDC guidelines.

GENERAL:

1. Sanitizing stations should be placed throughout the casino to encourage frequent sanitizing of hands.
2. Frequently touched services and customer service areas should be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis.
3. Customers coughing and or showing any flu like symptoms should be asked, as a safety measure to other patrons and staff, to leave the casino. It should also be recommended to see their physician as soon as possible.
4. Adequate levels of soap should be available in the bathrooms through the dispensing machines.

SLOT MACHINES:

1. Casinos should promote social distancing between slot machines by removing chairs from and disabling certain slot machines to create 2 meter distance between operating machines.
2. Slot machine should be frequently wiped with a disinfectant solution when not in use.
3. Players at slot machines should wear face masks.
4. Sanitizing wipes/agents should be available for players to clean a slot machine before play.
5. Customers should not be allowed to congregate in groups on the gaming floor.

CASHIER:

1. Hand sanitizing stations should be placed at cashiers (for employees and customers).
2. Marked lines should be allocated at the cashiering area to ensure that the social distancing measures of 2 meters are followed and adhered to.
3. Cashiering staff are behind protective glass, and should sanitize hands after each transaction.

BAR SERVICE:

1. Drinks should be served using proper coverings on glasses and cups.
2. Glasses and porcelain should be washed properly after every use.
3. Wipes and sanitizers should be placed at bars and beverage stations.
4. Bars and beverage stations should be cleaned and disinfected at all times.
5. Bar stools should be spaced 2 meters apart.

GUIDELINES FROM PUBLIC HEALTH REGARDING THE USE OF FACEMASKS, GLOVES AND FACE SHIELDS

There is no need for the use of face masks, gloves and/or face shields when social distancing of 2 meters is respected and regular hand washing with soap and water or a sanitizer is practiced.

The virus can be contracted by droplets of an infected person by:

1. Being directly inhaled by another person who is less than 2 meters from the infected person through openly coughing, sneezing or having close physical contact such as kissing, hugging or sexual contact.
2. Another person touching his/her mouth, nose or eyes after touching the surface where droplets of an infected person have landed (hence the importance of regularly sanitizing frequently touched objects).

If social distancing of 2 meters cannot be practiced or realized, face masks, worn properly (covering both mouth and nose), are sufficient. Bear in mind that surgical masks need to be properly disposed of after use or after getting wet, and that cloth masks need to be washed regularly. Face masks and gloves can cause a false sense of security, thus becoming more of a liability than an asset. Face masks need to cover both mouth and nose.

Face shields and gloves are only recommended for medical staff closely dealing with confirmed or strongly suspected Covid-19 positive persons as well as food handlers.

Medical masks should be limited to use by health care professionals.