

COVID – 19 Guidelines

FOR CINEMAS AND THEATERS



May 20, 2020

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

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. Customers should be asked to use hand sanitizers located at the entrance before entering the establishment.
3. Theatre personal should ensure that the social distancing guidelines are followed and adhered to.
4. Theatre personal should ensure that customers are wearing a face masks while interacting with theatre staff. *(No masks are required while watching the movie/ show, provided that 2 meter distance is adhered to).*
5. 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 employees are advised to wash and disinfect their hands after every interaction with a customer.
3. At each employee entrance, the establishment 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.
4. Any staff member showing any flu like symptoms, coughing etc. should not be allowed to come in for work.
5. 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.
6. All other employees should be encouraged to frequently wash their hands with water and soap or with a sanitizer.

TICKET COUNTER:

1. Place a transparent plexiglass between the employee and the ticket counter
2. Ticketing agents should sanitize their hands after every transaction.
3. Sanitizing stations should be placed at the ticketing counter for customers to sanitize their hands after the transaction.

4. Security personnel should ensure that only the allowed number of customers is permitted inside the building, through communication with internal security.
5. Marked lines should be allocated to ensure that the social distancing measures of 2 meters are followed and adhered to.
6. Promote the purchasing of tickets online or through an app ahead of arriving to the theater.

THEATRE HALL:

1. Doors to the halls should remain open, if/when possible or have automatic opening technology to prevent frequent touching of door knobs.
2. Seating should be spaced 2 meters apart (unless part of the same household).
3. Seating should be sanitized prior to viewing
4. Space out viewing times to allow for proper sanitizing of the theatre halls in between viewings.

CONCESSION AREAS:

1. Plexiglass barriers should be installed to keep safe distance between employees and customers.
2. Ensure that food and beverages are properly covered when serving.
3. Where possible implement self-service stations.
4. Frequently clean and sanitize frequently touched areas.
5. Marked lines should be allocated to ensure that the social distancing measures of 2 meters are followed and adhered to.
6. Sanitizing stations should be set up in and outside of the concession areas.
7. All employees and customers are advised to disinfect their hands after every interaction.

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.