

Broward County Emergency Orders Frequently Asked Questions

These Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) have been updated through [Emergency Order 20-27](#) (“EO 20-27”). Any questions added or substantially modified as a result of EO 20-27 are marked with an asterisk.

1. What is open in Broward County?

All establishments are allowed to resume operations subject to all applicable guidelines in Broward County Emergency Orders and Attachments 1-20. The Attachments include guidelines for specific types of establishments (see FAQ #18 for a list of Attachments).

Although all establishments are allowed to operate, they are not required to do so. Establishments may choose to remain closed.

2. Is there a curfew in Broward County?

Not at this time.

3. Social Distancing: When do the social distancing requirements apply?

Whenever you are outside of your home, you should keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and any person who does not live in your household.

4. Facial Coverings: Who has to wear them and when?

For detailed information regarding facial coverings, please visit the County’s Frequently Asked Questions on facial coverings available [here](#).

5. What do I do if I am feeling sick or if I am COVID-19 positive?

If you have flu-like symptoms or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> for a list of symptoms), consult with a healthcare professional and consider visiting a [testing site](#) for confirmation as to whether you have COVID-19. In addition, pending test results and while you have any symptoms, you are strongly encouraged to isolate yourself and avoid visits to any establishments and facilities, including visits to the common areas or amenities of multi-family housing developments.

6. May municipalities impose additional, stricter limitations?

Yes. Municipalities may have stricter limitations than the County. Except as expressly allowed, municipalities may not relax the requirements of any Broward County Emergency Order. Municipalities may relax certain outdoor seating code restrictions to allow restaurants to expand their outdoor seating areas.

7. Must schools comply with the County’s Emergency Orders? What about after-school activities?*

Schools are not considered “establishments” within the scope of the County’s Emergency Orders, and, therefore, are not subject to the requirements and guidelines imposed on establishments, including the facial covering requirements and limitations on gatherings. All schools that are not operated by or subject to the regulation of the School Board of Broward County, including private schools, are encouraged to develop reopening plans outlining operational safeguards.

While the County’s Emergency Orders do not regulate schools’ academic activities, all non-academic after-school or extracurricular activities, such as organized sports or clubs, are required to comply with [Attachment 16](#), including the facial covering requirements in that attachment. If the after-school activity is an organized sporting event with spectators, the sporting event must be conducted in accordance with the guidelines in [Attachment 19](#).

8. What are the consequences of violating an Emergency Order?

Violation of an Emergency Order may be subject to civil and criminal enforcement action. Civil enforcement of a violation may include fines of \$1,000 per day per violation, except where the violation is knowing and irreparable/irreversible, in which event civil enforcement may include fines up to \$15,000 per violation [[Section 8-56, Broward County Code of Ordinances](#)]. Criminal enforcement of a violation as a second-degree misdemeanor may include fines up to \$500 per day, imprisonment up to 60 days, or both [[Section 8-55, Broward County Code of Ordinances](#)]. In addition, establishments that are cited by the applicable code enforcement or law enforcement authority for violating any Emergency order must immediately close and may only reopen after complying with certain conditions outlined in [EO 20-21](#), Section 4. Reopening in violation of [EO 20-21](#) is a separate violation. If you know or suspect that a particular establishment is in violation of an applicable order, you should report the suspected violation to 311 or to the applicable local [municipal code enforcement](#). These penalties may be imposed upon an individual as well as an establishment.

9. Can an individual be fined for not complying with Broward County Emergency Orders, including facial covering requirements, under the Governor’s Phase 3 Executive Order?*

Yes. While the collection of fines and penalties against individuals is currently suspended per Governor DeSantis’ Executive Order 20-244, individuals may still be cited. Citations will continue to be issued against individuals and businesses, and citations, fines, and penalties, will continue to be imposed against establishments violating any of any Broward County Emergency Order. Fines and penalties assessed against individuals will be collected upon expiration of the Governor’s suspension of the collection of fines and penalties against individuals. Fines and penalties against businesses and establishments will continue to be issued and collected.

10. How do I report a violation of the Emergency Orders?

If you know or suspect that an establishment or an individual is in violation of an Emergency Order, you should report the suspected violation to 311 or to the applicable local [municipal code enforcement](#).

11. How do I contact the County if I have any questions or comments about COVID-19 or the County's Emergency Orders?

Call the COVID-19 Hotline at (954) 357-9500.

12. Can I have a party at my home or residential property and how many people can I invite?*

All social gatherings at a residential property, whether indoors and/or outdoors, must be limited to a maximum of 10 people, excluding residents of the household and the parents and minor children of the residents of the household (see [EO 20-22](#)).

For example, a couple lives together with their 3 children, each spouse invites over their parents, and they invite 5 friends. There are 14 people gathered in the residence, but because 5 people reside in the home and the parents of the residents of the household are excluded from the gathering limitations, only the 5 friends are counted towards the 10-person limitation.

13. Do the Broward County Emergency Orders apply if I run a business from my home?*

Yes. If the residence also functions as a business establishment that conducts in-person transactions, all applicable guidelines of Broward County Emergency Orders must be followed during all such transactions, including facial covering requirements (see Frequently Asked Questions for facial coverings [here](#)) and [Attachment 1](#). In-home businesses that fail to comply with Broward County Emergency Orders are subject to the same fines and penalties applicable to all other establishments.

14. Are residents responsible for ensuring guests in the home comply with the facial covering requirements?*

Residents are not personally responsible for their guests' failure to wear any required facial coverings; rather, each guest would be individually liable for any failure to wear a required facial covering. However, if an at-home business conducting in-person transactions is located in the residential property, the residential property must comply with all the rules of an establishment (including requiring that facial coverings be worn by all those entering the premises) while the residential property is acting as a business (see FAQ #13). In-home businesses are subject to the same fines and penalties applicable to all other establishments for violations of the Broward County Emergency Orders.

15. What about gatherings other than at a home or residential property? Are there limits on gatherings in establishments or commercial spaces?*

Generally, gatherings in all spaces including a park, beach, or even an empty lot, are limited to no more than 10 people at a time, unless an exception applies. Gatherings in establishments may be exempted from the 10-person limit only under the following circumstances:

- a. The gathering occurs in the regular course of business of the establishment. For example, more than 10 patrons can be inside of a restaurant if the restaurant's regular business (operating in compliance with Broward County Emergency Orders, including [Attachment 2](#)) permits a capacity greater than 10 patrons.

- b. Residential gatherings that comply with the gathering requirements for residential gatherings (see FAQ# 12).
- c. The gathering is expressly permitted by an applicable Broward County Emergency Order, such as organized sports in parks ([Attachment 8](#)), or a special event in a function space ([Attachment 20](#)).
- d. Outdoor open-air special events pursuant to an operational plan approved by the County Administrator as outlined in [EO 20-23](#) (see FAQ #16).

*Note that schools are not considered “establishments” under the Broward County Emergency Orders and therefore not subject to the gathering limitations discussed above (see FAQ #7).

16. What do I need to do if I want to have an open-air special event with more than ten people?*

Generally speaking, gatherings in excess of 10 people are prohibited (see FAQ #15); however, pursuant to [EO 20-23](#), outdoor open-air special events in excess of 10 people are permissible if the organizers of such events submit a reopening or operating plan to reopening@broward.org that contains specific details (including appropriate operational safeguards, attendance limits such as persons per square feet, sanitation procedures, facial covering requirements, and staffing/security), and such plan is approved in writing by the County Administrator.

17. Am I allowed to host a special event anywhere in Broward County if I comply with Attachment 20?*

No. [Attachment 20](#) only applies to a limited category of function spaces, and the general prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 people is still in effect in Broward County. [Attachment 20](#) only applies to the following establishments:

- a. Ballrooms, banquet halls, catering halls, and other event spaces that have a Chapter 509 Florida License from the Department of Business and Professional Regulations, Division of Hotels and Restaurant (see [Attachment 20](#))
- b. Any rental of an establishment such as a restaurant, bar, or nightclub for a private event (see Section B.23, [Attachment 2](#))
- c. Community rooms located in multi-family housing developments (see Section A.2, [Attachment 6](#))
- d. Any indoor or outdoor event at a Park in Broward County that has between 10 and 100 people (see Section 7, [Attachment 8](#))
- e. Ballrooms and function spaces located in a hotel, motel, or commercial lodging establishment (see Section A.2, [Attachment 13](#))

- f. Beach weddings and other outdoor events at a beach in Broward County involving between 10 and 100 people (see Section A.7, [Attachment 15](#))

Outdoor open-air events that are not located in the abovementioned establishments, and outdoor open-air events at Parks in Broward County and at beaches that exceed 100 people, are prohibited unless the organizers of such events submit a reopening or operating plan pursuant to [EO 20-23](#) and receive written approval by the County Administrator (see FAQ #16).

18. What rules apply for establishments that are reopening?

All establishments must comply with the restrictions in [Attachment 1](#), such as sanitation requirements and enforcing facial coverings and social distancing. Specific uses must also comply with the applicable attachments, as follows:

- [Attachment 1: General Requirements for All Establishments](#)
- [Attachment 2: All Establishments Serving Food or Alcohol](#)
- [Attachment 3: Retail Establishments](#)
- [Attachment 4: Personal Services](#)
- [Attachment 5: Movie Theaters](#)
- [Attachment 6: Community Rooms, Fitness Centers, and Gyms in Housing Developments](#)
- [Attachment 7: Museums](#)
- [Attachment 8: Parks in Broward County](#)
- [Attachment 9: Boating and Marine Activities](#)
- [Attachment 10: Golf Courses](#)
- [Attachment 11: Pool Decks, Pools, And Other Residential Recreational Amenities in Housing Developments](#)
- [Attachment 12: Public Community Pools and Private Club Pools](#)
- [Attachment 13: Hotels, Motels, and Commercial Lodging Establishments](#)
- [Attachment 14: Commercial Gyms and Fitness Centers](#)
- [Attachment 15: Beaches in Broward County](#)
- [Attachment 16: Youth Activities and After-School Activities](#)
- [Attachment 17: Bowling Alleys, Arcades, and Indoor Amusement Facilities](#)
- [Attachment 18: Short-Term Vacation Rental Reopening Plan](#)
- [Attachment 19: Non-Professional Organized Sporting Events with Spectators](#)
- [Attachment 20: Social Events at Function Spaces](#)

Auditoriums, playhouses, and concert halls need to prepare an operational plan which must be available for inspection upon request by any code enforcement personnel, law enforcement personnel, or a member of the public. These establishments also have to comply with [Attachment 5](#).

19. Are establishments required to open?

No. While all establishments are allowed to operate in accordance with the applicable guidelines, establishments are not required to open. Other considerations may influence whether a business determines it can safely reopen. Please contact establishments directly for more information.

20. Must the owner of an establishment be present to ensure compliance with the guidelines set forth in the County's Emergency Orders?

No, the owner is not required to be present, but the business must comply with the applicable guidelines, which may require designated personnel to be on site to ensure such compliance. The establishment may be cited and fined for failing to comply with applicable guidelines.

21. Are establishments required to post any signage?*

All establishments that conduct in-person transactions with the public and all establishments serving food or alcohol must conspicuously post signage in compliance with [EO 20-23](#). The signage must be posted at all entry points, in multiple languages, and each sign in each language must be at least 8.5" x 11" in size. This requirement also applies to any mixed-use establishment that has a food/alcohol or retail area within the establishment. Owners, operators, and landlords of commercial properties that include commercial establishments, restaurants, or food service establishments must ensure the required signage is also posted in common areas like entrances, food courts, and hallways. All other establishments are required, under [Attachment 1](#), to post CDC signage in public locations emphasizing measures to "Stop the Spread" and to exercise social responsibility (see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>).

22. Can I have live performers at my establishment?*

Yes. Certain establishments, including establishments serving food or alcohol ([Attachment 2](#)), and ballrooms, banquet halls, and other function spaces ([Attachment 20](#)) may have live performers at the establishment. Live performers must remain at least 10 feet away from patrons at all times.

23. What guidelines apply to adult entertainment establishments?*

Adult entertainment establishments, including strip clubs, swingers' clubs, and cabarets may operate consistent with all applicable guidelines in Broward County Emergency Orders, including [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#). Adult entertainment establishments must require that all performers providing live entertainment at the establishment maintain at least 10 feet of distancing from patrons at all times.

24. What are the current occupancy limits at establishments that serve food or alcohol?*

If an establishment licensed to serve food desires to operate at 100% indoor capacity, the establishment may do so as long as: (i) tables are spaced at least 6 feet apart at all times; (ii) parties at tables are limited to no more than 6 people; and (iii) the establishment ensures that people wear facial coverings at all times except when actively eating or drinking.

Establishments licensed to serve food can have a minimum indoor occupancy of 50%. Distancing requirements and table occupancy requirements do not apply to the extent that they would prevent the establishment from operating at a minimum of 50% of their indoor capacity, but social distancing should be maintained to the maximum extent possible.

Establishments that are not licensed to serve food must operate at no more than 50% of the establishment's indoor capacity.

For all establishments subject to [Attachment 2](#), the total combined occupancy of indoor and outdoor areas ("outdoor areas means areas with exclusively open-air customer seating) shall not exceed existing total maximum occupancy of 100% for the establishment.

25. Do patrons need to be seated to order or consume food or beverages under Attachment 2?*

All establishments required to operate in compliance with [Attachment 2](#) must restrict ordering and consumption of food or beverages by patrons for on-premises consumption to only while such patrons are (i) seated at their assigned seat or (ii) only to the extent required to meet the minimum capacity requirements, in assigned area and segregated in a group that is no more than 6 people that consistently maintains at least 6 feet of social distancing at the nearest point from any other person or group of people.

26. Are bar counters open at restaurants and other establishments that serve or alcohol?*

Yes. Bar counters may open to seating by the public, but at least 6 feet must be maintained between parties (maximum of 6 people per party). A plexiglass partition must be placed between patrons seated at a counter and any staff working on the other side of the counter.

27. Are there any limitations on hours for dining for establishments serving food or alcohol?*

In accordance with [Attachment 2](#), establishments that serve food or alcohol may not provide on-premises sale, service, and consumption of food and/or alcohol between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. This limitation does not prohibit operations other than on-premises dining, including food delivery or take-out services between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

28. My establishment is operating under Attachment 2 and has a gaming area, can patrons play games?*

Adult games, including darts, arcade games, billiards, and other similar games may operate provided that all other requirements of [Attachment 2](#) are complied with, including the requirement that food and beverages be consumed exclusively while patrons are seated at their table and patrons must adhere to facial covering requirements at all times. Child gaming and play spaces within establishments serving food or alcohol, including bounce houses, playgrounds, and ball pits must remain closed. All frequently touched surfaces, including knobs, darts, and cue sticks must be cleaned between each game

29. Are organized sports allowed? What is considered an organized sport under Broward County Emergency Orders?*

Organized sports are allowed. "Organized sports" means a sport such as soccer, baseball, basketball, softball, boxing, and other recognized sport that is part of an established athletic

league or part of an organized program (municipal or otherwise). Organized sports include training and practice sessions and matches.

30. Are organized sports subject to the 10-person limit at Parks?

No. Organized sports are exempt from the 10-person limit on gatherings in parks. Therefore, two soccer teams may have a match at a park without violating the gathering size limits. Any non-professional organized sporting events with spectators must comply with [Attachment 19](#).

31. What is not considered an organized sport under Broward County Emergency Orders?*

Individuals who are exercising in their personal capacity and not training as part of an organized sport (*i.e.*, participating in a regular fitness class, using gym equipment as part of a normal workout, including with a personal trainer or coach, or playing a “pick up” game or sport for leisure) do not fall within the definition of “organized sport.”

32. Are non-organized sports subject to the 10-person limit at parks?

Yes. If you want to get together with some friends to have a pick-up game, your group may not exceed ten people.

33. Are spectators allowed to attend organized sports games?

Yes, spectators are allowed to attend organized sports games provided that all applicable requirements of [Attachment 19](#) are complied with at all times. Prior to having spectators at an organized sporting event, an operational plan must be approved in writing by the governing body of the athletic league or organized sport program. The operational plan must, at a minimum, outline the seating charts and circulation patterns for the venue. In addition, [Attachment 19](#) includes other guidelines including requiring all ticketing to be offered on a pre-sale basis, the venue must operate at no more than 25%, and food and drinks must only be consumed at a designated area.

[Attachment 19](#) does not apply to professional sports. Broward County does not regulate professional sports.

34. May youth sports and youth activities operate in Broward County?

Yes. Organized youth activities, including youth sports teams and leagues, youth clubs and programs, and youth recreation camps may operate in accordance with all applicable guidelines in Broward County Emergency Orders, including [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 16](#). Where a youth program or camp involves the use or visitation of a park or beach in Broward County, compliance with [Attachment 8](#) or [Attachment 15](#), as applicable, is also required. Youth programs or camps that involve the use of pools, gyms, or fitness centers must comply with the applicable provisions of [Attachment 6](#), [Attachment 12](#), or [Attachment 14](#), respectively. If a youth organized sports team or league (as defined in [Attachment 16](#) and FAQ #29) desires to have spectators attend organized sporting events, the organized sport or athletic league must also comply with [Attachment 19](#).

35. Are recreational amenities like basketball courts open in Broward County?*

Yes, subject to the guidelines in [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 8](#), tennis facilities, basketball courts, and other similar recreational amenities are open in Parks in Broward County. Unless the recreational amenity is being used for purposes of an organized sport or athletic league (see FAQ #29), use of the recreational amenity must be limited to no more than 10 people at a time.

Tennis facilities, basketball courts, and similar recreational amenities that are not located in Parks in Broward County, such as in multi-family housing developments, may also open as determined by the owner or operator of such facilities, provided the owner or operator ensures that the use of the facility is in full compliance with all applicable requirements of [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 8](#).

36. Are splash pads open? What about playgrounds?*

Indoor and outdoor exercise equipment, playgrounds, and splash pads may open for public use in Parks in Broward County if permitted by the entity that owns or manages the applicable park. We recommend contacting the park for further information as to its operations.

37. Are dog parks open?

Yes. Dog parks located in parks may operate consistent with the applicable requirements in [Attachment 8](#).

38. Are community centers and recreation centers located inside Parks in Broward County allowed to operate?

Yes, community centers/recreation centers located inside Parks in Broward County operate subject to [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 8](#). Community centers/recreation centers that are available for rent by persons wishing to host events must also comply with [Attachment 20](#) for the event.

39. Are housing development pools open?*

Yes. Pools and pool decks located in **multi-family housing developments** (HOA, condominium pools, etc.) may operate subject to the requirements in [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 11](#). Only residents, family members, and the resident's guests (if authorized by the housing development) are permitted in multi-family housing development pools and pool decks. Pools in **private clubs** (YMCAs, JCC, yacht clubs, etc.), **county or municipal pools**, and pools that are part of a **commercial gym or fitness facility**, or **hotel, motel, or commercial lodging establishment** may operate subject to the requirements of [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 14](#) or [Attachment 12](#), respectively.

Please note that the requirement for housing developments to have either (i) a monitor or designated staff or (ii) remove all furnishings on the pool and pool deck has been eliminated.

40. What rules apply to aquatic programs?

Aquatic programs must be limited as to class size to meet the 6-foot distance requirement in [Attachment 14](#); in lap lanes, the 6-foot requirement is deemed met while swimming laps, provided no more than one person is using a lane at any time. Lap lane sharing is prohibited except by members of the same household.

41. What rules apply to community rooms in multi-family housing developments ?

Community rooms in multi-family housing must comply with [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 6](#). Community rooms must operate at 50% capacity and be limited to residents of the housing developments, their families, and their guests; however, no multi-player games such as poker and mahjong are permitted in community rooms between persons who do not reside in the same household unless all participants wear facial coverings irrespective of social distancing. Community rooms may be used as a function space for events provided that there is compliance with [Attachment 20](#).

42. Is the hot tub open? What about saunas and steam rooms; shower facilities?

At housing developments hot tubs can operate, but steam rooms and shower facilities are currently closed (see [Attachment 6](#)). At commercial gyms and fitness centers hot tubs, saunas, steam rooms, and shower facilities must remain closed, except for showers at facilities with pools for pre-swim showers (see [Attachment 14](#)).

43. Are there any special requirements for pari-mutuel facilities?

Pari-mutuel facilities have to (1) submit a reopening and operation plan for COVID-19 mitigation and sanitation (“Pari-Mutuel Plan”) to the County Administrator, (2) receive written approval of that Pari-mutuel Plan from the County Administrator and state approval by the Department of Business Regulation, and (3) operate in conformance with the approved Pari-Mutuel Plan. Plans must be submitted to the following email address: reopening@broward.org.

44. What rules apply to places of worship?

Religious institutions are establishments subject to the County’s Emergency Orders and must thus comply with all applicable provisions, including [Attachment 1](#) and the applicable facial covering requirements.

45. I run a vacation rental. What rules apply?

Vacation rentals are allowed to operate subject to the requirements in [Attachment 18](#). Per [Attachment 18](#), the vacation rental owner/operate must provide the physical address of the vacation rental and the name, phone number, and email address for the owner/operate to reopening@broward.org. Occupancy and use of vacation rentals must be limited at all times to the number of gusts listed on the vacation rental reservation. Vacation rental owners/operators must require listing of the number and the names of the gusts that will be staying on the property, and only those persons listed and any gusts approved by the owner/operator may utilize the property. The total number of persons, including guests, must

be limited to no more than 6 people unless all persons are of the same household, in which event no more than 10 people from the same household may occupy or utilize the property.

46. Are ballrooms, banquet halls, and other function spaces allowed to open?*

Yes. Subject to [Attachment 20](#), ballrooms, banquet halls, catering halls, and other event spaces that have a Chapter 509 Florida License from the Department of Business and Professional Regulations, Division of Hotels and Restaurants (collectively, a “Function Space”), may operate. In addition to other guidelines in [Attachment 20](#), all events held at a Function Space that are expected to be attended by 10 or more people must have a designated monitor to ensure that all safeguards and protocols in [Attachment 20](#) and Broward County Emergency Orders, including facial coverings, are in place and properly followed by all guests, vendors, and staff. The designated monitor must be an employee or contractor of the Function Space.

47. What are the hours for beaches in Broward County?

Beaches may open between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

48. Are organized sports allowed at the beach?*

Organized sports, as defined in [Attachment 15](#) (see also FAQ #29), are permitted at the beach and must comply with [Attachment 19](#) if there will be spectators. Organized sports are not subject to the general 10-person limitation for groups at the beach.

49. Are beach weddings allowed?*

Beach weddings and other outdoor events involving between 10 and 100 people must comply with [Attachment 20](#). Outdoor events involving more than 100 people are prohibited unless conducted pursuant to an approved operational plan in accordance with [EO 20-23](#) (see also FAQ #16).