

# WEST VIRGINIA STRONG

*The Comeback*



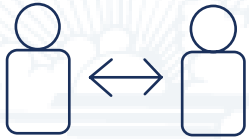
**Safety Guidance for Bingo Halls**

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Issued on June 3, 2020

## Safety Guidance for Bingo Halls

Under Gov. Justice's reopening plan, **West Virginia Strong — The Comeback**, bingo halls and similar facilities are to be allowed to resume operations, on Friday, June 5, 2020. To do so, Gov. Justice has issued the following guidance to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among staff and patrons. These guidelines, in addition to any and all relevant guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), will help West Virginians safely obtain the services provided by such facilities. These facilities are allowed and encouraged to implement more stringent protocols as they see fit.



As your business reviews and implements these new measures, we encourage you to share and discuss them with your employees and your patrons. Communicating enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices will make staff and patrons feel more confident in your facility.

**Please note:** The following guidelines are being published in advance of Governor Justice's Executive Order — currently anticipated to be effective as of June 5, 2020 — that will allow for the opening of casinos, and is deemed to include facilities such as bingo halls and similar establishments.

**Note further:** Such facilities should also consult the Guidance for West Virginia Small Businesses and the Guide to Safely Opening Restaurants and Bars, as applicable, available at [governor.wv.gov](http://governor.wv.gov), to determine other best practices.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in appropriate enforcement measures.

## SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR BINGO HALLS

### OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS/REQUIREMENTS

- **Plan:** Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices:
  - Prepare the location for reopening;
  - Prepare your employees for their return to work;
  - Create a social distancing plan to manage and reduce excessive contact and interaction;
  - Create a plan for personal protective equipment;
  - Reduce touch points to the maximum extent possible;
  - Increase cleaning frequency and the availability of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other DIY cleaning products to ensure touch points and common elements are properly sanitized between each use; and
  - Establish an open line of communication with employees regarding safety.
- **Occupancy:** Limit facility occupancy to a maximum capacity that will allow for proper social distancing to be achieved between patrons who do not reside together.
- **Social Distancing:** Implement strict social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between all individuals who do not reside together, modify scheduling to reduce unnecessary interactions to the greatest extent possible, adjust layout and close or restrict seating to maintain at least six feet of distance between customers who do not reside together (e.g., close every other row or seat individuals as they enter to ensure proper distancing is maintained).
- **Bingo Materials:** Customers should be encouraged to purchase bingo cards and other materials by methods other than cash if possible. Materials should be disposable or be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and sanitized between each use or touch by staff and patrons.
- **Customer Traffic:** Clear paths should be designated to allow customers to enter and exit the facility, to purchase or obtain any materials, to access the restroom, and to obtain food and/or beverage without breaking social-distancing requirements.
- **Cleaning:** Ensure that staffing and supplies available for such facilities are sufficient to enable enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures in accordance with appropriate CDC guidelines.
- **Common Elements and Touch points:** All common touchpoints, tables, shared or reusable materials, point of sale equipment, doorknobs, light switches, and buttons should be cleaned and sanitized between each use or touch.
- **Physical Barriers:** Consider installing physical barriers (for example, plexiglass shields) and/or visual cues (for example, tape on the floors and walkways) and signs to ensure that staff and patrons stay at least six feet apart from those they don't reside with.
- **Food/Beverage Service:** Any food or beverage service should be run in accordance with current orders and guidelines for restaurants and/or bars, found at [governor.wv.gov](http://governor.wv.gov).
- **Restrooms:** Restroom facilities should limit the number of users at any one time based on the facility size and current social distancing guidelines and such facilities should be regularly cleaned/sanitized per CDC recommended protocols.
- **Limitations:** Water fountains, common areas, break rooms, ticket counters, and other areas in which patrons or employees may congregate should be limited to the greatest extent possible, and where such are not closed off, must be cleaned/sanitized frequently.
- **Payments:** Encourage customers to make non-cash payments.
- **Plan:** Plan for potential COVID-19 cases and work with local health department officials when needed (i.e., monitor and trace COVID-19 cases, deep-clean facilities).

## SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR BINGO HALLS

- **Signage:** Post extensive signage on health policies, including the following documents in the workplace to help educate all on COVID-19 best practices:
  - [CDC: Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
  - [CDC: COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

## CUSTOMER PROTECTION

- **Customer screening:** It is recommended to screen patrons for illness prior to entry:
  - Temperature checks
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- **PPE:** All patrons should be encouraged to wear appropriate personal protective equipment when in the bingo hall or similar facility, including appropriate facial coverings, to the greatest extent possible.
- **Ventilation:** Keep doors and windows open where possible to improve ventilation.
- **Signage:** Post signs encouraging social distancing of at least six feet between individuals.
- **Cleaning:** Consider providing disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer at common touch point locations, including customer's seat location, and request that patrons assist by cleaning/sanitizing any touchpoints or common surfaces they come in contact with, in addition to the frequent and regular cleaning to be done by employees.

## EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

- **Employee screening:** Screen all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms.
  - Temperature checks.
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- **PPE:** All staff should wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including face coverings, to the maximum extent possible, and especially when in close proximity to patrons.
- **Training:** Provide training on PPE based on CDC guidelines.
- **Personal cleaning:** Provide a sanitizing station with soap and/or bottle of hand sanitizer and require regular hand washing.
- **Customer contact:** Limit customer contact to the greatest extent possible and require proper cleaning and sanitization between any necessary customer contact.
- **Distancing:** Practice recommended social distancing to the greatest extent possible.