

Broward County Frequently Asked Questions

* Questions labeled with an asterisk below indicate new questions added pursuant to the guidelines in EO 20-21 and EO 20-22.

1. What is open in Broward County?

Generally speaking, except for specific types of businesses that must remain closed (see FAQ # 2 below), most businesses, establishments, and amenities in Broward County (collectively “establishments”) are allowed to resume operations subject to the restrictions in [Broward County Emergency Order 20-21](#) (“EO 20-21”) as amended by [Broward County Emergency Order 20-22](#) (“EO 20-22”), and the attachments thereto.

2. What is closed in Broward County?

The establishments that must remain closed at this time are:

- a. Bars, pubs, hookah bars, night clubs, billiards halls and clubs, banquet halls (except as permitted in [Attachment 13](#), Section A.7), cocktail lounges, cabarets, and breweries, except for food or beverage take-out or delivery services;
- b. Adult entertainment establishments other than adult bookstores or adult video stores, as defined by [Broward County Code of Ordinances Section 20-327](#), strip clubs, and swingers’ clubs;
- c. Indoor movie theaters without an approved reopening plan;
- d. Hot tubs; and
- e. Short-term vacation rentals that are not actively managed by on-site owners or on-site management companies with staffing or security on-site 24 hours a day, for check-ins on or after July 20, 2020, but before August 20, 2020, except for rental by persons performing military, emergency, governmental, health, or infrastructure response to the COVID-19 pandemic, or persons primarily engaged in non-vacation commercial activities.

3. 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: Restaurants and Food Establishments](#)

[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 Summer Camps](#)

[Attachment 17: Bowling Alleys, Arcades, and Indoor Amusement Facilities](#)

[Attachment 18: Short-Term Vacation Rental Reopening Plan](#)

In addition, certain establishments such as indoor movie theaters, pari-mutuel facilities, concert halls, playhouses, and auditoriums must submit and receive approval of reopening plans (see FAQ # 20, 32, and 33 below).

4. *Is there a curfew in Broward County?**

Yes, a curfew is in effect every day from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. until August 1, 2020. No person should be out during this time unless specifically excepted (such as first responders, news media, delivery drivers, and persons seeking emergency medical care) or unless going directly to or from work, coming home from the airport or seaport, or walking their dogs or other pets within 250 feet of their residences.

5. *May restaurants and other establishments continue to operate past 11 p.m.?**

Yes, restaurants and other establishments, such as convenience stores, may continue to operate past 11 p.m.; however, because individuals who do not fall within an exception cannot be out past curfew, any purchases made from restaurants or other establishments by non-exempt individuals must be delivered. For example, while on-premises consumption of food and alcohol must stop at 10 p.m., people can pick up food and beverage for off-premises consumption until the curfew deadline of 11 p.m., and can order food or beverage for home delivery by delivery drivers for as long as the restaurant is open and offering food and beverage for delivery.

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

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

7. *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](#).

8. *What about social events? Can I have a party 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.

9. What about gatherings outside of a home or residential property? Are there limits on gatherings in establishments or commercial spaces?*

Gatherings in all spaces, whether in a business or establishment, an amenity, such as a park or beach, or even an empty lot, are limited to no more than 10 people at a time, unless an exception applies. Gatherings in establishments or commercial spaces may be exempted from the 10-person limit, if the gathering occurs in the regular course of business of the establishment and the establishment otherwise complies with all other requirements of any applicable Broward County Emergency Order and any applicable attachments. For example, more than 10 people can be inside a restaurant if the restaurant's regular business, operating in compliance with Broward County's Emergency Orders, including [Attachment 2](#), permits a capacity greater than 10 persons. However, the party-size limitations in [Attachment 2](#) must still be observed (see FAQ # 16). In addition, if the gathering is in the regular course of business of an establishment and involves persons age 17 or younger that require supervision, additional requirements regarding subgroups may apply pursuant to [Attachment 1](#), Section A.19. Other exceptions to the 10-person limit include residential gatherings that comply with the requirements for residential gatherings (see FAQ # 8), and gatherings expressly permitted by an applicable Broward County Emergency Order, such as organized sports in parks which are not subject to the 10-person limit pursuant to [Attachment 8](#).

10. Am I responsible for ensuring guests in my home comply with Broward County Emergency Orders?*

Yes. Residents of any residential property, regardless of whether they own or rent the property, must ensure that all persons on the property comply with all applicable guidelines of any Broward County Emergency Order, including the facial covering requirements. With limited exception, residents who fail to ensure that they and all of their guests comply with all applicable orders are individually liable and subject to civil and criminal penalties (see FAQ # 8 for more information on penalties). Each person present in violation of Broward County Emergency Orders constitutes a separate violation subject to a \$1,000 fine.

11. 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.

12. May municipalities impose additional, stricter limitations?*

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

13. 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 is only permitted to operate in compliance with the applicable guidelines, which may require designated personnel to be on site to ensure such compliance. Prior to opening, the business must have established protocols to ensure compliance with all applicable requirements. Nevertheless, the owner, even if not present, may be individually liable if the business does not operate in compliance with all applicable requirements.

14. Are all gyms and fitness centers allowed to open?

Yes, subject to the limitations of [EO 20-21](#), and any applicable attachments thereto, including [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 14](#).

15. Are establishments required to open?

No. While most establishments are permitted to open subject to requirements, 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.

16. What are the current restaurant occupancy limits?

Indoor seating areas are limited to 50% maximum capacity of the establishment. The combined total number of persons present in the indoor and outdoor areas must not exceed the combined total maximum capacity of the restaurant. For example, if a restaurant capacity limit is 100 patrons, the restaurant can sit 50 patrons indoors and 50 patrons outdoors, or 30 patrons indoors and 70 patrons outdoors. Per the Governor's Executive Order 20-123, workers are excluded from the calculations. All tables and chairs, whether indoor or outdoor, shall be at least six feet (6') apart between parties (at their closest point); bar counters must remain closed to seating. Patrons are prohibited from congregating at the bar counters or elsewhere, and patrons may not order or consume food or beverages except when seated at their assigned table. Parties must be limited to no more than six (6) persons, unless all persons are of the same household, in which event parties must be limited to no more than ten (10) persons from the same household.

17. Are there any limitations on hours for dining at restaurants?*

In accordance with Section 5 of [EO 20-21](#) and [Attachment 2](#), restaurants and food service establishments may not provide on-premises dining, or food or alcohol for on-premises consumption, between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. However, restaurants and food service establishments may offer drive-through, delivery, pick-up, or take-out services of food and alcohol for offsite consumption during those hours. If you are picking up food, you must comply with the County-imposed curfew (see FAQs # 4 and 5).

18. Is my business required to post any signage?*

All retail establishments, restaurants, and food service establishments must conspicuously post signage in compliance with [Emergency Order 20-17](#) and [EO 20-22](#). This requirement also applies to any mixed-use establishment that has a food or retail area within the establishment. Owners,

operators, and landlords of commercial properties that include retail 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>).

19. *Is the mall open? Is the food court at the mall open?*

Retail establishments are permitted to open subject to a 50% occupancy limitation, in addition to all other requirements in [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 3](#), but are not required to open. Mall operators or individual stores may decide whether to open. Food courts at malls are permitted to reopen, subject to the limitations on restaurants and other food establishments found in [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#). Please contact the retail establishment or food court establishment directly for more information on its status.

20. *Are movie theaters open?*

Outdoor drive-in movie theaters are currently permitted to operate, subject to the guidelines in [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 5](#), including requiring social distancing between automobiles. The outdoor theaters may be stationary or pop-up, but must be drive-in only. Indoor movie theaters may open provided they (1) submitted a reopening and operation plan for COVID-19 mitigation and sanitation to the County Administrator, (2) received written approval from the County Administrator, and (3) operate in conformance with the approved plan as well as the guidelines in [Attachment 1](#), [Attachment 5](#), and any applicable provisions in [Attachment 17](#).

21. *Are museums open?*

Yes, museums may operate at a capacity of no more than 50% occupancy and must comply with [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 7](#). Retail space within any museum must comply with [Attachment 3](#), while any food establishments must comply with [Attachment 2](#).

22. *May summer camps operate in Broward?*

Yes. Organized youth activities, including youth sports teams and leagues, youth clubs and programs, summer camps, and youth recreation camps may operate in accordance with [EO 20-21](#), including [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 16](#). Where a youth program or summer 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 summer 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. Children in summer camps must be limited to groups of no more than ten (10) persons per group; if the total number of children or youth age 17 or under exceeds ten (10) persons, the group must be divided into subgroups of ten (10) persons or fewer, be independently supervised, and remain independent of other subgroups.

23. Are organized sports allowed? What about the ten-person limit at parks?

Organized sports, for adults and children alike, including but not limited to soccer, baseball, basketball, softball, hockey, and football, are permitted at Parks in Broward County so long as the activity is part of an established athletic league or part of an organized program. Organized sports include practice sessions, drills, and tournaments, and are exempt from the park limitation restricting groups to no more than ten (10) people. Spectators are allowed but must comply with all applicable facial covering and social distancing requirements, including that groups must be limited to 10 persons or less. If there are more than 10 spectators at an organized sports event, the spectators must remain separated in groups of 10 persons or less.

Tennis facilities, basketball courts, and other similar recreational amenities that are not located in Parks in Broward County may 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](#).

24. Are splash pads open? What about waterparks?

Splash pads and water parks are considered playgrounds for purposes of [Attachment 8](#) and are, therefore, closed at this time.

25. Are beaches open?

Yes, subject to the limitations of [Attachment 15](#).

26. Are 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 and family members (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 12](#).

Aquatic programs must be limited as to class size to meet the ten-foot (10') distance requirement in [Attachment 14](#); in lap lanes, the ten-foot (10') 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.

Any particular pool may choose to remain closed, and the decision to reopen may be subject to internal rules or regulations of that establishment or organization. For more information about the status of a pool located at any of the above-mentioned establishments, please reach out directly to the owner, operator, property manager, or governing board of such establishment.

27. Are pet groomers allowed to open?

Yes. All establishments, except those outlined in Section 2 of [EO 20-21](#) as amended by [EO 20-22](#), may resume operations subject to any applicable guidelines, including [Attachment 1](#).

28. Are dog parks open?

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

29. Are spas/massage establishments allowed to open? What about spas in hotels?

Yes, spas and massage establishments, irrespective of their location, may operate, subject to the limitations of [Attachment 1](#), [Attachment 3](#) (for retail sales), and [Attachment 4](#) (for personal services). Spa operators may allow their patrons to use hotel pools or other similar amenities subject to the limitations of [Attachment 12](#).

30. Are tattoo parlors open?

Yes, tattoo parlors may resume operations subject to [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 4](#).

31. 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](#).

32. Are pari-mutuels open?

Pari-mutuel facilities may open but only to the extent they have (1) submitted a reopening and operation plan for COVID-19 mitigation and sanitation (“Pari-Mutuel Plan”) to the County Administrator, (2) received 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

33. Are concert houses, auditoriums, and playhouses open?

Concert houses, auditoriums, and playhouses may open provided that such establishments have (1) submitted a reopening and operation plan for COVID-19 mitigation and sanitation to the County Administrator, (2) received written approval from the County Administrator, and (3) operate in conformance with the approved plan. Plans must be submitted to the following email address: reopening@broward.org

34. Are realtors and other real estate related businesses allowed to operate?

Yes, residential and commercial real estate services are allowed to operate, including in-person showings, inspections, and closings, provided they operate in accordance with all applicable guidelines in [EO 20-21](#), including facial covering requirements and [Attachment 1](#).

35. Can places of worship open?

Religious institutions are permitted to operate subject to [EO 20-21](#), including the facial covering requirements and the guidelines of [Attachment 1](#).

36. Are hotels open in Broward County?

Hotels, motels, and commercial lodging establishments may operate subject to the limitations of [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 14](#). Specific uses within the hotels must comply with the applicable attachments, such as restaurants ([Attachment 2](#)), retail ([Attachment 3](#)), and pools ([Attachment 12](#)).

37. Are vacation rentals open in Broward County?*

Vacation rentals cannot allow renters to check-in between July 20 and August 20, 2020, unless the vacation rental is actively managed by on-site owners or on-site management companies with staffing or security on-site 24/7 and complies with [Attachment 18](#), which requires that all guests be listed on the reservation or approved by the property owner and includes occupancy limitations of no more than six (6) persons (limitations are raised to no more than ten (10) people if all persons are of the same household). Exceptions to these requirements for vacation rentals include rentals by persons performing military, emergency, governmental, health, or infrastructure response to the COVID-19 pandemic, or persons primarily engaged in non-vacation commercial activities.

38. 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.

39. 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](#).

40. How can 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.

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