

COVID – 19 Guidelines

FOR ADULT ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESSES



May 20, 2020

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

Guidelines for Adult Entertainment Businesses:

COVID-19 is not a STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease). However, contact closer than two meters as is the case with most sexual activities does considerably increase the risk of a Covid-19 positive person infecting other persons. Therefore, Adult Entertainment is considered to constitute a high Public Health risk during the Covid-19 pandemic. Preparation of a sound Prevention & Safety Plan based on the following guidelines, followed by implementation of this plan and full adherence and compliance is of utmost importance!

As we are moving into the next reopening phase on St. Maarten (phase IV), Adult Entertainment Businesses should prepare their Prevention & Safety Plan based on the following guidelines:

1. Display clearly visible 'house rules' outside at the entrance and inside the establishment, in the languages of the majority of the clients.
2. Limit customer capacity to fifty percent (50%) of normal capacity.
3. Inform the customer about the COVID-19 rules of the house when the customer enters the place or calls to make an appointment.
4. Determine, communicate and comply with the maximum number of clients allowed inside the establishment.
5. Assign a staff member or a guard to ensure orderly entrance and departure of customers.
6. Screen customers and employees for illness before they enter the building.
7. Do not permit entrance to customers who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
8. Two meter distance marks should be placed (e.g. tape) on the surface of outside areas and larger areas inside the building.
9. Place plexiglass between cashier and customer or where needed in the establishment.
10. Ensure thorough workstation and equipment disinfection before and after each customer.
11. Dispose any single-use tools and products immediately after use in a closed bin.
12. Prohibit the use of waiting areas, if two meter social distancing cannot be guaranteed.
13. Staff, employees and customers should wear a face mask at all times while in the establishment.
14. Perform regular disinfection of frequently touched surface areas.

15. Ensure availability of sufficient running water, hand soap, liquid soap, sanitizer and waste bins.
16. Empty waste bins regularly.
17. Ventilate the rooms as much as possible. Open windows (if possible) during and after physical contact between employees and clients.
18. Change and wash towels and bedlinens (60°C) after each use.

Guidelines for staff and employees working in Adult Entertainment Businesses:

1. Ensure that all staff and employees are fully aware and comply that they do not come to work if they have any flu-like symptoms and/or live with someone with flu-like symptoms.
2. If staff and employees show flu-like symptoms inside the building they must be requested to leave the premises and contact their family doctor or, if not available, contact CPS at 914.
3. Practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
4. Find alternative ways to entertain clients without skin to skin body contact (for example dancing, strip tease or using a webcam).
5. Minimize the number of customers you receive.
6. Minimize the time you have intimate (skin to skin) physical contact with clients.
7. Employees should increase hygiene practices such as wash hands with water & soap (or sanitizer) more frequently, avoid touching face, practice good respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing.
8. Employers should provide training, educational materials, and reinforcement on proper sanitation, handwashing, cough and sneeze etiquette, use of PPE, and other protective behaviors to their employees on a regular basis. An email should be sent to taskforce@sintmaartengov.org to schedule training.
9. Employees should wear a face mask fully covering nose and mouth. If masks become wet or dirty, the mask should be replaced. If using surgical masks, these should be frequently changed and properly discarded in a closed bin.
10. Customers are not allowed to kiss and touch the mouth, nose and eyes of the employee and vice versa.
11. Oral sex activities are strongly discouraged. For manual sexual activities gloves are recommended, in combination with a condom.
12. All employees should take a shower using soap in between visits by customers. If this is not possible, properly wash hands and other body parts touched by the customer with water and soap.
13. Consider designated staff to be tasked with maintaining increased sanitization routines.

14. Post extensive signage regarding increased cleaning, sanitization, and hygiene practices.
15. Perform regular disinfection of frequently touched surface areas (for example door handles, counter space, light switches, tools and instruments) at least every two hours.

Protection of Customers at Adult Entertainment Businesses

1. Screen customers on flu-like symptoms prior to entry into the premises. If they do, do not permit the client to enter the building and recommend them to contact their family doctor or, if not available, contact CPS at 914.
2. Customers showing symptoms once inside the building must be requested to leave and contact their family doctor or, if not available, contact CPS at 914.
3. Do not allow gatherings inside the premises, if social distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained.
4. Customers as well as the employees should wear a face mask covering mouth and nose at all times while in the premises, particularly during skin to skin physical contact.
5. For close contact, prone positions (lying face down) could be uncomfortable or dangerous for clients who are wearing face coverings. Accordingly, employees may consider other appropriate precautions such as draping a client's head with a cotton pillowcase.
6. Alternatively, the head of the client lying down with his face up could be covered with a cotton pillowcase to reduce the risk of breathing difficulties.

Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's)

1. Employees must insist that clients use a condom during sexual activities to prevent transmission of HIV and other STD's, without exceptions.
2. The employer must make condoms available to the employees.

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.