

# SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN

May 18, 2021

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 239 AND NEW REOPENING RESTRICTIONS

On May 12, 2021 Governor Phil Murphy signed [Executive Order No. 239](#) further loosening COVID-19 restrictions. The following changes will take effect on Wednesday, May 19, 2021:

- The limit for outdoor gatherings is removed. Attendees at outdoor gatherings will still be required to remain six feet apart and existing requirements regarding mask wearing will remain in place.  
Note: On May 17, the requirement to wear masks outdoors was rescinded by Governor Murphy.
- The limit for indoor gatherings in private residences will be raised to 50 persons, up from 25 persons. Commercial gatherings and gatherings organized and operated by an overseeing entity (e.g. conferences, expositions, meetings of fraternal organizations, job trainings, events hosted by senior centers) in public spaces will be subject to the 250-person indoor gathering limit that applies to indoor catered events, as long as all attendees can remain six feet apart.
- The following businesses will no longer be subject to any percentage-based capacity restriction, but will instead be guided by the rule regarding six feet of distance between persons or groups of persons. This would include:
  - Indoor dining – This change will remove the 50% limitation but maintain the six feet of required distance between tables, except that tables will still be permitted to be closer than six feet where restaurants use partitions that comply with NJ DOH requirements. Additionally, the prohibition on tables of more than 8 persons will be lifted. Outdoor dining is not bound to a capacity percentage.
  - Houses of worship and religious services
  - Retail businesses
  - Gyms & personal care services
  - Indoor amusement and recreation businesses and outdoor amusement and water parks
  - Indoor and outdoor pools
  - Indoor catered events, funerals, memorial services, performances, and political activities – Beginning on May 19, the 250-person limit will remain in place, but there will be no percentage-based capacity restrictions. Individuals and groups will need to remain six feet apart.
- The capacity limit for indoor large venues will increase from 20% to 30% and the definition of a large venue would shift from those with 2,500 fixed seats to those with 1,000 fixed seats. The requirement that individuals or groups that purchase tickets together remain six feet apart will remain in place.
- The prohibition on indoor interstate youth sports competitions is removed.

On May 13, the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) announced that fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, State, or local rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidelines. Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Health are reviewing the new CDC guidance on masking requirements. **Masks are still required in New Jersey for indoor settings. Mask-wearing requirements in general outdoor settings are lifted.**