# Operations Plan for COVID 19 Mitigation at the Charles County Fair

September 16 – 19, 2021

Those restrictions that are dictated by CDC, State of Maryland and Charles County will be implemented on the Fairgrounds. If additional restrictions are added as we get closer to the September 16 opening day of the Fair they will be posted on our website at [www.charlescountyfair.com](http://www.charlescountyfair.com)

On Tuesday, Aug. 10, the Board of Commissioners voted to adopt a resolution that reinstates the indoor public mask mandate effective Friday, Aug. 13 at 5 p.m. The mandate requires that both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear masks at all public indoor locations. Commissioners also declared a local state of emergency so that the Board had the authority to impose the mandate.

Commissioners decided to reinstitute the indoor public mask mandate after receiving briefings from Charles County’s Health Officer Dr. Dianna E. Abney and other partnership agencies regarding the rising number of COVID-19 cases and increased positivity rate in Charles County. The Centers for Disease Control recommends the use of masks indoors in all public places in areas where COVID-19 transmission rates are high. Charles County is currently in that category.

All residents and visitors over the age of five will be required to wear masks in all indoor public venues and businesses in Charles County, even if they are fully vaccinated. This includes restaurants, retail stores, entertainment venues, conference centers, and office settings. Similar to previous mask mandates, some exceptions apply, such as when an individual is actively eating, drinking, or individuals who have a disability that prevents them from wearing a mask.

Effective August 13th, 2021 at 5pm, the Charles County Commissioners has instituted an indoor face mask requirement for everyone over 5 years of age regardless of vaccination status. This mandate will be implemented in all enclosed buildings on the Charles County Fairgrounds. Facemasks are also required for those persons who are working in food preparation throughout the Fairgrounds. Facemasks will be required upon entry to the free Shuttle Buses that run to and from the Fairgrounds.

This is a summary of operational enhancements and planning concepts that will be implemented by the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and contract employees aimed at meeting the need for COVID 19 safety during the 2021 Charles County Fair including compliance with public health guidelines.

**1) GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY – Safety is our top priority.**

1. Outdoor and Indoor patron capacity will follow occupancy limits dictated by the CDC, Maryland State Department of Health, and Charles County.
2. CDC, Maryland State, and Charles County guidelines that are in effect during Fair operations regarding facemasks and related COVID 19 guidelines will be implemented throughout the Fairgrounds.
3. All planned large group gatherings for entertainment during the 2021 Fair are outdoors.
4. Livestock-related education, exhibits and shows will occur under a roof with no walls or other vertical impediments which allows free and open-air exchange with the outside environment.
5. 95% of Fairgrounds dining will occur outside. The remaining 5% will occur under the roof by implementing those standards for capacity that apply to the foodservice industry at the time of occurrence.
6. Clean hands are essential. The Fair will widely communicate reminders of the importance of frequent hand sanitizing through signage and on our public address system.
7. Disposable gloves shall be worn by all individuals preparing or otherwise coming in direct contact with food or beverage sold on the grounds.
8. Where privacy and modesty can be preserved, the Fair shall leave open restroom doors in order for users to avoid touching high contact objects such as restroom doors and handles and improve air circulation.

**2) THE FAIR WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING PROACTIVE PRACTICES:**

i. The Fair will promote and encourage the purchase of advance online general admission passes. Visit [www.charlescountyfair.com](http://www.charlescountyfair.com) to purchase online tickets.

. The Fair will implement the use of touchless payment systems, arrange credit card readers so guests can insert/swipe their own cards and arrange for touchless scanning of gate admission passes.

1. Communication protocols have been developed for use by Unified Command for EMT, Fire and Rescue, Police, and other personnel to respond appropriately to COVID-19 specific emergency medical service calls, and any need for an immediate cleaning or sanitation service.
2. Open-Access Condiment Stations will be utilized within the guidelines established by CDC, Charles County and the State of Maryland. Some foodservice operations will offer napkins, ketchup, mustard and other condiments to be served to guests upon request.

**3) FIRST AID PROTOCOLS:**

i. Trained medical personnel from Charles County Department of Fire and Rescue personnel will be on site during all hours of Fair operations, to address guests, volunteers or employees who present with COVID-19 symptoms as indicated below:

* Medical personnel will be equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
* Maryland Public Health and CDC public health guidelines will be followed.
* Volunteers, employees, contract workers and volunteer departmental superintendents will contact medical personnel if they become aware of COVID 19 symptoms being present.

# 4) ENHANCED CLEANING AND OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

1. The Fair “Clean Team” and contracted bathroom attendants are trained professional personnel under contract. They will be highly visible in each restroom area as well as assigned public spaces to engage during all Fair operational hours to complete scheduled cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. This would include tables, counters, baby changing stations, towel and soap dispensers, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
2. The Fairgrounds has over temporary handwash stations and mounted sinks that are indoors and outdoors on the Fairgrounds to encourage hand cleanliness.
3. Additionally hand sanitizing dispensers will be placed throughout the Fairgrounds and Carnival ride area to support our clean hands initiative. Sanitizing products have anti-microbial agent(s) that kills or renders inactive 99.9% of all known bacteria, viruses, and fungi including COVID 19.
4. The Charles County Fair 2021 enhanced cleaning and safety measures

will be posted on our website at [www.charlescountyfair.com](http://www.charlescountyfair.com)

**5) FIRST AID PROTOCOLS:**

i. Trained medical personnel from Charles County Department of Fire and Rescue Personnel will be on site during all hours of Fair operations, to address guests, volunteers or employees who present with COVID-19 symptoms as indicated below:

* Medical personnel will be equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
* Maryland Public Health and CDC public health guidelines will be followed.
* Volunteers, employees, contract workers and volunteer departmental superintendents will contact medical personnel if they become aware of COVID 19 symptoms being present.

# Rosedale Attractions and Shows Inc.

# COVID 19 Mitigation Plan for the

**2021 Charles County Fair**

August 24, 2021

The health and safety of our guests is our top priority. We have implemented many measures that you will see on the carnival midway designed to protect guests and employees from potential exposure to COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2. By minimizing contacts, increasing cleaning protocols and sanitization, and implementing CDC, Maryland State and Charles County guidelines, we can welcome our guests back to the carnival midway experience that has created generations of memories.

Our rules and procedures include the best practices and elements of mitigation plans from amusement parks, carnivals, Fairs, and festivals as well as guidance from the CDC and state/local health organizations. Coupled with our own ideas and innovations, we will bring the best this industry has to offer.

As new information becomes available, we will adjust our plan to reflect the best practices provided with the most up to date information. We believe we can strike a prudent balance between safety and family fun if we all work together to provide a safe, healthy environment.

All guests are expected to follow the posted rules and procedures. Guests should follow all instructions from midway employees and respect the health and safety of others.

## EMPLOYEE TRAINING

All employees will receive mandatory training in operations with the most current health and safety protocols and implement CDC, Maryland State and Charles County standards at all phases of daily operations. Employees will clean rides and frequently touched areas on games and equipment on a regular basis using CDC and EPA approved materials that combat pathogen spread. Rides will be deep cleaned at the end of each day.

## MIDWAY RIDE OPERATIONS & CLEANING

Hand sanitizing stations will be available at each ride and throughout the carnival area. Cleaning teams will be assigned to disinfect high traffic areas.

## FOOD & GAMES

Food stands will follow the most current CDC and local health department guidelines. Commonly used areas around food stands will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day. Food stands will have separate payment handling employees and food handling employees. Open access condiments will be eliminated and replaced with single-use packets or portions available upon request. Napkins and cutlery will be available upon request. Game equipment touched by the public will be wiped after each use. Prizes will be sanitized before being placed into service in a game.

## SIGNS & PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

We will have ample signage throughout the midway informing guests of health and safety protocols. All hand sanitizing stations will be clearly marked for public use.

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August 24, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions about the 2021 Charles County Fair

We will implement restrictions on the Fairgrounds that are dictated by the CDC, Maryland State Health Department and Charles County Government. They are subject to change as might be necessary and we will respond in real-time should this occur. The answers below are based on the most current standards that have been established by the governing bodies listed above.

Are you requiring a mask indoors / outdoors?

Outdoors – no masks required.

**Indoor facemask policy:** Effective August 13, 2021, the Charles County commissioners have instituted an indoor facemask requirement for everyone over 5 years of age regardless of vaccination status. This mandate will be implemented in the all enclosed buildings on the Charles County Fairgrounds. Facemasks are also required for those persons who are working in food preparation throughout the Fairgrounds. Facemasks will be required upon entry to the free Shuttle Busses that runs back and forth to the Fairgrounds.

How are you going to guarantee social distance?

Outdoors – there are no requirements to maintain social distance. Indoors – there are no requirements to maintain social distance.

Are you providing sanitizing stations?

There will be over sanitizing stations on the Fairgrounds, one at each carnival ride and in restrooms and outdoors for washing your hands. Clean hands and not touching your face have proven to be excellent methods to avoid the spread of illness.

How often are you sanitizing the grounds?

As an open-air environment of over 40 acres, sanitizing the grounds is not possible. Vendors, concessionaires, and carnival ride operators will maintain a regular schedule to sanitize high touch areas throughout the day. Additionally, carnival rides will be deep cleaned each night.

Are you controlling access to the restrooms?

Access to the restrooms is limited as in the past to the number of facilities and stalls at each location.

How often are you sanitizing restrooms?

Professional staff have been contracted at each restroom pod location to provide regular cleaning and sanitation during all hours of Fair operation.

Are you offering cashless payment options?

We are encouraging Fair patrons to visit [www.charlescountyfair.com](http://www.charlescountyfair.com) , search Buy Tickets to obtain General Gate Admission and Carnival Ride coupons on-line to use your home printed, or Smartphone for cashless and touchless entry.

What additional measures is the fair taking to protect exhibitors and patrons in 2021?

Go to [www.charlescountyfair.com](http://www.charlescountyfair.com)to see the Charles County Fair Safe Reopening Plan for details.

Will staff at rides, food booths be wearing masks?

CDC, Maryland State and Charles County Government will establish standards for when masks are to be worn at the Fair. At this time, unvaccinated persons have been advised to wear masks. Masks are not required for staff at rides and food booths.

Will the occupancy/ number of people in buildings be regulated?

We will abide by their numbers as well as any other restrictions that are provided by CDC, Maryland State and Charles County Government. We are not planning to implement any additional occupancy limits in Fairgrounds building.

Will food handlers wear mask?

CDC, Maryland State and Charles County Government will establish standards for when masks are to be worn at the Fair. At this time, unvaccinated persons have been advised to wear masks. Masks are not required for staff at rides and food booths.

Will there be refunds for tickets that were purchased and not used because a buyer or close contact, contracted COVID 19?

It is best not to purchase a ticket until it is certain that it can be used based on the health of each individual who will be attending the Fair. We encourage those who are experiencing COVID 19 symptoms such as high temperature, loss of taste and difficulty breathing, as well as those who have been in contact with a person who is ill, not attend the Fair. We have a no-refund policy which will continue in place for 2021.