



Explore **ASHEVILLE**
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Wedding Event Town Hall

Presented by

Buncombe County & Explore Asheville



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Explore **ASHEVILLE**
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Welcome from Explore Asheville

Stephanie Brown
President & CEO



Update from Buncombe County

Fletcher Tove

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director

Jessica Silver

Environmental Health Administrator



Safer at Home • Phase Two

On **Friday, May 22, 2020**, at 5pm, North Carolina will move into Phase Two. The **Stay at Home** order will be lifted as North Carolina moves to a **Safer at Home** recommendation, especially for vulnerable populations.

Gathering Limits:

10 indoors/25 outdoors

Meeting & event venues
Amphitheaters
Sporting venues and arenas
Groups at beaches
Groups at parks

Open with Requirements:

Restaurants
50% capacity + other requirements

Salons & Personal Care
50% capacity + other requirements

Pools
50% capacity + other requirements

Closed:

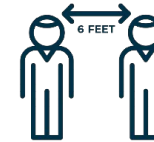
Bars/Nightclubs
Museums
Playgrounds
Gyms and Fitness Studios
(yoga, cycling, martial arts, etc)
Indoor Entertainment Venues
(movies, bowling, bingo, etc)

Our business is complying with Public Health Guidance.

Know the Three Ws



WEAR
a cloth face covering.



WAIT
at least six feet apart
and avoid close contact.



WASH
your hands often or
use hand sanitizer.



STAY SAFE. STAY LOCAL.

BUNCOMBEREADY.ORG

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Resources/Additional Guidance:

- <https://www.nc.gov/covid19>
- <https://buncombeready.org>



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Guidance for Wedding Events

- The Governor differentiates between “Ceremonies” and “Receptions.”
- Wedding “Ceremonies” do not have restrictions under the existing State and Local declarations.
- Pre/Post Wedding “Receptions” are subject to the Governor’s “mass gathering” rules (10 indoor, 25 outdoor).
- Pre/Post Wedding Receptions that are hosted in a restaurant should follow the Governor’s “restaurant” guidance (e.g., 50% capacity).
- Re-opening is moving forward, but that does not eliminate the risks associated with COVID-19. The 3 Ws: Social distancing, face coverings, and hand washing are still strongly mandated practices regardless of Phase.



State Orders of Closure

Section 8. Orders of Closure.

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above, the undersigned orders as follows:

A. Entertainment and Fitness Facilities.

1. In addition to the restrictions on Mass Gatherings identified in Section 7 of this Executive Order, the following entertainment and fitness facilities that operate within a confined indoor or outdoor space and do not offer a retail or dining component are ordered to close. Any retail or dining component within the following entertainment and fitness facilities may operate solely for retail or dining, but those components must comply with the restrictions set out in Section 6 of this Executive Order.

2. Entertainment and fitness facilities restricted by this Subsection include, but are not limited to, the following types of business:

- Bingo Parlors, including bingo sites operated by charitable organizations
- Bowling Alleys
- Indoor Exercise Facilities (e.g., yoga studios, dance studios, martial arts facilities, indoor trampoline and rock climbing facilities)
- Gyms
- Indoor Fitness Facilities, including but not limited to indoor basketball courts, volleyball courts, racquetball courts, squash courts, and tennis courts
- Health Clubs and Fitness Centers
- Movie Theaters
- Skating Rinks
- Gaming and business establishments which allow gaming activities (e.g., video poker, gaming, sweepstakes, video games, arcade games, pinball machines or other computer, electronic or mechanical devices played for amusement)
- Venues for Receptions or Parties
- Museums
- Amusement Parks
- Bars
- Night Clubs, Dance Halls, or Music Halls where patrons are not seated.



Requirements Specific to Restaurants

Social Distancing & Minimizing Exposure

- 6-ft separation between parties (indoor & outdoor)
- 50% of max fire capacity occupancy or 12 people/1,000 ft. (indoor & outdoor)
- Post “Emergency Maximum Capacity” sign
- Post social distancing signage (Know Your W’s)
- Mark 6 ft. in high traffic areas

Cleaning & Hygiene

- Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas
- Promote frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer

Monitoring for Symptoms

- Conduct daily symptom screening of employees
- Post signage requesting symptomatic people not enter your building
- Immediately separate employees who have symptoms

*Be sure to review the executive order at <https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/covid-19-executive-orders>



Town Hall Questions (Guest & Employee Safety)

- As a venue how can we ensure that our event staff stays protected when working an event?
- Any knowledge of restrictions/requirements that we must meet (ie: do we need to take the temperature of guests, make changes to food and/or beverage service)?
- Is it feasible to require guests attending a wedding to complete a COVID-19 symptom questionnaire?
- In family style service, platters of food are brought to the table, and guests serve themselves with shared utensils. Is this style of service still permitted, and how might we make it more safe for our guests?



Town Hall Questions (Capacity)

- What are the requirements for venues as far as capacity limits for a wedding ceremony? Are venue staff included in those limits?
- Currently the max amount allowed at an outdoor gathering is 25. Does that number include staff + vendors or is that just the guest count?
- There have been some mixed responses to “outdoor” gatherings and since ceremonies have no capacity we have a client that wants to move forward with their 200-person outdoor ceremony and tented reception under the guise that it’s ‘outside’ and should be safer. So what if it rains and we are forced to move all the guests under the tent - will there be a cap on the max number allowed to attend based on the sq footage of the tent?



Town Hall Questions (Guest Interactions)

- When creating socially distanced diagrams and layouts, is it appropriate to have guests of the same household sitting together closer than 6ft apart at a table?
- “Cocktail Hour” is a tough concept to manage with the guests that are NOT taking pictures with the couple. Most guests want to get up and “mingle around” before they sit for dinner. Can this be achieved safely? Can people socially distance while standing and still talk to others (either with or without a mask) and is this different for indoor and outdoor functions? Can the venue provide an open area showing markers on the floor people could stand?
- I'm concerned about how the common aspects of wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners that involve close, prolonged contact between guests can (or can't) be accommodated in a safe manner. Thinking especially about things like dancing, mingling, photo booths and group photos, etc. Guidance is appreciated.



Town Hall Questions (Timing)

- Should I be moving our fall weddings to 2021 or is it realistic to continue planning these events?
- If the governor allows for larger gatherings will the county decide on its own limitations or follow the guidelines set forth by the state?
- Is there any information regarding what the numbers will go to in Phase 3?



What Concerns or Questions Remain?

Attendees: Please enter your concerns/questions in the chat





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Closing Thoughts

Attendees: Please enter your closing thoughts & feedback in the chat

You can also email Business@BuncombeCounty.org

