

CCH Stakeholder Engagement
Arts, Culture and Events Session
May 22nd, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Questions from Chat

Julie Rosvall	Craft NS	
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Craft Nova Scotia would like further guidance on outdoor events where the craftspeople are setup in separate outdoor tented spaces, and then have a flow of visitors who are instructed to maintain physical distancing when viewing/purchasing the works.

Public Health provides the framework of what is and is not permissible for public gatherings, and currently the gathering limit is 10. Communities, Culture and Heritage will continue to provide ongoing consultation to help businesses, venues and events understand the public health parameters and how they can safely reopen. We would encourage you to talk through this idea with CCH staff, and read through the guidance document created for arts organizations like yours.

Wesley Colford	Highland Arts Theatre	
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Is contact tracing for audiences something that could be part of the plan moving forward?

One of the goals of this session was to provide you with the information you need to begin working on your reopening plan. Communities, Culture and Heritage has created a guidance document to help our clients develop a reopening plan, understanding that you know your business best. One of the suggestions in that guidance document recommends collecting emails or phone numbers of customers and/or attendees, in the event a staff person or customer tests positive for COVID-19.

Tim Callahan-Cross	NS Choral Foundation	
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Are there any limitations for choral singing if physical distancing, group size and good hygiene are maintained?

There is growing evidence that singing and loud talking increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission. When building your reopening plan, it is important for you to take that into consideration. You will also have to ensure you're keeping in mind gathering limits, which is currently 10.

Chris O'Neill	Ross Creek/ Two Planks and a Passion Theatre	
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We have a space that is rural, and artists stay on site. Can we present a plan for our NS artists to create a 2 week bubble where they don't leave the premises (we feed them) but then can consider themselves one "household" - would three weeks be better - this is not for an audience but to do a workshop or residency. Following the other public health protocols of course.

We're open to innovation and creativity that may identify solutions, but we need to ensure your plan meets public health requirements. Communities, Culture and Heritage has created a guidelines document. We would encourage you to use that document as a guide, to ensure your plan adheres to

the necessary public health directives to keep everyone safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19. Your normal contact at CCH can provide advice and help.

Is a two-week program preferable to a one-week program?

It is important you develop a plan that adheres to public health guidelines. Duration of programs would need to be a factor the organization should consider in their ability to adhere to the public health guidelines. As stated earlier, we're open to creativity and innovation in finding solutions, while minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19. Communities, Culture and Heritage has created a guidelines document. We would encourage you to use it as a guide.

How are we defining risk?

Public health builds risk into all advice, including which parts of the economy to reopen and when. We would encourage you to develop a reopening plan and ensure that your plan adheres to the current public health directives to keep everyone safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

In camps, would it be recommended that all kids have homemade masks and that camp staff have medical masks, and what about gloves?

Public Health does not recommend wearing gloves outside of a health environment. Public health recommends wearing a mask where people are in close contact and can't socially distance. Good handwashing hygiene and physical distancing should be prioritized.

What are your thoughts about the CDC finding that surfaces are not spreading it as easily as we thought? What does that mean?

Cleaning and disinfecting help prevent the spread of COVID-19. A key part of your reopening plan should include adjusting or enhancing these protocols. Communities, Culture and Heritage has created a document that outlines some things to keep in mind. There is also a wealth of information at www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus and <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia/>

We understand you can't make a firm promise on dates but (with assumptions that our plan to bring in camps is okayed, and that there is no big change in the infection rate), but does it seem reasonable to bring in staff for June 18 for training and to begin camps on July 2?

We would encourage you to develop a plan to host day camps safely and within public health guidelines and, once complete, share it with your sector association for input. Public Health is reviewing day camps and more direction will be provided soon.

I believe you are not recommending temperature checks - but so many spaces around the world are using that as a method of checking - do you think that might change?

Dr. Strang has stated that temperature checks are, in many cases, ineffective. Communities, Culture and Heritage has created a guidelines document that will help you build a plan to reopen. We would encourage you to use that as a guide and ensure your plan adheres to the necessary public health directives to keep everyone safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19. A key part of that plan covers suggestions around reopening to the public.

What about if we did a plan for August for small sleepaway camps?

On Friday May 29th, Dr. Strang indicated overnight camps will not be permitted this year.

Sara Mader		
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Is it safe to assume that any events scheduled for the fall with 200 or more attendees would not be permitted to move forward?

According to Public Health, in a best-case scenario, it's possible groups of up to 50 people may be able to gather by the end of the summer. However, this is dependent on the province successfully moving through recovery. Public Health has stated, to consider lifting more public health restrictions, a minimum of two full incubation periods (28 days) with low-to-no cases of COVID-19 should occur. More planning and discussions are needed before moving ahead with gatherings as large as 150-200 people or more, as crowds of that size carry substantial risks of transmission. Higher risk activities such as concerts will be among the last to see restrictions lifted. Waves, peaks and spikes of COVID-19 are expected in the coming months that may require a retightening of restrictions.

Lindsay-Ann Cory		
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What about open-air festivals that take place in multiple venues?

Currently there is no distinction between outdoor and indoor festivals. According to public health, in a best-case scenario, it's possible groups of up to 50 people may be able to gather by the end of the summer.

Susan Hanrahan	Craft NS	
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We're keen to re-open the Mary E. Black Gallery ASAP. I'm interested in guidelines pertaining to galleries.

Communities, Culture and Heritage has created guideline documents that have been sent to stakeholders to help develop reopening plans, understanding that you know your operations best. There is a guidance document specific to the Archives, Museums and Libraries sector that could be useful in the development of your reopening plan. Please reach out if you would like a copy of the guidance document for archives, museums and libraries.

Peter Dykhuis	DAL Art Gallery	
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Since spatial separation and cleaning protocols are easier to establish in smaller art galleries, European guidelines exist and, I believe, in BC as well as galleries prepare to open. I'd be happy to work with Laurie on how to tune these to the NS context.

Thank you. We encourage sharing knowledge and resources as many in our sector face similar situations with respect to the development of reopening plans.

Rick Allwright		
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Drive-in Concerts - if we can execute a plan to conduct a Drive-in concert much like a church service or a drive-in movie, would that be something that would be acceptable?

The idea of drive-in events is being reviewed by public health.

A recognized business or organization would have to be in place to manage the event and ensure that all public health guidelines are followed. Communities, Culture and Heritage has developed a guidelines document that can help you build your own event plan.

We'd encourage you also to continue to work with Events Nova Scotia, who can provide further guidance and advice.

Chris Wilkinson		
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BC Phase 4 does not allow large concerts until vaccine or group immunity is in place. Should this be the same guideline for Nova Scotia?

Nova Scotia's reopening is not date-specific, but rather based on meeting public health criteria. We are looking at 28-day increments between phases with slow, progressive steps. A slow and steady approach allows us to closely monitor for any increases in virus activity that could lead to re-tightening of restrictions.

This is part of ongoing discussions between Dr. Strang and his Chief Medical Officer of Health colleagues across the country. Large public gatherings like festivals and events will be among the last things to come online as part of Nova Scotia's reopening. Large concerts will probably not happen this year.

There are 7 considerations in easing restrictions, per the Public Health Agency of Canada: epidemic control, health-care system capacity, public health capacity, management of outbreak risks, workplace prevention, managing risk of bringing new cases to N.S, community awareness and engagement.

Joel		
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Is there a recommended increased social distance for a singer in a space with another person? This is in relation to a recording studio environment....

There is growing evidence to suggest that some activities present a higher risk of transmitting COVID-19. Some of these activities include singing or playing wind instruments.

It is important for all Nova Scotians to follow social distancing guidelines to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This means limiting your contact with other people and staying 2 metres (6 feet) away from them. To protect yourself and others you need to adhere to social gathering restrictions and social distancing recommendations; make informed choices about who and how to interact with each other (consider age, occupations and health conditions); and make sure your business is following all public health orders.

Randy Glynn		
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Dance and physical distancing are more or less mutually exclusive so I assume until a vaccine is found there will be no dance as we currently know it that can happen.

A focus on individual development would be advised at this time. Dance can be done so long as it is still respecting public health restrictions (i.e. social distancing), but we encourage and welcome innovative and creative ways for participants to dance, with their health and the health of others remaining the main priority.

Will physical distancing restrictions be relaxed enough for dancers to rehearse together in the near future – or will this be several years down the road until a vaccine exists?

Nova Scotia's reopening is not date-specific but rather based on meeting public health criteria. Ideally to consider lifting additional restrictions a minimum of two full incubation periods (28 days) with low-to-no cases of COVID-19 should occur. A slow and steady approach allows us to closely monitor for any increases in virus activity that could lead to re-tightening of restrictions. As we start to see more restrictions lifted, rehearsals and close contact art practices will be re-evaluated based on the public health measures required at that time.

If we have what seems like an innovative way to present in live performance our discipline, dance in my case, will there be an authority to whom we can submit our idea for approval – or should we simply try it?

Public Health will advise which activities can open and when. It will be the responsibility of the organization to develop their own plans and for presenting plans that respects public health guidelines (i.e. physical distancing) to sector associations such as Dance Nova Scotia. Dance Nova Scotia will develop guidance templates for their sector/discipline to follow. CCH staff are also available to discuss ideas like this further.

Farida Gabbani		
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**Do we run plans by CCH staff?
What numbers are possible for August Arts days camps?**

Consultation is underway with a broad range of organizations impacted by the pandemic. We are working with sector associations such as the Atlantic Presenters Association as well as Theatre Nova Scotia to provide information to help organizations develop plans to safely reopen when public health deems it safe to do so. This will include directives regarding day camps, but numbers will have to respect gathering size limits. CCH has also created a guidelines document that will help our stakeholders build their own reopening plan that adheres to public health measures.

Public Health is reviewing day camps and more direction will be provided soon.

Laurie Dalton		
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It would be great to see a central place for arts organizations to share their policies on reopening or if there will be set gov approach for types of venues. Sharing/collaborating on documents would be good - rather than us each doing it solo. I am happy to assist on issues related to art galleries/museums/historic spaces.

Thank you. We encourage sharing knowledge and resources as many in our sector face similar situations with respect to the development of reopening plans.

I would like to get more information on HVAC/ ventilation. For example, in galleries/museums the HVAC system is key part of the space and collections' vault. What plans should be in place for say, cleaning of ventilation? Or other issues.

According to Public Health, COVID-19 is not an airborne virus. It comes down within 6 feet or more and it doesn't appear to spread broadly through ventilation systems. If you have 20 people together for an hour, the better ventilated place has less risk. It won't spread widely through an HVAC system which keeps the air moving.

Greg Davies	Lumiere	
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Assuming a max 50 attendance for festival events by August, are there any resources available to assist in addressing liability for organizations? In planning future events it is helpful to know the risks in terms of litigation.

We would recommend you reach out to the Events Nova Scotia team at CCH who can share best practice information. There might be an opportunity to host a webinar specific to this topic in the near future.

Chester Art Centre		
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Will there be resources for us to check for FAQ as we arts organizations are planning for small-group events, exhibitions, art day camps outside, etc., like how to deal with washrooms, children, etc. And then who to run our plans by?

Consultation is underway with a broad range of organizations impacted by the pandemic response and directed to close. We are working with sector associations and through department staff to provide information to help organizations develop plans to safely reopen when public health deems it safe to do so. A guidance document has been created to help organizations like yours.

Public Health is reviewing day camps and more direction will be provided soon.

Jeff Joudrey		
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Choral singing has been identified as a high-risk activity. You mentioned that as a best-case scenario, by the end of August, 50 people might be able to gather. Do you think that by the Fall, is might be possible for choirs to gather to rehearse all the while respecting social distancing?

According to Public Health, in a best-case scenario it's possible groups of up to 50 people may be able to gather by the end of the summer. However, this is dependent on the province successfully moving through phases of recovery. Ideally, to see more restrictions lifted, a minimum of two full incubation

periods (28 days) with low-to-no cases of COVID-19 should occur. We recommend keeping up to date with all announcements from public health.

Heather Sparling		
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You mentioned that choirs and wind instrumentalists are high-risk but the Vienna philharmonic apparently conducted a study on the distance of droplet spread by musicians playing instruments and even the worst of the instruments (flute, 80cm) doesn't spread droplets beyond the 2m physical distance recommendation. Would you please consider this study in order to inform your policy recommendations regarding large music ensembles?

There is still much to be learned about COVID-19. We will ensure that this information is passed along to the appropriate staff in Public Health.

Diana Rutherford		
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Can you speak to the timeline for opening the children's camps?

Consultation is underway with a broad range of organizations impacted by the pandemic. We are working with sector associations and through department staff to provide information to help organizations develop plans to safely reopen when public health deems it safe to do so. This will include directives regarding day camps, but numbers will have to respect gathering limits. CCH has also created a guidelines document that will help our stakeholders build their own reopening plans adhering to public health measures.

Public Health is reviewing day camps and more direction will be provided soon.

Laura Caswell		
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Do we know if any of the rules changed in terms of first aid and direct contact? Should we be updating kits and training?

Nova Scotia Public Health continually provides updated guidelines and restrictions as more is learned about the virus. The most up-to-date information regarding health and safety in the workplace can be found at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/working-during-COVID-19/#ohs>

Marie Claude Rioux		
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As we prepare for a potential 2nd wave of the pandemic, are there lessons learned from the first one, things we should do to be even more prepared?

Nova Scotia Public Health continually provides updated guidelines and restrictions as more is learned about the virus. The most up-to-date information can be found at www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus

Andy McLean	ECMA	
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Are you saying that we should accept that the new normal will not allow for indoor large concerts/sporting events to ever take place?

Large public gatherings like festivals and events will be among the last things to come online as part of the province's reopening. According to Public Health, there is growing evidence that singing and loud talking increases risk of transmission. Nova Scotia's reopening is not date-specific but rather based on meeting public health criteria. Ideally, to see more restrictions lifted, a minimum of two full incubation periods (28 days) with low-to-no cases of COVID-19 should occur. A slow and steady approach allows us to closely monitor for any increases in virus activity that could lead to re-tightening of restrictions.

Melissa Labrador		
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A question I have been asked, for Indigenous artists that live and work between two provinces, will there be a way to apply to travel between these two provinces (Maritime provinces) to keep working and creating if self-isolation is available in both locations (ex. Studio spaces in both locations have the ability to allow the artist to self isolate)

All individuals entering Nova Scotia must adhere to the self-isolation protocols in place at the time of entrance. A decision to ease provincial border travel restrictions will depend on public health criteria and not dates. Please follow the provincial government's website for the most up to date information: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>.

Emmy Alcorn	Mulgrave Road Theatre	
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Do you know of any resources for orgs that are contemplating building new infrastructure, i.e. elements to incorporate into a new venue?

Currently there are no guidelines specific to building new infrastructure. You may find it helpful to review the "COVID-19: occupational health and safety hazards" page at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/occupational-health-and-safety/>.

Sara Coffin	Mocean Dance	
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Exactly Randy - can we make work while waiting for things to open up. Can dancers/artists rehearse in groups of five in the fall or must we wait til later in the year? How to deal with contact in a touch-based art form?

Touch-based art forms would be considered a high-risk activity. Dance can be done so long as it is still respecting public health restrictions (i.e. physical distancing).

We will continue to consult with public health and provide stakeholder input into future reopening plans.

Karen Gross	2B Theatre	
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I have the same question Randy has posed re: close contact for small groups of artists working together

Small groups of artists can work together so long as they are still respecting public health restrictions (i.e. physical distancing, gathering limits), but we encourage and welcome innovative and creative ways for artists to return to work, with their health and the health of others remaining the main priority.

Please refer to the guidance document that has been created for organizations like yours. CCH staff can also assist with any questions or concerns.

Chris Currie	Chester Arts Centre	
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Chester Art Centre is looking to have some inventive programming that allows for physical distancing but participation in art workshops and 'making' opportunities. Who do we run this by?

We encourage and welcome innovative and creative ways of delivering programs while following all public health orders. Businesses are responsible for creating a plan for their workplace that outlines the measures they are taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Any workflow and activities need to comply with public health directives and guidelines to make sure everyone is safe. CCH has created a guidelines document to help you build a plan.

Maria Osende	Atlantic Flamenco Productions	
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We are a small centre but can provide programming for small groups - wanting to know how to do this and stay within the 'rules' and safety precautions.

CCH has created a guidelines document that we're hoping will help you build a reopening plan. We also recommend visiting <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia/> in addition to reaching out for sector guidance from Dance Nova Scotia. You may find it helpful to review the "COVID-19: occupational health and safety hazards" page at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/occupational-health-and-safety/>

Laura Caswell	Neptune	lcaswell@neptunetheatre.com
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Day Camps - where do we fall in this and has there been, or can there be a consultation? Many of us at studios are not part of associations

We expect to have further direction on day camps from Public Health soon. We would encourage organizations to plan for day camps, ensuring adherence to public health guidelines.

Pam Leader	Savoy Theatre	
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Would like more information on the gathering size for each phase?

Nova Scotia’s reopening is based on meeting public health criteria. We are looking at 28-day increments between phases with slow, progressive steps. A slow and steady approach allows us to closely monitor for any increases in virus activity that could lead to re-tightening of restrictions. This is part of ongoing discussions between Dr. Strang and his Chief Medical Officer of Health colleagues across the country. Large public gatherings will be among the last things to come online as part of Nova Scotia’s reopening.

We have started a reopening plan with a seating plan from 760-234 seats (based on physical distancing) are we still looking at next year for an opening of that amount?

As noted above, a decision to reopen will not be based on dates but rather on meeting public health criteria. We will continue to provide ongoing consultation to help businesses understand the public health parameters.

Janet Larkman		
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We would like to hold outdoor events this summer for max. 50 people in a controlled environment implementing 2 metre distancing, hand sanitizing, face masks etc. When is this likely to be possible so we can plan?

According to Public Health, in a best-case scenario, it is possible groups of up to 50 people may be able to gather by the end of the summer. You can continue to plan for this possibility. Ideally to consider lifting additional restrictions a minimum of two full incubation periods (28 days) with low-to-no cases of COVID-19 should occur. Waves, peaks and spikes of COVID-19 are expected in the coming months that may require a retightening of restrictions.

Cat McKeigan		
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Can you give more detail as to what activities are recognized across each phase?

At this time, those specifics are not available. Public Health will provide the framework of what is permitted and when. Each operator or organization should develop a reopening plan, using the guidelines document that CCH created as a reference. Staff are here to help.

Michael Howell		
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I think its especially important to get rough timelines and attendance potential on all gatherings (and not just worst-case scenario). If events and festivals that are in indoors could be OUTDOORS this will help a lot of us move forward more confidently. Like the "REAL" business sector we too need to be able to make cash flow projections for our own budgets and survival

According to Public Health, in a best-case scenario, it's possible groups of up to 50 people may be able to gather by the end of summer. Ideally to consider lifting additional restrictions a minimum of two full incubation periods (28 days) with low-to-no cases of COVID-19 should occur.

More planning and discussions are needed before moving ahead with gatherings as large as 150 people or more, as crowds of that size carry substantial risks of transmission. Waves, peaks and spikes of COVID-19 are expected in the coming months that may require a retightening of restrictions. We understand this is difficult for planning, but we are following the advice and recommendations of public health.

Rodney Chaisson		
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When your facility is a large outdoor site with multiple small buildings, is there a formula for determining how many people can be admitted into each building or on site in general?

Make sure your site is following all public health orders. Stay connected with your museum sector association and through department contacts. Businesses and organizations are responsible for creating a plan for their workplace that outlines what they're doing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Any workflow and activities planned need to comply with Health Protection Act Order, and public health directives and guidelines to make sure everyone is safe.

Cliff De Jeune		
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Dance schools are complex and very diverse in size and participation numbers, Dance NS will be submitting a recovery strategy for our sector to reopen but will there be a department set up to deliver specific answers? General responses would not be helpful at this point

We have created a guidelines document to facilitate your plan. CCH staff are available to facilitate any questions or concerns you might have.

Janet Larkman		
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Is it possible to have a timeline for sizes of outdoor gatherings allowed with physical distancing?

Nova Scotia's reopening is based on meeting public health criteria. We are looking at 28-day increments between phases with slow, progressive steps. A slow and steady approach allows us to closely monitor for any increases in virus activity that could lead to re-tightening of restrictions. This is part of ongoing discussions between Dr. Strang and his Chief Medical Officer of Health colleagues across the country.

Large public gatherings (of 150+) will be among the last things to come online as part of Nova Scotia's reopening.

Anika Riopol		
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re- physical distancing and # of people gathering - will it be okay to gather in workplaces? With our co-workers outside our family bubbles? Especially if social distancing isn't possible in these gatherings?

Nova Scotia has restricted gatherings to protect Nova Scotians' health and limit the spread of COVID-19. Workplaces are not considered a social gathering therefore numbers of employees gathered can exceed the gathering limit, if you can adequately maintain the required social distance. Your reopening plan should outline how you are able to maintain physical distance or support the use of PPE should it not be possible.