

CHAPTER 12

MASS GATHERINGS

ARTICLE A GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 12-1 Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide for the protection of the public health, welfare, and safety by promulgating regulations regarding the establishment, maintenance, operation, and promotion of mass gatherings, in the manner provided herein.

Section 12-2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Section, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE - An illness due to an infectious agent, or its toxic products, which is transmitted directly or indirectly to a well person from: an infected person, animal, or arthropod; or through the agency of an intermediate host, vector, or the inanimate environment.

DRINKING WATER - Water provided or used for human consumption or for lavatory or culinary purposes.

GARBAGE - All putrescible wastes (except sewage and body waste): included in this term are animal and vegetable offal.

MASS GATHERING - Any anticipated gathering of more than 25 people in an indoor commercial facility or more than 250 people outdoors or in temporary facilities, where in the opinion of the County Health Director, in consultation with Board of Health, a potential public health problem exists. The above definition shall not apply to religious gatherings.

OPERATOR - Any person who has charge, care, or control of, or who promotes a mass gathering.

PLUMBING - All of the following facilities and equipment: water pipes,

waste pipes, drains, vents, water closets, sinks, trays or tubs, catch basins, and any other, similarly supplied fixtures, together with all connections to water systems or sewerage systems.

REFUSE - All non-putrescible wastes generally regarded and classified as rubbish, trash, junk, and similar designations which have been rejected by the owner or possessor thereof as useless or worthless.

SERVICE BUILDING - A building housing toilet facilities for men and women, with separate bath or shower accommodations.

SEWAGE - Any substance that contains any of the waste products, excrement, or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals, and any noxious or deleterious substances which are harmful or inimical to the public health, to animal or aquatic life, or to the use of water for domestic water supply or for recreation.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM - Any community or individual system, publicly or privately owned, for the collection and disposal of sewage and industrial wastes of a liquid nature, including various devices for the treatment of such sewage or industrial wastes.

SOURCE - Any well, spring, cistern, infiltration gallery, stream, reservoir, pond, or lake from which, by any means, water is taken either intermittently or continuously for use by the public.

TOILET FACILITIES - Water closets, privies, urinals, chemical toilets, and rooms provided for installation of these units.

WASH BASIN - A basin or bowl used for the purpose of obtaining personal cleanliness.

WATER CLOSET - Sanitary facilities for defecation equipped with a hopper or tray and a device for flushing the bowl by water, located within the compartment.

WATER SUPPLY - A source or sources of water, and any or all water treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities.

WATERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH - Any and all rivers, streams, creeks, rivulets, lakes, dammed water, ponds, springs, and all other bodies of surface and underground water, or parts thereof, whether natural or artificial, within or on the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 12-3 **Permitting Requirements**

- a. General Requirements.
 - i. No person shall establish, maintain, operate, or promote a mass gathering at any place within the jurisdiction of the Department, and no person shall permit to be operated on his property any mass gathering, unless the operator of said mass gathering and the owner of the property on which it operates, together apply for and obtain, from the Department, a valid permit to operate a mass gathering.
 - ii. In the alternative, if the operator exhibits to the Department a valid contract for use and/or rental of owner's property, the owner need not be joined in the application to the Department as set forth above.
 - iii. No permit shall be issued until inspection of the premises, facilities and equipment of the location has been made by the Department, and the location is found to be adequate for the protection of the public health.

- b. Submission of Plans and Specification to the Department.
 - i. Before work is done in the construction of the facilities of, or in the advertising or other preparation for a mass gathering, the operator shall submit in duplicate and receive approval of such plans, specifications, and reports which the Department deems necessary for the protection and promotion of the public health.

- ii. These plans, specifications, and reports shall include, where applicable, data relating to food and sanitary food service, water supply, plumbing, sewage disposal, toilet and lavatory facilities, refuse storage and disposal, vector control, sleeping areas and facilities, first aid and medical facilities, and such other information as may be required by the Department.
- iii. These plans, specifications, and reports shall accompany the operator's application for a permit to hold or promote the mass gathering, as described in this section for Mass Gatherings.
- c. Application:
 - i. Application for a permit to operate a mass gathering shall be made to the Department on forms provided by the Department.
 - ii. This application shall be made by the operator, at least fifteen (15) days before the first day of advertising for the mass gathering, and at least forty-five (45) days before the first day of its actual operation.
 - iii. Water and sewage facilities, herein provided for and required, shall be constructed and operational not later than forty-eight (48) hours before the first day of the mass gathering's actual operation.
 - iv. This said application shall be accompanied by the plans, (in duplicate) specifications and reports as the Department may require, as provided for in Section 12-3(b).
 - v. Each application for a permit to operate a mass gathering shall state: the name and address of the applicant, the name of the municipality in which the mass gathering shall be located, a brief description of the facilities and equipment which shall be used at the mass gathering, and such other information as the Department may require.

- vi. A separate permit shall be required for each mass gathering.
- vii. Fee(s) accompanying application for a mass gathering shall be in accordance with the most current fee schedule provided by the department.

d. Issuance:

The permit to operate a mass gathering will be issued on the basis of satisfactory compliance with the provisions of this Chapter, on forms provided by the Department, and shall be nontransferable, and it shall be subject to suspension or revocation upon finding the mass gathering not in compliance with these provisions.

e. Revocation and Suspension:

- i. A permit may be revoked or suspended at any time if the Department finds that the mass gathering is maintained, operated, or occupied in violation of any provision of this Chapter or other relevant section of these rules and regulations.
- ii. The Department may order a mass gathering to close and cease operation if a situation is present which is inimical to the public health.
- iii. A permit may be revoked upon request of the permittee or upon abandonment of operation.

f. Posting of permit:

A permit issued for the operation of a mass gathering shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the property of the mass gathering or shall be kept on file. This permit shall be made available by the operator on request.

Section 12-4 Sanitation

a. Food and Food Service:

The food service facilities, equipment, services and operations at a mass gathering shall comply with the relevant provisions of Chapter 4 of these Rules and Regulations.

b. Water Supply:

- i. All water used in the operation of a mass gathering shall be provided from a supply approved by the Department.
- ii. The water supply shall meet the Department's bacteriological and chemical water standards, and all requirements of the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act.
- iii. Drinking water shall be adequate in quantity and readily accessible to those in attendance at the mass gathering.
- iv. A common drinking utensil shall not be provided or allowed to be used. Any drinking fountain shall be of approved sanitary design and construction.
- v. Any interruption in the treatment of a drinking water supply shall be reported immediately to the Department. No change in the source of, or in the method of treatment of, a drinking water supply shall be made without first notifying the Department and securing its approval to do so.

c. Plumbing:

- i. Plumbing shall be so sized, installed, and maintained as to carry adequate quantities of water to required locations throughout the premises of the mass gathering, and to properly convey sewage and liquid wastes from the premises to the sewerage or sewage disposal system.
- ii. Plumbing shall serve to prevent contamination of the water

supply, and shall not create an unsanitary condition or nuisance.

- d. Sewage Disposal:
 - i. Adequate facilities shall be provided and maintained for the satisfactory collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage.
 - ii. All sewage disposal systems serving a mass gathering shall be approved by the Department or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.
 - iii. Approval shall be based upon satisfactory compliance with the provisions of: Chapter 15 of these Rules and Regulations and the "Clean Streams Act of 1937", as amended (35 P.S., Section 691.1 et seq.)

- e. Toilet and Lavatory Facilities:
 - i. Toilet facilities adequate for the capacity of the mass gathering shall be provided. These facilities shall be so located as to be conveniently available and shall be so constructed and maintained that they will not be offensive. Separate toilet facilities shall be arranged for each sex. Toilet facilities shall be provided in the ratio of one (1) seat per 100 persons or a fraction thereof.

 - ii. Each toilet room shall meet the following requirements:
 - aa. Doors shall be self-closing;
 - bb. Adequate ventilation to the outside shall be provided;
 - cc. Toilet tissue shall be provided;
 - dd. Easily cleanable receptacles shall be provided for waste materials; and

- ee. Waste receptacles shall be covered.
- iii. All privies shall be so located and constructed that they will not, by leakage or seepage, pollute a water supply, surface water, or adjacent ground surface, and shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the department.
- iv. Suitable and adequate lavatory facilities shall be provided which are convenient to the toilets and privies, as well as to the food-handling facilities. Lavatory facilities shall be provided in a ratio of at least one (1) per each one hundred (100) persons or a fraction thereof.

Section 12-5 Garbage and Refuse

a. Collection:

The collection of all garbage and refuse shall be conducted in a sanitary manner. All such garbage and refuse shall be removed from the facilities at least once every twenty-four (24) hours.

b. Storage:

- i. All garbage and refuse containing food wastes shall, prior to disposal, be kept in leak-proof, non-absorbent, rust and corrosion-resistant containers of adequate number, which shall be kept covered with tight fitting lids, when filled, stored, or not in continuous use, however, any other manner of garbage and refuse storage may be used if approved by the Department.
- ii. All other refuse shall be stored in containers, rooms, or areas of sufficient number and size, in a manner as to prevent arthropod or rodent problems and other nuisances.

c. Disposal:

When disposal of garbage or refuse is accomplished within or upon the premises of a mass gathering, the disposal facilities shall be

operated and maintained so as not to create a nuisance or a health hazard and shall comply with the pertinent requirements of these Rules and Regulations and of those promulgated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

d. Cleaning of Area:

Adequate cleaning facilities shall be provided, and each container, room or area shall be thoroughly cleaned after each emptying or removal of garbage and refuse.

Section 12-6 Vector Control

- a. All grass on the premises of the mass gathering shall be mowed one week prior to the event and shall be effectively sprayed with insecticides approved and indicated by the Department.
- b. All other measures for the control of arthropods and rodents shall be taken in a manner satisfactory to the Department, in accordance with Chapter 9 of these Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE B MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS

Section 12-7 Duties of Permittee

- a. Carriers of Communicable Disease - No individual known to be a possible transmitter of a communicable disease shall be employed at a mass gathering, in any capacity.
- b. Care of Children - Children under twelve (12) years of age not accompanied by an adult at a mass gathering shall be provided with adequate and competent adult supervision exercised by a supervisor or supervisors present on the property.
- c. Supervision of Premises - A person to whom a permit to promote or hold a mass gathering has been issued shall provide a competent individual to be in charge of the property who shall be on or available to the property during reasonable hours of a day while the property is occupied or open for occupancy.

- d. Regulation of Number of Persons Attending – The permittee shall take such security measures as are necessary in order to regulate and limit the number of persons attending the mass gathering to that level authorized in the permit issued by the Department.
- e. Responsibility for Clean-Up - The permittee shall provide a competent individual to supervise the clean-up operations at the termination of the mass gathering, in a manner which is satisfactory to the Department.
- f. General Responsibility - The person to whom a permit is issued shall comply with the provisions of this Section and with all conditions stated in the permit.
- g. Signage- the permittee shall be responsible for ensuring the adequate signage is placed and displayed prominently at all entrances detailing what steps are being taken and required of attendees to ensure health and safety of the public and compliance with any safe plan(s) submitted to the Department.

Section 12-8 Sleeping Areas

An overnight camping area or areas, clearly marked shall be provided for each mass gathering which is in operation for more than twenty-four (24) hours.

Section 12-9 First-Aid and Medical Facilities

Satisfactory arrangements shall be made by the permittee to assure adequate first-aid and medical supervision and facilities at, or readily available to, the mass gathering.

Section 12-10 Location; Grounds

- a. The site for any proposed mass gathering shall be well-drained, and the site shall not be adjacent to swamps, marshes, or breeding places for insects and rodents.
- b. At any such site, good natural drainage shall be required, and the

drainage shall not endanger the water supply. Where ditching is done, it shall not create accident hazards.

- c. A site map showing the location of all facilities shall be posted at all entrances and at other convenient locations so they are readily accessible to each person attending the mass gathering. Adequate signs shall also be used to locate all facilities.

Section 12-11 Traffic Control

- a. A mass gathering site shall be provided with a network of interior roads to be kept clear at all times for service and emergency vehicles, and shall be serviced by access roads which will permit an adequate flow of traffic and ensure the free passage of emergency vehicles.
- b. Provision shall be made for traffic control measures that will preclude hazards to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Section 12-12 Flammable Liquids or Materials

The operator of a mass gathering is responsible for confirming that no flammable or volatile liquids or materials are stored in or adjacent to the area of the gathering.

Section 12-13 Performance Bond

The operator of a mass gathering shall provide a minimum performance bond of \$1.00 (one dollar) per person likely to attend, in order to guarantee full compliance with the provisions of this Chapter, the other Rules and Regulations of the Montgomery County Health Department, and any other applicable State or local laws.

Section 12-14 Safety Plans

A fire safety plan and a medical safety plan must be submitted to, and approved by, the Department prior to the issuance of a permit to hold or promote a mass gathering. These plans are to be completed using forms supplied by the Department and must be updated as necessary to reflect

changes in site, location, number of anticipated attendees, or other operational factors associated with the gathering.

Section 12-15 Sporting Events

Spectators may attend sporting events, whether such events are associated with public or private institutions or are hosted privately, however all spectators shall count towards the gather limitations (25 indoor, 250 outdoors or in temporary facilities) and must follow any Universal Face Covering Order and require social distancing guidance when arriving, attending, and departing the event