

## CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### §604. MASS GATHERINGS.

#### 604.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

**604.1.1. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Section 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 therein.

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

**604.1.2.1. "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.

**604.1.2.2. "Drinking water":** Water provided or used for human consumption or for lavatory or culinary purposes.

**604.1.2.3. "Garbage":** All putrescible wastes (except sewage and body waste): included in this term are animal and vegetable offal.

**604.1.2.4. "Mass Gathering":** Any anticipated gathering of people, either outdoors or in temporary facilities where in the opinion of the County Health Director, in consultation with the Board of Health feels that a potential public health problem may exist, may recommend to the County Commissioners that such assemblage be subject to applicable rules and regulations of the Board of Health.

**604.1.2.5. "Operator":** Any person who has charge, care, or control of, or who promotes a mass gathering.

**604.1.2.6. "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.

**604.1.2.7. "Refuse":** All nonputrescible 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.

**604.1.2.8. "Service building":** A building housing toilet facilities for men and women, with separate bath or shower accommodations.

**604.1.2.9. "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.

**604.1.2.10. "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.

**604.1.2.11. "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.

**604.1.2.12. "Toilet facilities":** Water closets, privies, urinals, chemical toilets, and the rooms provided for installation of these units.

**604.1.2.13. "Wash basin":** A basin or bowl used for the purpose of obtaining personal cleanliness.

**604.1.2.14. "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.

**604.1.2.15. "Water supply":** A source or sources of water, and any or all water treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities.

**604.1.2.16. "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.

## **604.2. PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.**

### **604.2.1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

**604.2.1.1.** 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.

**604.2.1.2.** In the alternative if the operator exhibits to the Department a valid contract for use and/or rental of owners property, the owner need not be joined in the application to the Department as set forth above.

**604.2.1.3.** 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.

### **604.2.2. SUBMISSION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS TO DEPARTMENT.**

**604.2.2.1.** 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.

**604.2.2.2.** 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.

**604.2.2.3.** These plans, specifications, and reports shall accompany the operator's application for a permit to hold or promote the mass gathering, as described in 604.2.3.3. below.

### **604.2.3. APPLICATION.**

**604.2.3.1.** Application for permit to operate a mass gathering shall be made to the Department on forms provided by the Department.

**604.2.3.2.** 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.

**604.2.3.3.** 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.

**604.2.3.4.** This said application shall be accompanied by the plans, (in duplicate) specifications and reports as the Department may require, as provided for in 604.2.2. of this Section, above.

**604.2.3.5.** 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.

**604.2.3.6.** A separate permit shall be required for each mass gathering.

**604.2.3.7.** Fee-the fee for each said permit shall be that which is provided for in Chapter 700 §701 of these Rules and Regulations.

**604.2.4. ISSUANCE.** The permit to operate a mass gathering will be issued on the basis of satisfactory compliance with the provisions of this Section, on forms provided by the Department, and shall be:

**604.2.4.1.** nontransferable; and

**604.2.4.2.** subject to suspension or revocation upon finding the mass gathering not in compliance with these provisions.

#### **604.2.5. REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION.**

**604.2.5.1.** 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 Section.

**604.2.5.2.** The Department may order a mass gathering to close and cease operation if a situation is present which is inimical to the public health.

**604.2.5.3.** A permit may be revoked upon request of the permittee or upon abandonment of operation.

**604.2.5.4.** Any person operating, conducting, or promoting a mass gathering whose permit has been suspended or revoked, or who has received notice from the Department that his permit will be suspended or revoked, shall have the right to a hearing, in accordance with Chapter 100, §108 of these Rules and Regulations.

**604.2.6. 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.

#### **604.3. SANITATION.**

**604.3.1. FOOD AND FOOD SERVICE.** The food service facilities, equipment, services, and operations at a mass gathering shall comply with the relevant provisions of Chapter 300 of these Rules and Regulations.

#### **604.3.2. WATER SUPPLY.**

**604.3.2.1.** All water used in the operation of a mass gathering shall be provided from a supply approved by the Department. Such approval shall be based upon satisfactory compliance with the Department's construction standards for water supplies, as they are promulgated in Chapter 500, §501 of these Rules and Regulations.

**604.3.2.2.** The water supply shall meet the Department's bacteriological and chemical water standards, as found in Chapter 500, §501.

**604.3.2.3.** Drinking water shall be adequate in quantity and readily accessible to those in attendance at the mass gathering.

**604.3.2.4.** A common drinking utensil shall not be provided or allowed to be used. Any drinking fountain shall be of approved sanitary design and construction.

**604.3.2.5.** 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.

### **604.3.3. PLUMBING.**

**604.3.3.1.** 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.

**604.3.3.2.** Plumbing shall serve to prevent contamination of the water supply, and shall not create an unsanitary condition or nuisance.

### **604.3.4. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

**604.3.4.1.** Adequate facilities shall be provided and maintained for the satisfactory collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage.

**604.3.4.2.** All sewage disposal systems serving a mass gathering shall be approved by the Department or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

**604.3.4.3.** Approval shall be based upon satisfactory compliance with the provisions of: Chapter 500, §503 of these Rules and Regulations: and, the "Clean Streams Act of 1937", as amended (35 P.S. §691.1 *et seq.*).

### **604.3.5. TOILET AND LAVATORY FACILITIES.**

**604.3.5.1.** 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 fraction thereof.

**604.3.5.2.** Each toilet room shall meet the following requirements:

**604.3.5.2.1.** Doors shall be self-closing;

**604.3.5.2.2.** Adequate ventilation to the outside shall be provided;

**604.3.5.2.3.** Toilet tissue shall be provided;

**604.3.5.2.4.** Easily cleanable receptacles shall be provided for waste materials; and

**604.3.5.2.5.** Waste receptacles shall be covered.

**604.3.5.3.** 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 Chapter 500, §504 of these Rules and Regulations.

**604.3.5.4.** 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 fraction thereof.

**604.3.6. GARBAGE AND REFUSE.**

**604.3.6.1. COLLECTION.** The collection of all garbage and refuse shall be conducted in a sanitary manner and shall be removed from the facilities at least once every twenty-four (24) hours or at more frequent intervals if necessary to prevent a nuisance.

**604.3.6.2. STORAGE.**

**604.3.6.2.1.** 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.

**604.3.6.2.2.** 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.

**604.3.6.3. 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 Resources.

**604.3.6.4. 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.

**604.3.7. VECTOR CONTROL.**

**604.3.7.1.** All grasses on the premises of the mass gathering shall be mowed one week prior to the event and shall be effectively sprayed with insecticides approved by the Department.

**604.3.7.2.** All other measures for the control of arthropods and rodents shall be taken in a manner satisfactory to the Department, in accordance with Chapter 600, §603 of these Rules and Regulations.

**604.4. MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.**

**604.4.1. DUTIES OF PERMITTEE.**

**604.4.1.1. 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.

**604.4.1.2. 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.

**604.4.1.3. 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.

**604.4.1.4. 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.

**604.4.1.5. 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.

**604.4.1.6. 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.

**604.4.2. 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.

**604.4.3. 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.

**604.4.4. LOCATION; GROUNDS.**

**604.4.4.1.** 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.

**604.4.4.2.** 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.

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

**604.4.5. TRAFFIC CONTROL.**

**604.4.5.1.** 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.

**604.4.5.2.** Provision shall be made for traffic control measures that will preclude hazards to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

**604.4.6. FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS OR MATERIALS.** The operator of a mass gathering shall see to it that no flammable or volatile liquids or materials shall be stored in or adjacent to the area of the gathering and that adequate fire fighting equipment is available to protect the life and health of the people attending the mass gathering.

**604.4.7. 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 Section; the other Rules and Regulations of the Chester County Health Department; and, any other applicable State or local laws.

CERTIFICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COUNTY OF CHESTER    ss

I, John P. Maher, M.D., Secretary of the Chester County Board of Health, hereby do certify the within to be a true and correct copy. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

John P. Maher, M.D., M.P.H.

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