City of Milpitas
Guidelines for Temporary Outdoor Gyms and Fitness Facilities

The City of Milpitas will allow the use of outdoor areas for gyms and fitness facilities consistent with the current Santa Clara County Health Order and the COVID-19 Industry Guidance issued by the State of California. This temporary allowance for will remain in effect until the County Health Officer lifts or modifies the current Health Order, or as directed by the Milpitas City Council.

General Guidelines

1. All gym and fitness facility owners or managers shall read and comply with the Mandatory Directive for Gyms and Fitness Facilities issued by the Santa Clara County Health Officer and the Covid-19 Industry Guidance for Personal Care Services issued by the State of California.

For guidance specific to personal care services, see:
- County of Santa Clara Mandatory Directive for Gyms and Fitness Facilities Businesses
- State of California COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Fitness Facilities
- State of California COVID-19 General Checklist for Fitness Facilities

2. Indoor pools; spas, saunas, and steam rooms; showers; locker rooms (except for restroom access); water fountains; vending machines; and lounge areas shall remain closed.

3. Gyms and fitness facilities shall implement a reservation system where clients sign up to work out during designated time slots. Operators shall screen all clients and visitors using the facility.

4. Gyms and fitness facilities must ensure that everyone using the outdoor fitness area maintains at least six feet (6’) of social distance from everyone outside their household at all times. See county directive for suggestions to help accomplish this distancing.

5. Gyms and fitness facilities operators shall regularly disinfect all high-touch areas and surfaces (such as doorknobs, handles, light switches, restrooms, benches, front reception areas, computers, phones, and all fitness equipment). Disinfectants must be effective against COVID-19.

6. Outdoor group fitness classes must follow the separate Health Officer Directive and local guidelines for Outdoor Gatherings.

7. Any food facility located within a gym or fitness facility (such as a juice or snack bar) must follow the rules in the Health Officer Directive for Food Facilities. Indoor dining is not allowed, but food may be sold for carryout. See county directive for specific details.

8. Outdoor gym or fitness facility operators shall obtain written authorization from the property owner for the use of private sidewalks or parking areas for temporary outdoor use. Sidewalks or parking areas immediately in the front of the business are the preferred location for outdoor use.

9. Tenants in shopping centers with multiple tenants shall work with management and other tenants to equitably allocate the available sidewalks and patios for temporary outdoor use.

10. Tables, chairs, umbrellas, or other temporary objects shall be located in a manner that does not obstruct the entrance to any building or fire safety equipment, impede the flow of pedestrian or vehicle traffic, or create a hazardous condition (such as a tripping hazard).
11. Removable barriers, such as stanchions, retractable belts, plants, or screens no more than three feet (3’-0”) in height, may be used to delineate outdoor service areas from the pedestrian path of travel.

12. No furniture, fixture, or equipment shall be permanently affixed to the sidewalk.

13. Access to indoor restroom must be provided; portable toilets are not permitted.

14. Operating hours for outdoor fitness activities shall be consistent the indoor operating hours.

15. Amplified sound is not allowed in conjunction with temporary outdoor gyms or fitness activities.

16. Fitness facility operators shall maintain the cleanliness and appearance of outdoor areas.

17. The use of tents or other coverings for outdoor gyms and fitness facilities shall require review and approval by the Milpitas Fire Prevention Division in accordance with current regulations and fees.

18. If parking areas are used for outdoor gyms or fitness facilities, each establishment shall maintain the minimum number of parking spaces required. Total outdoor gym or fitness activity area shall not exceed the original occupancy of the business.

19. Substantial safety barriers such as temporary walls, concrete or water-filled K-rails, or landscape planters shall be installed to protect outdoor gym or fitness activity areas from vehicles.

Application and Registration

Prior to setting up an area to provide outdoor personal services, the business owner or manager shall submit an application for review and approval by the City of Milpitas Planning Department. No fee will be charged for this review, and same-day approval is expected for most applications. The application is available at: www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/planningdepartment. Please submit a completed application to outdoor.business@ci.milpitas.ca.gov, and staff will contact the applicant if additional information is needed. A complete application will include the following:

a. A detailed description of the proposed outdoor service area and operations. Please read the application form carefully for details and provide all requested information. Incomplete forms will be returned to the applicant. As directed on the form, please describe the size, layout, and general location of the proposed outdoor dining area. See form for details.

b. The business owner or manager shall obtain and verify authorization from the property owner for the creation of expansion of any outdoor personal service area. Tenants within the same shopping center may agree to share available sidewalks or plazas in front of multiple businesses.

c. Planning staff will review registration forms in the order they are received. One form shall be used for Temporary Outdoor Dining, Temporary Outdoor Personal Care, and Outdoor Gathering.

d. Once staff reviews the application, they will send an email to confirm approval or request additional information. The salon owner and property owner will both receive copies of the confirmation email.

Questions? – Please call 408-586-3279 or email outdoor.business@ci.milpitas.ca.gov