SPI issues recommendations to businesses reopening

South Padre Island, TX, April 30, 2020: Effective May 1, 2020, the following may open at 25% capacity; retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters, malls, museums and libraries. The following are some suggestions on how to comply with the 25% rule.

**Retail stores and malls** – Keep track of the number of people you let in and stop allowing entrance when you achieve 25% of the occupancy. Suggested occupancy is one person per two-hundred square feet. As patrons exit, you can allow that same number of new patrons to enter. Please remind patrons inside, waiting in lines inside and outside or at check out to maintain 6 feet of social distancing. Sanitize check out areas between customers and as often as possible surfaces that are contacted frequently such as door handles.

**Restaurants** – For unused tables and chairs; rope off, tape off, plastic wrap, and place out of service signs on them. You will not be allowed to add extra tables or chairs than what you had prior to shutting down. This includes patios, outdoors, etc. All surfaces and items such as menus must be sanitized between customers. Do not block any exit pathways or exits. We suggest that you space the remaining tables six feet apart. Booths can be used at every other booth. If the restaurant has a bar, patrons will not be allowed to sit at the bar, however the servers may bring bar beverages to the tables. Seating adjacent to the bar may be utilized for eating at 25%.

**Movie Theaters** – You can place signs on chairs, rope off unused rows, bag seats, etc to achieve the 25% maximum. Ushers should sit patrons in families/groups that came together and maintain 6 feet between groups. Sanitize all surfaces in contact with the patrons hands between shows.

**Museums** – No hands-on exhibits, 25% capacity and maintain social distancing. Keep track of the number of people you let in and stop allowing entrance when you achieve 25%. As patrons exit, you can allow that same number of new patrons to enter. Please remind patrons inside
and waiting in lines outside or at check out to maintain 6 feet of social distancing. Sanitize areas that are in contact with the patrons frequently.

If you need to have the occupant load calculated for your business, please contact the South Padre Island Fire Department. They will calculate your maximum occupancy for you. You will be asked to post that maximum occupancy certificate inside your business. Note: the occupancy will be calculated at maximum and you will do the correct percentage as the orders allow.

Email the South Padre Island Fire Department at atorres@myspi.org, jpigg@myspi.org, rosa@sopadre.com, or call (956) 761-3040/(956) 761-3830.

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