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For \$10 each, you can brighten someone's day with a spring bouquet.

March 3-6: Pick up bouquets at Niagara Hospice or delivery available for \$5 fee for Niagara County residents.

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Sports & entertainment events in major stadiums, arenas can reopen with limited spectators beginning Feb. 23

Events permitted to reopen in arenas and stadiums with a capacity of 10,000 people or more

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday announced that, building off of the successful Buffalo Bills pilot program, sports and entertainment events in major stadiums and arenas with a capacity of 10,000 or more people can reopen with limited spectators beginning Feb. 23.

Following the model established as part of the successful Buffalo Bills pilot program, venues and events must follow similar guidelines, including Department of Health approval for venues and events, capacity limitations, testing requirements, mandatory face coverings, temperature checks, and assigned, socially distanced seating.

The Department of Health's work to inspect eligible venues statewide is already underway. The success of this, and similar events in approved venues over the coming weeks, will help inform the reopening process for smaller venues in the future.

"While we continue to fight COVID on multiple fronts, we must also get this economy reopened intelligently and in a balanced way," Cuomo said. "Live sports and entertainment have long been engrained in the fabric of New York, and the inability to hold events has only added to the isolation we have all felt at the hands of this virus. Thankfully, our pilot program to reopen Buffalo Bills games to fans was an unparalleled success and now we are taking that model and expanding it to other large venues across the state to not only reinvigorate local economies, but also help bring some fun and joy back into people's lives as safely as possible."

Specifically, in order to reopen venues to professional sports, sites must:

- √ Obtain DOH approval for both



Fans are eager to return to KeyBank Center to watch the Buffalo Sabres.

venues and events

- √ Institute a 10% capacity limit in arenas and stadiums

- √ Ensure all staff and spectators receive a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of the event

- √ Mandate face coverings, social distancing and temperature checks for all those in attendance

- √ Mandate assigned, socially distanced seating

- √ Collect contact information from all those in attendance to help inform contact tracing efforts

- √ Meet enhanced air filtration, ventilation and purification standards

- √ Ensure retail, food services and athletic activities abide by all state-issued guidance

The Buffalo Bills were allowed to have 6,700 fans in their Orchard Park stadium for each of their two home playoff games last month.

Locally, this news could mean the return of fans to Buffalo Sabres hockey games. The team tweeted:

"Gov. Cuomo's announcement providing the opportunity to allow Sabres fans back to KeyBank Center is a great step forward.

"We continue to work closely with the New York State and Erie County Departments of Health

to ensure a safe, healthy and fan-friendly environment to enjoy Sabres hockey.

"Ticketing information and game-day safety protocols will be announced as they become available."

While most live music venues would not meet the criteria to reopen at this time, Artpark in Lewiston could make a case to be included. Though its Mainstage Theater has less than half of the required audience capacity, its outdoor amphitheater is capable of holding 10,000 people.

Cuomo didn't include the words "amphitheater" or "outside" in his announcement, but he has been more flexible with regard to limitations on such events – see the Buffalo Bills games and the recent announcement of popup entertainment as examples.

Artpark & Company Vice President of Concerts & Marketing Dave Wedekind said, "At this point we can offer that we are planning to have outdoor events this summer, and are reassured by the governor's recent announcement that positive progress is being made. We continue to work closely with NYS officials and will share updates as we are able."

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Niagara Wheatfield Central School District Pre-Kindergarten Program

Accepting Pre-K Applications February 1 - March 12, 2021

The Niagara Wheatfield Central School District is now accepting Pre-Kindergarten applications with completed registration packets for September 2021 for all Niagara Wheatfield children whose dates of birth fall between December 2, 2016 and December 1, 2017 (must be age 4 on or before 12/1/21). Niagara Wheatfield School District Pre-Kindergarten program is located at Bunny Bunch Daycare at two of their locations, 2578 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 and 7181 Ward Rd North Tonawanda, NY 14120. The Pre-Kindergarten program is contingent upon the availability of New York State Pre-Kindergarten grant funds.

- Pre-Kindergarten students attend a full day of school: Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 2:00pm.
- There is no charge to enroll your child in this program.
- Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the site.
- Options are available for before and after school care from Bunny Bunch for a fee.
- Applications and registration packets must be received by 3:00pm on Friday, March 12, 2021 at Niagara Wheatfield District Office for consideration of Fall enrollment.
- Applications and registration packets are available on the District Website at www.nwcsd.org and in the main offices of all Niagara Wheatfield School Buildings.
- If applications exceed maximum enrollment, a public lottery will be conducted on March 12, 2021 at 4pm.
- Completed Pre-Kindergarten applications and registration packets should be forwarded to: Niagara Wheatfield Central School District Office, PO Box 309, Sanborn, NY 14132 or brought directly to the District Office at 5700 West Street.
- Please be aware that the formal registration form requires proof of residency and documentation of physicals, immunizations, and dental visits within the last year.
- If you have questions regarding the application/registration process, please call Nora O'Bryan, Principal for Pre-K at 215-3244.