

Seneca Premiere 8 in Seneca is set to open today with new safety guidelines in place.

Theater set to reopen today

Policy requires masks except when eating

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR

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SENECA — After being closed for months, the Seneca movie theater is set to open today.

After closing its doors in March, along with the rest of the entertainment industry, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Seneca Premiere 8 will be operating at less than 50 percent capacity and with a new face mask policy.

General manager Jeremy Burrell told The Journal all employees will be wearing masks, and guests will be required to wear masks in the lobby, restrooms, common areas and while watching a movie. Masks can be removed while seated and eating during a screening.

"We're super excited to be opening back up and we're going to keep things as safe as possible," he said. "We're not operating at full capacity, and I think a little less than 50 percent. ... It's dark in the theaters, so I know it's a little hard to enforce mask wearing in there, but we're going to do our best."

A special sanitizer that kills all germs in less than 10 minutes will be sprayed between every movie screening, Burrell said. Employees are required to wash their hands every 30 minutes, and hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the theater. Credit cards are recommended to be used instead of cash, the company's website said. Those who use cash will need to use a cash-exchange kiosk that loads cash onto a theater gift card.

Burrell said the theater now requires assigned seating and will automatically block off any seats within the area of where a patron or group will be sitting. Online ticketing is highly encouraged, according to the company's website, and online fees have been reduced.

The theater will be screening four movies today, including Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" and Disney's frequently delayed "New Mutants."