



May 14, 2020

## WHAT IS MY OCCUPANT LOAD?

The Metro West Fire Protection District has adopted the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC). This Code contains requirements that regulate occupant loads in order to establish minimum required means of egress from all buildings and spaces.

The number of occupants (occupant load) is computed at the rate of a number of square feet per person.

The most common occupancies asked about, and their square feet per person are:

Function of space	Sq. ft. per person
Beauty/hair salons	100
Gym/fitness centers	50
Retail/sales	60
Office spaces	100

In general, divide the square foot area of your space by the appropriate number of square feet per person.

**EXAMPLE:** If you have a 2,000 square foot hair salon, divide 2,000 by 100.  
 $2,000 \div 100 = 20$ .  
Your occupant load is 20.

**NOTE:** The computation above will only determine your NORMAL occupant load – NOT the reduced occupant load that may be required for COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

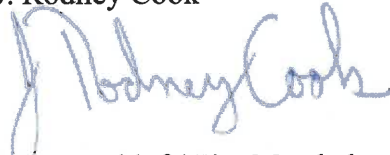
Given the example above, if you are limited to 25% of your normal occupant load you would be allowed 5 people in your hair salon ( $2,000 \div 100 = 20 \times .25 = 5$ ).

Please feel free to call us at 636-458-2100 Option #3- if your type of business is not listed above, or if you have any questions regarding your normal occupant load.

Questions regarding the reduced occupant load requirements should be directed to the St. Louis County Health Department at 314-615-0600, or visit their Corona website at <https://stlcorona.com/dr-pages-messages/public-health-orders/>.

Sincerely,

J. Rodney Cook

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Rodney Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

Deputy Chief / Fire Marshal  
636.821.5806