

CAPITOL SECURITY CHECKPOINT – Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need to go through a security checkpoint?

The safety of the Capitol and the people who use it is our top priority. Our goal is for it to remain open and accessible to the public while proactively ensuring all who enter have a safe and positive experience.

Who will perform my security screening?

The South Dakota Highway Patrol Capitol Protective Services Division will be administering the security checkpoint screenings.

How long will it take me to go through the security checkpoint?

Please allow 5 additional minutes to go through security.

Is the screening technology safe?

Yes. Imaging technology is safe and meets national health and safety standards.

I have a service animal. What type of security screening should I expect?

You and your service animal will be screened by the same imaging technology.

What are the procedures if I have an internal or external medical device, such as a pacemaker or metal implant?

Inform the Capitol Protective Service officer that you have an artificial knee, hip, other metal implant or a pacemaker, defibrillator or other internal medical device. You should not be screened by a walk-through metal detector if you have an internal medical device such as a pacemaker.

What are the procedures if I use a walker or a wheelchair?

You would not go through the walk-through metal detector (WTMD), you would be screened using secondary procedures such as a hand-held metal detector.

Can I bring electronics into the Capitol?

Yes. All electronic devices will be sent through the security scanner before entering the Capitol.

Can I film and take event photos?

Yes. We welcome you to take your school event pictures or family photos during open Capitol hours.

Can I bring food into the Capitol?

Yes. Food will be sent through the security scanner.

How will this affect the concealed carry law?

The concealed carry law will not be affected. Effective July 1, 2019, individuals with South Dakota enhanced concealed carry permits wishing to carry a concealed pistol in the State Capitol may do so only after 24 hours advance notice to Capitol Security personnel. This notice must include the date or range of dates during which the individual intends to carry a concealed pistol in the Capitol. The range of dates may not exceed 30 consecutive days. The notification may be renewed by the individual as necessary and without limit. No concealed pistols are permitted in the Governor's personal office or in the Supreme Court Chamber. To notify Capitol Security of your intent to carry a concealed pistol in the Capitol, please call (605) 280-4715 or visit the Capitol Security Office on the first floor of the Capitol.

What is not permitted in the Capitol?

- Bladed devices with a blade of more than 2½ inches except for traditional and ceremonial knives including Native American knives
- Club-like items and striking devices
- Destructive devices, explosives, or combustible chemical compounds and mixtures
- Disabling chemicals and other dangerous items
- Illicit drugs

What will happen if I try to bring in an item that is not permitted?

If it is an illegal item, you may be subject to detention and/or arrest. If the item is legal, but included on the prohibited items list, you will be required to remove the item from the building. We will not be held responsible for your possessions while you are in the Capitol.

What if I refuse to comply with access procedures?

If you do not comply with security procedures, you will not be able to enter the Capitol building.