

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR ORGANIZED PUBLIC EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Last revised: March 30, 2022

This document provides guidance for organizers of indoor or outdoor organized public event or gathering to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The easing of public health measures does not mean that the COVID-19 pandemic is over or that the risk of infection has been eliminated. Organizers of indoor or outdoor public events and gatherings are encouraged to review their procedures and take the necessary steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection for attendees and staff.

An event or gathering is any occasion that involves a number of people in proximity to each other for an extended period of time. This includes weddings, receptions, concerts, festivals, conferences, and cultural and sporting events. Events or gatherings can contribute to the transmission of infections, including COVID-19.

ADVICE FOR ORGANIZERS

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, the following measures are recommended:

- Encourage attendees to complete a COVID-19 [self-assessment](#) before coming to the event and follow the direction provided.
- Encourage attendees to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from people they don't live with.
- Encourage the wearing of masks and face coverings in all indoor public spaces.
 - It is recommended that individuals wear a [well-fitted](#) high quality 3-layered non-medical mask, medical mask or respirator (i.e., N95s, KN95).
- Make alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60-90% alcohol content available at the entrances and exits.
- Encourage all attendees to [wash their hands](#) with soap and water or [sanitize their hands](#) with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60-90% alcohol content as they arrive on-site and frequently during the event.
- Ensure hands are washed before and after handling food, after handling dirty utensils, using the bathroom, handling cash, etc. Gloves are to be replaced/changed at this time as well. Glove use does not replace handwashing. Hands should be washed or sanitized after removing gloves.
- In addition to routine cleaning and disinfection, surfaces that are frequently touched with hands should be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as necessary to maintain a sanitary condition, as well as when visibly dirty. More guidance on cleaning and disinfection is provided by [Health Canada](#) and [Public Health Ontario](#).
 - Use only disinfectants with a Drug Identification Number (DIN) given and [approved by Health Canada](#). Ensure products are not expired and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Organized public events and social gatherings that serve food should also follow [best practices for food safety](#) and guidelines for food service.

Please contact the SMDHU's Health Connection line if you have any questions at 1-877-721-7520, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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