

GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS

Overview

This guidance supports those who organize outdoor events, such as weddings, family reunions, retirements, anniversaries, volunteer appreciations, or other celebrations, in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses, entities and individuals are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [Workplace Guidance for Business Owners](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

The latest information and guidance documents for COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The maximum number of individuals at an outdoor gathering is 50.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The outdoor gathering limit includes all individuals who are present at the outdoor event, and includes caterers, wait staff, photographers, performers and musicians that will be present.• Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, such as, cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat, must not attend an outdoor gathering and must be in isolation.• As all international travellers must quarantine for 14 days upon entering Canada. International travellers must plan ahead to ensure they can complete their quarantine prior to attending a gathering.• Consider if virtual attendance is possible for individuals who are at increased risk for more serious illness after contracting COVID-19, such as the elderly or people who have pre-existing health conditions or are immunocompromised.• Infants and children should remain with their parents or guardians at all times.• A response plan should be in place in case an individual develops symptoms while at the outdoor gathering.• An attendance list of all who are present should be kept for two weeks by the organizer to facilitate contact tracing, if an exposure takes place at the gathering.
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Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical distancing of two metres must be maintained between all individuals at all times, except between members of the same household.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Avoid activities that do not allow physical distancing, such as party games or crowding together for photographs.○ Contact between attendees, except between members of the same household, should be minimized. Avoid hugging, holding hands, hand shaking (e.g., receiving lines) and the sharing of communal items (e.g., pens, guest books).○ Chairs and tables should be arranged to ensure two metres of physical distancing can be maintained.○ Attendees should be encouraged to wear non-medical masks when physical distance of two metres cannot be maintained.• Ensure processions have adequate space to move while maintaining physical distancing.• Organizers should consider the following strategies to maintain physical distancing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Have one point of entry.○ Designated specific points of exit.○ Stagger arrivals and departures to avoid crowds in parking lots and staging areas.○ Direct the flow of guests, as appropriate.○ Washroom capacity must allow for protection of guests. For example, consider or installing barriers between urinals or close off every second urinal.
Dancing, Singing and Speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dancing involves physical exertion and should be minimized.• Where dancing is planned, facilitate physical distancing between attendees from different households.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Use chalk lines on sidewalks, spray paint on grass, and tape on flooring to mark spaces for attendees.○ Consider safer types of dancing, such as line dances, which allow people to minimize exertion and maintain distancing.• There is no evidence to determine what a safe distance would be between singers and others, but greater distances can reduce risk.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Keep singers completely separate from the audience and each other.○ Limit the number of people singing in the same place to the fewest possible.○ Have singers face away from others or otherwise create separation using a barrier.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singing and using wind instruments are higher risk activities and not recommended. Consider recorded music or non-wind instruments, like piano or guitar, as an alternative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infected people can transmit the virus through their saliva or respiratory droplets while singing or playing wind instruments even when they have not shown symptoms or have very mild symptoms they may have not noticed. • Microphones should not be shared. This includes between emcees and those proposing toasts or giving speeches.
<p>Venue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signs in high-visibility locations, including signs that outline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical distancing requirements (two metres). ○ Prohibitions on attendance by those who are sick or self-isolating. ○ Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. ○ Cleaning and disinfection practices. • Remove and discard signage appropriately after the event. • Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be available at entrances and exits and throughout the venue. • Keep washrooms clean and well-stocked with soap and paper towels. • If portable restrooms are used, they should include hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or hand washing stations with soap, paper towel and foot-activated devices adjacent to the units.
<p>Food and Beverages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and beverages must not be served in a buffet, potluck or family-style manner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If self-serve, food and beverages should be individually packaged and then handled only by the individual who is consuming it. • Place hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content near the food and encourage guests to use. • If food must be handed out by non-catering staff, designate an individual to hand out the food and have that person practice hand hygiene before and after handling food. • Attendees may bring their own food and beverages for their own consumption. Food and beverages should not be shared between guests who are not from the same household. • Do not pre-set tables with plates, napkins, glasses, utensils and cutlery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use disposable options, if possible.
<p>Cleaning and Disinfection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event organizers should clean and disinfect surfaces in accordance with the Workplace Guidance for Business Owners.

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Gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gifts should be placed in a designated area. Gifts that cannot be cleaned and disinfected should be left untouched for 24 hours.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ When handling gifts, follow hand hygiene practices.• Gift bags and/or wedding favours should not be placed on tables where guests are seated as may lead to unnecessary handling.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Keep gift bags/wedding favours near the exit and encourage the guests to take them when they leave.
Support for Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enable contact tracing and follow-up, keep a list of attendees for a period of 2 weeks, including names and phone numbers.• Maintain an up-to-date contact list for all vendors and volunteers, including names, addresses and phone numbers.