

GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS

Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities 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 [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support 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 among attendees (including workers, volunteers, patrons and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention control measures, specific to these settings or activities.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

General Guidance	<p>The maximum number of individuals permitted at an outdoor gathering is 100.</p> <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 may be present.• Encourage and facilitate attendees staying up to date with developments related to COVID-19.• Notify attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “Help prevent the spread” posters are available.▪ When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by attendees.• All Albertans must follow CMOH Order 05-2020, which establishes legal requirements for quarantine and isolation.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must remain at home.○ Organizers should develop a plan to provide isolation for an attendee if needed.
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Infants and children should remain with their parents or guardians at all times.</p> <p>To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event that an attendee tests positive, organizers should consider collecting the names and contact information of attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing information is voluntary for attendees. An organization must obtain an individual’s consent and notify them about the purpose and legal authority for the collection.• Information about attendees will only be requested by Alberta Health Services if a potential exposure occurs onsite.• For businesses/workplaces, this includes staff, workers and volunteers on shift. Where feasible to do so, and particularly for personal services and group events, it should also include patrons/customers/the general public.• Records should only be kept for 2 weeks. An organization must make reasonable security arrangements to protect the personal information.• Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose, unless an individual provides their consent.• For more information, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has released Pandemic FAQ: Customer Lists about collecting personal information from customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.• For questions about your obligations under PIPA, please contact the FOIP-PIPA Help Desk by phone at 780-427-5848 or by email at sa.accessandprivacy@gov.ab.ca.
Screening & Response Plan	<p>Organizers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post signs that instruct those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to not enter.• Consider implementing active screening of attendees (where applicable) and staff for symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool can be used by attendees.○ Organizers may choose to use the daily checklist found in the COVID General Relaunch Guidance document.

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	<p>A rapid response plan sets out a fast-action plan for organizers when an attendee shows symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizers should develop a plan that includes appropriate policies and procedures based on the type of attendees specific to their services and settings. • Attendees should be familiar with and follow the organizer’s rapid response plan if an attendee starts feeling symptoms during a shift. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immediately isolating the attendee from others. ○ Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic attendee. ○ Requiring hand hygiene and masking of the attendee. • The attendee must isolate as soon as possible.
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>Physical distancing means maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres between attendees who are not from the same household at all times. Consider the following controls to encourage physical distancing between attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider physical controls to support spacing of at least 2 metres or physical barriers to prevent direct contact between attendees. These types of controls reduce the opportunity for transmission. Organizers should consider the following examples and implement appropriate controls for their settings and services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Placing barriers or partitions between attendees. ○ Reducing or removing seats from waiting areas and dining areas. ○ Closing toilets or urinals that are less than 2 metres apart without barriers between them. Washroom capacity must allow for protection of guests. For example, consider or installing barriers between urinals or close off every second urinal. ○ Placing additional hands-free garbage bins with removable linings at all entrances and exits. • Where physical controls are not possible or appropriate, the organizer should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing the number of attendees at one time. ○ Directing traffic flow within a site. This can be accomplished with signs, ropes, floor decals, etc. ○ Reservations and staggered entry times. ○ Dedicated entry and exit points. ○ Remove all shared items that cannot be easily cleaned. ○ Develop strategies to minimize the handling of objects between multiple attendees and ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of these objects. • 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

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	<p>(e.g., receiving lines) and the sharing of communal items (e.g., pens, guest books).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Entertainment & Performances</p>	<p>COVID-19 can be transmitted through saliva or respiratory droplets while singing, or when performing live music, drama or dance in close proximity. As such, these activities should be considered to be higher-risk and either postponed or carefully managed with appropriate physical distancing.</p> <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. • Hand-held microphones should not be shared. This includes between emcees and those proposing toasts or giving speeches. Podium or stand microphones can be shared, but should not be touched by speakers. • Singing by attendees is discouraged. Consider soloist music as an alternative to musical groups or bands. • Performances that include singing –soloists or in small groups –should take the following precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep singers completely separate from the audience and each other by livestreaming individuals singing separately. ○ Limit the number of people singing in the same place to the fewest possible ○ Have people sing facing away from others or otherwise creating separation using an acrylic barrier such as Plexiglas. ○ Use pre-prepared audio or video recordings. ○ Have singers wear face masks while singing. • Dancing should maintain 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 types of dancing, such as lines dances, which allow people to remain far apart. ○ If attendees are unable to maintain physical distancing while dancing, non-medical face masks should be worn. Guidance for wearing masks is available. • Games and other interactive activities should only occur if there are no shared items required. Consider games and activities where participants can maintain physical distance as much as possible.

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<p>Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette</p>	<p>Organizers should promote and facilitate frequent and proper hand hygiene all attendees. Organizers should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling and instructing attendees to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (greater than 60% alcohol content). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure there are stations available to maintain hand hygiene. ○ It is strongly encouraged that organizers provide a means to sanitize hands at points of entry and locations throughout the site where attendees are known to handle objects. ○ Hand washing with soap and water is required if the attendee has visibly dirty hands. ○ The AHS Hand hygiene education webpage has more information, posters and videos about hand hygiene. • Organizers should make every effort to encourage respiratory etiquette (e.g., coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow, promptly disposing of used tissues in a lined garbage bin) is followed. • The use of highly visible posters that remind attendees to practice respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene is strongly encouraged (e.g., entrances, washrooms and staff rooms). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Posters are available here. • 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial food operators must comply with any applicable guidance on https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx. • Food and beverages should not be served potluck or family-style. • Attendees may bring their own food and beverages. Food and beverages should not be shared between households. • If self-serve, food and beverages should be individually packaged and handled only by the individual who is consuming it. • If food must be handed out, designate an individual to hand out the food. The person handing out food should follow good hand hygiene practices. • Do not preset tables with plates, napkins, glasses, utensils and cutlery. • Use disposable napkins, plates, glasses, utensils and cutlery, if possible.
<p>Cleaning & Disinfecting</p>	<p>Organizers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement procedures for increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high traffic areas, common areas, and public washrooms. • Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch/shared surfaces, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, faucets and taps, elevator buttons, railings.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phones, computers, remote controls, keyboards, desktops, conference room equipment, pin pads, cash registers, surface counters, customer service counters, menus. ○ Equipment handles, hand tools, machinery control panels, seat belt buckles, joysticks, steering wheels and controls on powered mobile equipment. ● Limit hours of operations to enable frequent cleaning. ● Ensure disposable towels and spray cleaners, or disposable wipes, are available to workers, volunteers and (as necessary) attendees to regularly clean commonly used surfaces. <p>For organizers that do not already have industry specific cleaning and disinfecting standards, the following protocols should be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cleaning refers to the removal of visible soil. Cleaning does not kill germs but is highly effective at removing them from a surface. Disinfecting refers to using a chemical to kill germs on a surface. Disinfecting is only effective after surfaces have been cleaned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use a “wipe-twice” method to clean and disinfect. Wipe surfaces with a cleaning agent to clean off soil and wipe again with a disinfectant. ○ Items that can be laundered should be machine washed with soap or detergent, using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely — both steps help to kill the virus. ● Regular household cleaning and disinfecting products are effective against COVID-19 when used according to the directions on the label. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preferably, use a product labeled as a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN)/ is Health Canada approved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Canada has approved several hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers for use against COVID-19. Use these lists to look up the DIN number (for hard-surface disinfectants) or NPN number (for hand sanitizer) of the product you are using or to find an approved product. ▪ Make sure to follow instructions on the product label to disinfect effectively. ▪ Alternatively, use a bleach-water solution with 20 ml (4 teaspoons) of unscented, household bleach to 1000 ml (4 cups) water. Ensure the surface remains wet with the bleach water solution for 1 minute.
<p>Gifts</p>	<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.