

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/bizconnect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support those who organize outdoor events in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including participants, caterers, workers, volunteers, patrons and the general public). These events could include both private events (e.g., weddings, family reunions, retirements, anniversaries, volunteer appreciations, etc.) and public events (e.g., festivals, exhibitions, etc.) that are not covered by another guidance document. The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures specific to these activities.

In Stage 2, with 2 metres of distance maintained between members of different households (with the exception of [cohort families](#)), the following capacity restrictions apply:

- A **maximum of 200 attendees** are permitted for **outdoor seated/audience** events/settings; and
- A **maximum of 100 attendees** are permitted for **outdoor social gatherings**, including attendees, staff and volunteers.

See the last section of this document for guidance to pair outdoor seated/audience events with drive-in events

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Where possible, COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Help prevent the spread” posters are available.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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; with a history of international travel in the last 14 days; or with close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must remain at home.● Organizers should develop a plan to provide isolation for an attendee if needed.● 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. <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 patrons. An organization must obtain an individual’s consent and notify them about the purpose and legal authority for the collection.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose,● Information about attendees will only be requested by Alberta Health Services if a potential exposure occurs onsite.● Records should only be kept for two weeks. An organization must make reasonable security arrangements to protect the personal information.● 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 operator obligations under the <i>Personal Information Protection Act</i> (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	Organizers should: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Post signs that instruct those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to not enter.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider implementing active screening of attendees (where applicable) and staff for symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing. • 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"> ○ Operators may choose to use Alberta Health Daily Checklist. ○ The Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool can be used by attendees. • A rapid response plan sets out a fast-action plan for operators when an attendee shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operators should develop a plan that includes appropriate policies and procedures based on the type of attendees specific to their services and settings. • Staff should be familiar with and follow the 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.</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. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Placing barriers or partitions between attendees. ○ Reducing or removing seats from waiting areas and dining areas. ○ Washroom capacity must allow for protection of guests while meeting requirements in the Nuisance and General Sanitation Regulation. For example, consider installing barriers between urinals or close off every second urinal. • Where physical controls are not possible or appropriate, the organizer should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Placing barriers or partitions between attendees. ○ Reducing the number of attendees at the event 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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 ● Discourage hugging, holding hands, hand shaking (e.g., receiving lines) and the sharing of communal items (e.g., pens, guest books). ● Attendees should be encouraged to wear non-medical masks when physical distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. ● Ensure processions have adequate space to move while maintaining physical distancing.
<p>Cleaning & Disinfecting</p>	<p>Operators 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, public washrooms and showering facilities. ● Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces as per AHS' Public Health Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities during Respiratory Illnesses in the Community. ● 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. ○ 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. ● Ensure disposable towels and spray cleaners, or disposable wipes, are available to workers, volunteers and (as necessary) patrons to regularly clean commonly used surfaces. ● Where provided, water fountains may remain open and should be cleaned and disinfected frequently, if possible. <p>For operators that do not already have industry specific cleaning and disinfecting standards, the following protocols should be used:</p> <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. ● Regular household cleaning and disinfecting products are effective against COVID-19 when used according to the directions on the label. Refer to the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance for information on cleaning and disinfecting products.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<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 preferred 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>Entertainment & Performances</p>	<p>COVID-19 can be transmitted through saliva or respiratory droplets while singing, playing wind instruments or performing 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"> Event organizers should follow the Guidance for Live Music, Dance and Theatre. Singing and the use of wind instruments are higher risk activities and must not occur. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider recorded singing or non-wind instruments (e.g., piano, string instruments 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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food service providers are required to follow the Food Regulation and Food Retail and Foodservices Code and existing occupational health and safety requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operators should also follow the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance and the Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs, and Bars Guidance • Buffets and self service options may only be offered if facilitated and overseen by a commercial caterer who holds a food handling permit in accordance with the Guidance for Restaurant, Cafés, Pubs and Bars. • Attendees may bring their own food and beverages. Food and beverages should not be shared between households.
Gift	<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 it 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.
When Pairing with a Drive-In Event	<p>A seated/audience outdoor event may be paired with a drive-in event when the following considerations are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizers should establish mechanisms to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals do not go between the drive-in and seated/audience components (e.g., have identifying wristbands). ○ Capacity restrictions are maintained for seated/audience component. ○ Areas where individuals and households from each component may meet (e.g., washroom, concession) have enhanced cleaning/disinfecting; sufficient hand hygiene opportunities (hand

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	<p>sanitizer or hand washing stations); and adequate space to maintain physical distancing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Physical distancing is maintained when attendees enter and exit the event (e.g., staggered timing).● For a drive-in event where participants will leave their vehicle periodically, for example, to attend a concession, the organizer must ensure the following gathering restrictions are followed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The maximum total number of individuals permitted at the outdoor gathering is 100, including attendees, staff, and volunteers. This number includes the participants at the drive-in and the seated/audience event.● There is no cap on the number of people attending a drive-in event, as long as participants stay in their vehicles at all times.● Refer to the Guidance for Drive-In Style Events for additional guidance.
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