

# 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.

With 2 metres of distance maintained between members of different households (with the exception of [cohort families](#)), outdoor events are subject to the relevant capacity limits, found in the [Gathering restrictions section](#) of the alberta.ca website.

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

<b>General Guidance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage and facilitate attendees staying up to date with developments related to COVID-19.</li><li>• Notify attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.</li><li>• Where possible, COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ “Help prevent the spread” posters are <a href="#">available</a>.</li><li>○ When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by attendees.</li></ul></li><li>• All Albertans must follow CMOH Order 05-2020, which establishes legal requirements for quarantine and isolation.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19; with a history of international</li></ul></li></ul>
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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizers should develop a plan to provide isolation for an attendee if needed.</li> <li>• Operators and attendees should keep up to date with the masking requirements set at the local level.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Infants and children should remain with their parents or guardians at all times.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• 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"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ The <a href="#">AHS Hand hygiene education webpage</a> has more information, posters and videos about hand hygiene.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physical Distancing</b></p>	<p>Physical distancing means maintaining at least 2 metres between attendees who are not from the same household/cohort at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider physical controls to support physical distancing or implement barriers to prevent direct contact between attendees. Examples include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Placing barriers or partitions between attendees.</li> <li>○ Reducing or removing seats from waiting areas and dining areas.</li> <li>○ Washroom capacity must allow for protection of guests while meeting requirements in the <a href="#">Nuisance and General Sanitation Regulation</a>. For example, consider installing barriers between</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p>urinals or close off every second urinal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where physical controls are not possible or appropriate, consider:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Placing barriers or partitions between attendees.</li> <li>○ Reducing the number of attendees at the event at one time.</li> <li>○ Directing traffic flow within a site. This can be accomplished with signs, ropes, floor decals, etc.</li> <li>○ Reservations and staggered entry times.</li> <li>○ Dedicated entry and exit points.</li> <li>○ Remove all shared items that cannot be easily cleaned.</li> <li>○ Develop strategies to minimize the handling of objects between multiple attendees and ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of these objects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Avoid activities that do not allow physical distancing, such as party games or crowding together for photographs</li> <li>• Discourage hugging, holding hands, hand shaking (e.g., receiving lines) and the sharing of communal items (e.g., pens, guest books).</li> <li>• Attendees should be encouraged to wear non-medical masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained.</li> <li>• Ensure processions have adequate space to move while maintaining physical distancing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting</b></p>	<p>In addition to the cleaning and disinfecting recommendations found in the <a href="#">General Relaunch Guidance</a>, operators should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement procedures for increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high traffic areas, common areas, public washrooms and showering facilities.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch/shared surfaces</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces as per AHS' <a href="#">Public Health Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities</a>.</li> <li>• Ensure disposable towels and spray cleaners, or disposable wipes, are available to workers, volunteers and (as necessary) patrons to regularly clean commonly used surfaces.</li> <li>• Where provided, water fountains may remain open and should be cleaned and disinfected frequently, if possible.</li> <li>• Regular household cleaning and disinfecting products are effective against COVID-19 when used according to the directions on the label.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Keep washrooms clean and well-stocked with soap and paper towels.</li> <li>• If portable restrooms are used, they should include hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or hand washing stations with soap, paper towel and</li> </ul>

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	<p>foot-activated devices adjacent to the units.</p>
<b>Entertainment &amp; Performances</b>	<p>Singing, playing wind instruments or performing dance in close proximity to others are considered to be higher-risk activities, and should be carefully managed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizers of these activities should adhere to the guidance for <a href="#">singing and vocal performance</a> and <a href="#">instrumental music</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Singers and wind instrument musicians must keep 2 metres away from other performers and individuals at all times.</b></li> <li>• In indoor settings, groups should not sing or play wind instruments for more than 30 minutes at a time, with a 10 minute break afterwards to allow for air exchange in the room.</li> <li>• Singers/conductors should wear masks indoors both when singing and not singing.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A solo singer or vocalist can perform without a mask if alone in a dedicated space or room (e.g., a constructed acrylic plastic room).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wind instrument musicians should cover the bell of their instrument with thin, tightly woven fabric covers while playing.</li> <li>• <b>Karaoke should not occur at this time.</b></li> <li>• Audiences should be strongly discouraged from singing along.</li> <li>• Informal vocal activities (e.g., chanting or shouting) should be avoided.</li> <li>• Hand-held microphones should not be shared. This includes between event announcers, emcees and entertainers/performers.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Podium or stand microphones can be shared, but should not be touched by speakers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>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.</p>
<b>Food Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food service providers are required to follow the <a href="#">Food Regulation</a> and <a href="#">Food Retail and Foodservices Code</a> and existing occupational health and safety requirements.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operators should also follow the <a href="#">COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance</a> and the <a href="#">Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs, and Bars Guidance</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Attendees may bring their own food and beverages in accordance with the event rules. Food and beverages should not be shared between households.</li> </ul>
<b>Gifts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>○ When handling gifts, follow hand hygiene practices.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Keep gift bags/wedding favours near the exit and encourage the guests to take them when they leave.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>When Pairing with a Drive-In Event</b>	<p>A <b>seated/audience outdoor event</b> may be paired with a <b>drive-in event</b> when the following considerations are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizers should establish mechanisms to ensure:</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individuals do not go between the drive-in and seated/audience components (e.g., have identifying wristbands).</li> <li>○ Capacity restrictions are maintained for seated/audience component.</li> <li>○ Areas where individuals and households from each component may meet (e.g., washroom, concession) have enhanced cleaning/disinfecting; sufficient hand hygiene opportunities (hand sanitizer or hand washing stations); and adequate space to maintain physical distancing.</li> <li>○ Physical distancing is maintained when attendees enter and exit the event (e.g., staggered timing).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Refer to the <a href="#">Guidance for Drive-In Style Events</a> for additional guidance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Screening &amp; Response Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post <a href="#">signs</a> that instruct those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 to not enter.</li> <li>• Consider implementing active screening of attendees (where applicable) and staff for symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Operators may choose to use <a href="#">Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a>.</li> <li>○ The Alberta Health Services <a href="#">COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool</a> can be used by attendees.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Operators should develop a plan that includes appropriate policies and procedures based on the type of attendees specific to their services and settings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Immediately isolating the attendee from others.</li> <li>○ Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic attendee.</li> <li>○ Requiring hand hygiene and masking of the attendee.</li> <li>○ The attendee must isolate as soon as possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>