

GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC RALLIES, MARCHES, PARADES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

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 organizers of public rallies, marches, parades and demonstrations in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including volunteers, attendees and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures, specific to these 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

Planning the Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage and facilitate attendees staying up to date with developments related to COVID-19.• Ensure communication about steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission at the event are available on all social media or other platforms for attendees to review.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Include notification that anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, with a history of travel outside Canada in the last 14 days, and anyone who has had close contact with a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days must remain at home.○ Encourage attendees to download the ABTraceTogether app to help let them know if they've been exposed to COVID-19, or if they've exposed others during the event.• Consider locations that will accommodate physical distancing requirements.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Physical distancing means maintaining at least 2 metre between attendees, who are not from the same household or cohort family, at all times.○ Consider marking spots on the ground in advance that show 2 metre spacing to encourage physical distancing between attendees.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Consider having attendees indicate their participation in advance, to facilitate selecting an appropriate location to accommodate physical distancing.○ Select areas with spacing that allows for multiple groups (each group no larger than 100 each) to be together, while still physically distancing within and between the groups.○ Consider arranging for multiple-site events where groups of 100 each gather at multiple different locations at the same time.● Ensure routes are appropriately blocked off and all traffic lights are disabled to facilitate physical distancing (may require working with the local government and law enforcement). <p>Consider alternate options to demonstrate collective action to include individuals who may be quarantining or in isolation, as well as accommodating physical distancing, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have attendees select a representative to attend in person and live stream the event for the group to virtually participate.● Virtual rallies or demonstrations, where attendees are able to participate from their homes or previously identified common spaces.● Drive in rallies or demonstrations.● Vehicle or bicycle “marches”.
During the Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● At the beginning of the event, remind 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">○ When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by attendees.○ Reinforce physical distancing requirements for the event.● Speakers/presenters should be physically distanced.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Avoid sharing microphones, or thoroughly clean and disinfect microphones between each individual use.● Discourage hand holding/linking of arms and other physical contact between non-cohort groups.● Consider alternates to chanting/call and response shouting, to reduce droplet spread between attendees.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Encourage clapping and non-aerosolizing noise makers (i.e. do not require attendees to blow into them) such as pots and pans, cowbell, clackers● Singing and wind instrument playing (including woodwind and brass) should not take place.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discourage attendees from singing○ Live performance activities such as playing non-wind instruments, and dancing may proceed if physical distancing is possible.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 travel outside Canada in the last 14 days, and anyone who has had close contact with a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days must remain at home. <p>In Person Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discourage sharing signs or other items between attendees.• Encourage all attendees to wear face masks as a means of preventing spread of disease.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If possible, have face masks available for attendees to use.○ Guidance on masking is available here.• Operators should promote frequent and proper hand hygiene for all attendees.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Either supply or promote attendees bringing and using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (greater than 60% alcohol content).• If a seated/audience event takes place outdoors, the audience should be no more than 200 individuals; physical distancing between individuals or cohorts should be maintained. <p>Virtual Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If done in an indoor setting (e.g., movie theatre or community hall), the seated audience should be no more than 100 individuals; physical distancing between individuals or cohorts should be maintained.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increase cleaning and disinfecting of common areas and high touch surfaces.
Parade Performers & Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider having groups limit the number of performers/participants to reduce potential contacts and exposures.• Considerations for the staging area include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Having a space large enough to allow for physical distancing within and between groups prior to the start of the parade.○ Having multiple staging areas.○ Having groups start at different locations along the parade route to limit individuals in the staging area.• Ensure there is greater than 2 metres between each group – care should be taken while the parade is on to maintain this distance.• If performers/participants are not in motor vehicles, use formations that enable physical distancing of 2 metres between individuals not from the same household and the audience.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ e.g., when marching/walking, riding bicycles/unicycles, dancing, mini cars, scooters, etc.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Items/candies should not be distributed to the audience.• For vehicle parades, performers/participants remain inside vehicles for the entirety of the parade route.• Encourage groups to incorporate masks into their uniforms/outfits, and wear them for the duration of the parade route.
After the Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage any attendees who were at the event in person (attendee/performer/participant/organizer, etc.) to get tested for COVID-19.
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 Information for Albertans• Alberta Biz Connect