

# GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR VOCAL CONCERTS

## 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 planning outdoor vocal concerts (a vocalist with or without a band) to reduce 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 and control measures, specific to these types of concerts.

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>	COVID-19 can be transmitted through saliva or respiratory droplets while singing and playing wind instruments. These activities must be carefully managed with appropriate physical distancing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indoor vocal concerts should not occur.</li><li>• In Stage 2, vocal concerts may take place in an outdoor setting, in front of a seated audience or a drive-in style event, or both.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ See the <a href="#">Drive In Event Guidance</a> and <a href="#">Outdoor Event Guidance</a> for more information on operating in these settings.</li></ul></li><li>• For an outdoor seated audience event, the maximum number of individuals is 200.</li><li>• For a drive-in style event, there are no capacity restrictions on the number of individuals attending so long as they stay inside their vehicles at all times except for using washrooms.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ All attendees within a single vehicle should be from the same household or <a href="#">cohort</a>.</li></ul></li></ul>
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# GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR VOCAL CONCERTS

- For a drive-in style event, where participants will leave their vehicle periodically, for example, to attend a concession or other activities outside the vehicle, the organizer must ensure the following gathering restrictions:
  - The maximum number of individuals permitted in these events is 100, including attendees, staff, and volunteers.
- Online admission ticketing should be used where possible. Consider reservations or reserved seating to ensure physical distancing can be maintained.
- Cashless or no-contact payments and transactions should be used to the greatest extent possible, e.g. scan tickets instead of ripping the stub.
- 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.
  - COVID-19 signage should be posted or displayed in highly visible locations:
    - “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.
  - Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has been in close contact with a case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must remain at home.
- 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.
- Offer virtual attendance options 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.
- All toilet and washroom facilities should be maintained in good sanitary condition and equipped with hand washing supplies and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- Place additional hands-free garbage bins with removable linings at appropriate locations.

# GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR VOCAL CONCERTS

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	<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 attendees. 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"><li>○ Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose</li></ul></li><li>• Information about attendees will only be requested by Alberta Health Services if a potential exposure occurs onsite.</li><li>• For businesses/workplaces, this includes staff, workers and volunteers on shift.</li><li>• Records should only be kept for 2 weeks. An organization must make reasonable security arrangements to protect the personal information.</li><li>• For more information, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has released <a href="#">Pandemic FAQ: Customer Lists</a> about collecting personal information from customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li><li>• For questions about your obligations under the <i>Personal Information Protection Act</i> (PIPA), please contact the FOIP-PIPA Help Desk by phone at 780-427-5848.</li></ul>
<b>Screening &amp; Response Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Event organizers should have a plan for attendees who are not complying with event rules or public health expectations.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Communicate the public health expectations frequently during the event.</li><li>○ Advise attendees that they have an obligation to protect the performers and themselves.</li></ul></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>○ Event organizers may choose to use the <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 to arrange testing.</li></ul></li><li>• A rapid response plan sets out a fast-action plan for organizers when an attendee shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. Organizers should develop a plan to provide isolation for a symptomatic worker, performer, attendee, or volunteer if needed.</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:</li></ul>

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# GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR VOCAL CONCERTS

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	<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><li>● For drive-in events, staff should be familiar with and follow the organizer's rapid response plan if an attendee starts feeling symptoms. This should include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Vehicles should be parked in a fashion that facilitates the ability for emergency exit.</li><li>○ Immediately isolating the attendee from others by having them return to their vehicle. Ask the entire carload to proceed to their home(s) immediately.</li><li>○ Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that the symptomatic attendee may have come into contact with (e.g. washrooms, concession counters).</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<p>Attendees, workers, performers, and volunteers must maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from those who are not from the same household or cohort at all times.</p> <p>For seated audience events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Seating should face the same direction and leave at least 2 metres between each person or household/cohort.</li><li>● Consider assigned seating or blocking off or marking which seats are available to ensure distancing.</li><li>● Discourage attendees from waiting or congregating in areas in which 2 metre distancing would be difficult.</li><li>● For line-ups and queues, mark off spots where attendees should stand to maintain 2 metre distancing.</li><li>● Physical distancing should be maintained when entering and exiting.</li></ul> <p>For drive-in events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Vehicles should pull in to designated, well-marked parking stalls with 2 metres of distance between vehicles to allow attendees to open windows.</li><li>● Consider the following controls to encourage physical distancing at all times when attendees are outside of their vehicles:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Washroom capacity should allow for protection of guests. Consider installing barriers between urinals or close off every second urinal.</li></ul></li></ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR VOCAL CONCERTS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Temporary outdoor toilet facilities (e.g., port-a-potty), and line-ups to these facilities should be spaced appropriately to maintain 2 metres of distance between attendees at all times.</li> <li>● Direct vehicle and foot traffic to manage lineups. This can be accomplished with signs, markers, ropes, and volunteers/staff.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dedicate entry and exit points.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Food Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Applicable requirements set out in the <a href="#">Food Regulation</a> and <a href="#">Food Retail and Foodservices Code</a> must be followed.</li> <li>● Where concessions are provided, take precautions at the point of sale to reduce transmission such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Physically distance cashiers from patrons or install physical barriers.</li> <li>○ Enhance the cleaning and disinfection of touch screens at self-service kiosks.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Provide single use, individually wrapped utensils, condiments, and items such as straws and napkins from behind the counter.</li> </ul>
<b>Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Audience members should remain seated in seats in outdoor audience events, except to access washroom or food/beverage services.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Open area standing or dancing areas like mosh pits or dance floors are not permitted for audiences.</li> <li>○ Do not have items for attendees to stand or lean against (e.g., tables).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Attendees must remain in their vehicles at drive-in events.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drive-in attendees should remain inside their vehicles for the duration of the event except to access washroom facilities or food services. Leaning out of windows and sunroofs, or sitting in truck beds should not occur.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● At outdoor seated events, audience members should be discouraged from singing along with performers, cheering, or shouting to reduce the risk of transmission of droplets.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As an alternative, encourage clapping or bring mechanical noisemakers like clackers, cowbells, or other non-wind noisemakers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Performers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The maximum cohort of performers/crew allowed on and back stage is 50 individuals.</li> <li>● Performers should be a minimum of 4 metres from the nearest audience member.</li> <li>● If there is a vocal performer, all other performers should be behind a physical barrier such as a plexi-glass partition to separate each performer.</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR VOCAL CONCERTS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there is no vocal performer, musicians should observe 2 metre physical distancing at all times.</li> <li>• Have performers remind attendees of public health expectations (e.g. discouraging singing along and cheering, encourage attendees to stay in their vehicle at a drive-in event and maintain distancing during washroom breaks).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Backstage, Set-up and Tear Down</b></p>	<p>Organizers should carefully plan and consider how to manage backstage flow, set-up and tear down of equipment for the concert to reduce the risk of transmission. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimizing congregating back stage and maintaining 2 metres distance among crew and performers, unless they are in the same household or cohort family.</li> <li>• Increasing cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and objects such as railings, stands, handles, light and sound consoles.</li> <li>• Using radios and headsets to reduce the need to shout or speak at a high volume backstage.</li> <li>• Designating stage and backstage entry and exit routes to ensure flow of movement in one direction.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rehearsals and Practices</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performers should minimize the warm-up/rehearsal of vocals and wind instruments backstage. If physical distancing is not possible, vocalists and wind instrumentalists should rehearse outdoors facing away from each other, use physical barriers, and/or vocalists could warm-up with masks on.</li> <li>• Practices and rehearsals for vocal performances should not occur indoors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shared Items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared items and equipment should be minimized to the extent possible, such as microphones, stands, cables, and headphones.</li> <li>• Consider having individual items for each performer.</li> <li>• Equipment should be assigned to specific people to set up and tear down.</li> <li>• Water bottles and towels should not be shared.</li> <li>• If certain items must be shared, clean and disinfect them between uses by different individuals.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If sharing microphones between individuals is necessary, remove the grill from the body and clean and disinfect the body as well as both sides of the grill before reassembling. Consider using a new disposable microphone cover for each vocalist.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>