

COVID-19 INFORMATION

GUIDANCE FOR RODEOS

Overview

AN EXEMPTION MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO PLANNING, ADVERTISING, OR CONDUCTING A RODEO.

For the purposes of obtaining an exemption to operate, a rodeo is defined as an event that includes activities such as: tie-down roping, team roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, bull riding, and barrel racing.

Rodeo operators may be eligible for an exemption to:

- permit rodeo activities indoors or outdoors without physical distancing; or
- permit competition between rodeo participants indoors or outdoors.

An application for exemption must be submitted to Alberta Biz Connect that outlines a description of the rodeo event and demonstrates how the operator and attendees will comply with the requirements in this guidance. If the application is approved, the operator will receive a copy of the exemption to plan and undertake the rodeo. See Appendix A for application process.

- 1) All individuals directly involved in the rodeo activity (e.g., participants, support teams or persons, stock contractors, medical and veterinary personnel, announcers, secretaries, timers, sound technicians, scoreboard personnel, organizer(s), and rodeo committee members) are considered to be rodeo participants, and are subject to the guidance in this document.

All COVID-19 testing must be accessed through private accredited laboratories (i.e., paid for by organizers). All positive cases of COVID-19 must be reported to Alberta Health Services, and rodeo participants must facilitate contact tracing efforts

It is important that measures are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to ensuring: physical distancing, barrier use (where appropriate), proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, records management and building maintenance. Operators must also follow the requirements set out in the [General Operational Guidance](#).

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

General Guidance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All rodeo participants should be educated on COVID-19 protocols and expectations.• Only the rodeo participants, venue staff, rodeo personnel and judges essential for operating the rodeo are permitted in the venue.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No in-person audiences, household members or general public are permitted to be present during rodeo activities or events.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodeo participants must maintain 2 metres’ physical distance and mask at all times in indoor areas of the rodeo venue, • Participants in group or team rodeo activities who must come within 2 metres of one another for the purpose of the activity must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be members of the same household; or, ○ Undertake regular COVID-19 testing before the event - see the testing section of this Guidance. • Participants should only be in one rodeo event at a time, but can participate in more than one rodeo activity as part of that event. • Participants should avoid COVID-19 risk activities for the duration of the event, including reducing public contact. • Participants should complete hand hygiene before and after completing a rodeo activity. • Follow all current public health measures and applicable guidance on Alberta BizConnect. <p>Note: A person’s vaccine status does not provide any form of exemption, or otherwise remove or reduce any provincial requirements related to quarantine, isolation or other matters as prescribed by CMOH Orders.</p>
<p>Protocols and Compliance Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodeo organizers must develop and implement on-site COVID-19 protocols, which should adhere to this guidance document and industry accepted best practices. These protocols should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A risk assessment of each rodeo activity as it relates to health and safety of different members of the participant group; and ○ Procedures related to infection prevention and control (including cleaning/disinfecting), daily symptom checks and testing schedule, contact tracing, rapid response plan and isolation, etc. • Each rodeo event must have a COVID-19 Compliance Officer, whose responsibilities, at minimum, should include ensuring that all rodeo participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete a daily health screen and are not symptomatic before coming to the rodeo venue/event. ○ Have not arrived from out of the country within 14 days or have followed all Federal and Provincial requirements. ○ Have not been in close contact with a confirmed case at least 14 days prior to commencing the rodeo event, or at any point while participating in the event. ○ Follow the testing schedule for the performance, when applicable. ○ Receive a negative result on their pre-event COVID test, if applicable.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure compliance with Guidance for Industry-Initiated Covid-19 Testing. ● COVID-19 Compliance Officer should collect the names and contact information of all participants for the purpose of assisting contact tracing investigations by Alberta Health Services. This information must be retained for a period of 28 days.
Pre-Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All participants, including staff and judges, must complete a daily symptom check prior to arrival to the venue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals who report COVID symptoms must not attend the venue, and follow provincial requirements to isolate. ● Rodeo committees/organizers must prepare a support plan for any participant denied participation in the event due to exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. ● Rodeo committees/organizers must prepare a rapid response plan in case a rodeo participant becomes symptomatic while on-site. See the General Operational Guidance for more information. ● All individuals should minimize their time in public before the rodeo and limit contact for 2-7 days prior to the event/activity. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoiding contact with other persons; ○ Minimizing leaving the home for non-urgent errands (e.g., use delivery services wherever possible); ○ Avoiding public transportation; and ○ Youth participants should avoid participation in any other sport, performance or recreational activity.
Spectators/Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No spectators or audience are permitted for indoor rodeos at this time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This includes, but is not limited to, other participants, family/household members, close contacts, the general public. ○ A coach/instructor/trainer may watch the participant, but must vacate as soon as the participant completes their event. ● Outdoor rodeos may have up to 10 spectators, with 2 metres physical distance between households. ● Rodeo participants, venue staff, rodeo personnel, judges, etc. are not permitted to spectate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Judges judging an event is not considered spectating.
Riding Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The back of the bucking chutes is limited to essential personnel only. This requirement is to protect the safety and health of all individuals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-essential rodeo personnel are not permitted in and around the chutes.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Essential personnel includes: participant, helper, flank man, judge, gatemen, chute boss, neck rope man, head man. ○ Medical and veterinarian personnel may be present on the chutes to attend to any injury and limit their time on the back of the bucking chutes. ○ Any person not listed above and not physically helping the participant and animal to exit the chute are considered non-essential. ● Each participant is allowed one helper who must be a participant entered in the event. The Participant Helper may be responsible for cinching, spotting, pulling ropes, and the safety of the rider. ● Participants will be staged per the number of chutes available at a 2 metre distance from other participants. ● The rodeo committee should provide warm-up areas to stage riding event participants. Staging areas should be sufficient to allow for physical distancing guidelines of 2 metres between participants. ● Disinfectant should be provided to, and easily available for pick-up men, bullfighters and barrel men to conduct hand hygiene during the event. ● At the end of the ride, the participant must exit the arena.
Timed Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizers must ensure there is only one participant in the arena at any time. ● Participants must not congregate in groups and must maintain 2 metres of physical distance from other participants. ● Personnel allowed in the timed-event boxes include the participant, hazer, chute boss, pusher, head man. ● The next two participants may be in the box to help the current participant and to watch the start. Participants must enter the arena when called upon. ● At the end of the ride, the participant must exit the arena.
Event Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The announcer stand (tables, seats, microphones, scoreboard, sound boards, etc.) shall be wiped down before and after each performance with a disinfectant solution. ● All event personnel must maintain 2 metres' distance from one another at all times, and mask in indoor areas. ● Access to the announcer stand must be limited to essential personnel only.
Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In order for participants from different households to be exempt from maintaining 2 metres' physical distancing at all times, participants must be tested.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For participant testing, the rodeo must have medical oversight to order the tests and review/respond to them (e.g., a medical director/clinical advisor). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Testing must be accessed through private accredited laboratories (i.e., paid for by organizers). All rodeo participants are required to have a negative result from a lab-based PCR test administered within 72 hours prior to the rodeo event or activity. • All rodeo participants must complete daily symptom checks, including temperature monitoring, prior to and during the rodeo activity. • If available, a rapid point of care test can be administered daily to all rodeo participants before they enter the venue. • A lab-based PCR test should be administered to all participants weekly, if the rodeo event is over more than 7 days. • Timing of the testing to coincide with a participants event schedule where possible. • For clarity, no testing is required for individuals that can maintain 2 metres distance and remain masked at all times.
Mask Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodeo participants must wear a mask indoors at all times except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When actively participating in a rodeo activity (participants and support persons/teams). ○ When announcing rodeo events (announcers only). ○ If a workplace hazard assessment determines that wearing a mask during a particular activity would put an individual at risk. • Masks must be worn by all participants at all times in all other areas of the venue, include entering and leaving, washrooms, elevators, etc.
Contact tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The compliance officer must keep a record of all participants in the venue for each day of the rodeo event for contact tracing purposes. • If requested as part of a case investigation, these lists should be shared with Alberta Health Services, for contact tracing purposes only. • Any positive cases must be reported to Alberta Health Services and the rodeo participants should follow their instructions on contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that participants bring their own food and beverages for the duration of the rodeo. • Any on-site food service providers must follow the Guidance for Food Service and Sales.

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VENUE/FACILITY

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow all current public health measures and applicable guidance on Alberta BizConnect.
Booking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the rodeo operator has a compliance officer when making the booking.
Cleaning & Disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the venue is cleaned/disinfected during, pre- and post- use by performance groups, or any other rental/use. All stands, props, sets, wardrobes are to be sanitized after each use, with particular attention paid to frequently handled objects and surfaces.

ACCOMODATIONS

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailers and other mobile accommodations must be parked at least 2 metres away from any other trailer/mobile accommodation. Only members of the same household are permitted in their trailer/mobile accommodation. Only individuals essential to the operation of the rodeo should attend (e.g., to the extent possible, immediate families should not attend). Households should not share food or other items.
Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rodeo operator must have a complete list of all individuals staying on-site for each day of the rodeo event for contact tracing purposes. If requested as part of the case investigation, these lists should be shared with Alberta Health Services, for contact tracing purposes only. Any positive cases must be reported to Alberta Health Services and the rodeo participants should follow their instructions on contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.
Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this time, outdoor gatherings are limited to 10 individuals, with 2 metres distance between households. No indoor gatherings are permitted.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: April 2021.

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APPENDIX A:

RODEO ACTIVITY EXEMPTION APPLICATION PROCESS

Rodeo committees/organizers must submit exemption requests to Alberta BizConnect at <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>. Please submit your request at least three weeks prior to your event. Submissions must include a plan to demonstrate how the rodeo committee/organizer will follow the health protocols listed above, as well as the following applicant information:

- The name of the event, and the name and contact information of the rodeo committee/organizer.
- The rationale for conducting the event (e.g., live stream or video).
- A description of the rodeo event or activity that will be occurring.
- Whether the rodeo committee/organizer is seeking an exemption to conduct the event only, or whether an additional exemption is needed from the 2 metres' distancing.
- A detailed event of the precautions that will be put in place before and during the event to meet the requirements laid out in this guidance.
- Dates and duration of the rodeo activity.
- Total number of rodeo participants and their roles in the rodeo event.
 - The name and contact information of the COVID Compliance Officer must be identified.
- The total number of workers (venue staff, event staff, contractors) required on-site to support rodeo activity, and their roles.
- The venue required for the rodeo activity and venue protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

