

STAGE 2: GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

Overview

Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order 25-2020 requires businesses and entities 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 any applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

Where any part of this guidance is inconsistent or in conflict with enhanced or stronger public health restrictions set out in another CMOH Order, the enhanced or stronger public health measures would prevail. Operators are also required to follow the General Operational Guidance.

This document has been developed to support organizers and attendees of public outdoor gatherings in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among individuals (including organizers, attendees, staff, volunteers, and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control requirements, specific to these settings and activities.

In all settings, it is important that measures are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to ensuring: masking, physical distancing, barrier use (where appropriate), proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Descriptions of gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indoor public gatherings are not permitted at this time.• Outdoor social gatherings are not outdoor public events, and must be limited to 20 individuals. This includes examples, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wedding or funeral receptions, birthday or retirement parties, family reunions, graduation parties, backyard parties, etc.• An outdoor public gathering is an event at an outdoor public place, hosted, planned or organized by a business or organization, where the persons attending come together but are not required to remain seated or stationary for the duration of the function or gathering.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Up to a maximum of 150 attendees are permitted at an outdoor public gathering.○ The primary function of a public outdoor gathering is not to socialize.○ Examples of outdoor public gatherings include, but are not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Festivals, fairs, concerts, parades; or○ Outdoor audience events that do not occur in a fixed-seating venue (e.g., amateur sports games or performances, school graduations).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor audience events that occur in fixed-seating venues must follow the guidance for these settings.
General Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There must be an organizer for an outdoor public gathering to ensure compliance with this guidance, the General Operational Guidance, and current public health measures.• Event or venue staff, or other persons required for the operation the event are counted as not part of 150 attendee limit. This includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Organizers, vendors, videographers, photographers;○ Individuals who are producing or participating in official programming (e.g., performers, athletes, Master of Ceremonies, graduating students). There can only be one public outdoor gathering at a venue at a time.• Attendees may chose to wear a face mask at the outdoor public event.• All staff, volunteers and attendees should screen themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist prior to arrival to the venue.• Organizers must prepare a rapid response plan in case an attendee becomes symptomatic while on-site. See the General Operational Guidance for more information.• To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event that an attendee tests positive or an outbreak is identified, organizers should collect the names and contact information for all staff, volunteers, and individuals involved in producing the event.
Location and Layout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All outdoor public gatherings must be held in outdoor public places.• Operators must have mechanisms in place to define the area where the public outdoor gathering occurs (e.g., barriers and monitored entrances).• Operators should place hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol in convenient locations throughout the area.• The venue must be large enough to facilitate 150 attendees with 2 metres' physical distancing between households or an individual and their close contacts, or reduce the number of participants.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Operators must have plans and mechanisms (e.g., signs, floor decals, barriers) in place to manage participant flow at entrances, exits, concession stands, and washrooms to ensure that 2 metres distancing can be maintained at all times.• Organizers may permit attendees to bring or access non-fixed seating (e.g., lawn chairs, tarps); however, 2 metres' distance between households or an individual and their close contacts must be maintained.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Attendees should be encouraged to limit the movement of any seating to ensure appropriate distance is maintained at all times.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizers must ensure that the only indoor components are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Washrooms, medical or first aid facilities, concession stands and other food service businesses, retail areas, and ticketing areas. ○ Masking is mandatory for all individuals (including staff and attendees) in indoor areas of the venue.
<p>Attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor public gatherings are permitted to have up to a maximum 150 attendees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals are permitted to attend these events with their household members or if they live alone, with their two close contacts. • “Stacking”, or having multiple groups of 150 attend at a single event at the same time, is not permitted. • Attendee turnover at a fixed location event (where some of the 150 attendees leave and are replaced by others to keep total attendance at 150) is not permitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An event may be broken down into multiple “sessions” that occur at consecutive, non-overlapping times to allow multiple groups of 150 to attend. • An outdoor event at which attendees arrive and proceed along a predetermined route but do not generally gather or cluster (i.e., an outdoor interpretive festival) may stagger its turnover as attendees arrive and depart. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The event may still only have 150 individuals at all times.
<p>Food Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any food service providers, including beer gardens, food stalls and trucks, and other food service/dining, must follow the Guidance for Food Service and Sales.
<p>Retail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any retail providers must follow the Guidance for Retail.
<p>Performance, Sport and Recreational Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the event includes performance, sport or recreational activities, those activities and their participants, must follow the Guidance for Performing Arts or the Guidance for Sport, Fitness and Recreation, respectively.
<p>Drive-ins and Outdoor Seated Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor public gatherings are permitted to be partnered in conjunction with a drive in event and/or outdoor seated event if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The attendees for each event are kept separate from each other and are not permitted to move from one event to another (i.e., an individual attending the drive in cannot join the outdoor public event); ○ The capacity of each event is not exceeded; ○ Each event has separate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ entries and exits;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ facilities for washrooms, medical or first aid facilities, concession stands and other food service businesses; retail areas; and ticketing areas.● Each event must be operated following its respective guidance on Alberta Biz Connect.
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This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: June 2021.