

APPENDIX A EVENT AND GATHERING COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

Event organizers should recognize that there is inherent risk with bringing together large groups of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC recognizes that large events and gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 and can introduce the virus into communities through travelers who attend the events. Further, CDC recommends canceling large gatherings and events if the community spread of COVID-19 is “minimal to moderate” within the community. Adhering to the requirements outlined below will help mitigate the risk but will not eliminate it.

1. Events and gatherings are limited to a total of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors per day in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing for the duration of the event. Such circumstances include weddings, receptions, dances, sports, parades and other events or gatherings that are inherently inconducive to maintaining physical distancing.
2. The number of people at an event includes attendees, staff, volunteers, and others on site each day during the event or gathering.
3. Indoor events and gatherings that will have more than 50 people, and outdoor events that will have more than 100 people on a given day shall be highly structured and meet the following requirements:
 - a. Capacity:
 - i. Organizers must determine the maximum capacity of the event or gathering at any given time, based on space needed for adequate 6-foot physical distancing of people or static groups and the total number of people who can be effectively managed at one time. This capacity shall not be exceeded.
 - ii. Organizers must be able to effectively exclude people if admitting them would exceed the maximum event capacity or if 6-foot distancing in waiting lines outside of the event cannot be maintained.
 - b. Physical Distancing: Six-foot physical distance between individuals, associated parties, or static groups shall be maintained throughout the event or gathering.
 - c. Static Groups: Events and gatherings may use static groups of 50 or fewer people indoors or 100 or fewer people outdoors, who do not intermingle with other static groups, to manage physical distancing within an event or gathering.
 - i. Strict physical distancing is not required within the static group.
 - ii. Organizers must ensure that each group is static and that groups will not intermingle during the event or gathering, including when entering, exiting, or moving throughout the venue; and
 - iii. Use of static groups does not otherwise change the total number of allowable people at an event or gathering or the requirements that apply.
 - d. Traffic flow: Foot traffic flow, including entry into the venue, moving throughout the venue, finding seating, exiting the venue, and waiting in lines shall be designed and monitored to ensure 6-foot physical distancing will be maintained between individuals or associated parties.
 - e. Event boundaries: If necessary to ensure crowds and flow can be managed, the physical boundaries of the event or gathering shall be clearly defined and delineated.
 - f. Signage: Signs and other visible markers shall be used to help attendees understand and comply with physical distancing or other event requirements.

- g. Enforcement of Requirements: Organizers must anticipate that some attendees will not understand or follow the requirements. Organizers shall be able to manage or exclude participants who are not adhering to the applicable requirements.
 - h. Cleaning and Disinfection: Frequently touched surfaces, including bathroom facilities, shall be disinfected frequently during the event or gathering.
 - i. Sanitary Facilities: Toilets, handwashing facilities, and hand sanitizer shall be provided.
 - j. Symptomatic Individuals:
 - i. Organizers must take steps to ensure that employees, volunteers, and participants know the symptoms of COVID-19 and know not to attend the event or gathering if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - k. Employees and volunteers with COVID-19 symptoms (even mild symptoms) are prohibited from being present at the event or gathering.
 - l. Face Coverings: Organizers are required to ensure staff, volunteers and participants wear face coverings as required by Section 4 “Mandatory Use of Face Coverings” of the Health Board rule.
4. Exceptions.
- a. Limits on group size and the requirements in this Appendix do not apply to students in classrooms or at K-12 school-related activities. However, group size limits and requirements in this Appendix apply to spectators at K-12 school-related activities.
 - b. Limits on group size and the requirements in this Appendix do not apply to actions related to voting, including registering to vote, voting in person, or delivering a ballot, except that 6-foot distancing shall be maintained in all venues operating for these activities.
 - c. The Department may approve indoor sports plans with more than 50 intermingling people on the field of play, or outdoor sports plans with more than 100 intermingling people on the field of play if those plans comply with the recommendations and requirements of the Big Sky Conference and NCAA, including enhanced testing and COVID-19 safety protocols. If a sports plan is approved under this exception, limits on group size and the requirements of this Appendix apply to spectators at the event.
5. Written COVID-19 Event Plans and Contact with the Health Department
- a. If an indoor event or gathering will include more than 50 people or an outdoor event or gathering will include more than 100 people on a given day, the organizer must submit a written COVID-19 event plan at least 10 days before the event to the Environmental Health Division for review and approval. Organizers are encouraged to submit the plan as early as possible to give time for review and collaboration.
 - b. The Department will provide responses within 5 business days of receiving the plan.
 - c. Responses may include additional requirements or requests for more information.
 - d. The Health Officer can limit the number of people who may attend the event or gathering based on the submitted plan and venue. Organizers must ensure that Health Officer-imposed capacity limits are complied with during the event or gathering.
 - e. The event or gathering shall not take place without written approval from the Missoula City-County Health Department.
 - f. The Health Department shall make the final determination of whether the plan will ensure that the requirements for large events and gatherings can be achieved during the event or gathering.
 - g. The Health Department may revoke the approval for failure to adhere to the elements of the plan or failure to manage the event as approved.
 - h. The Health Department’s approval is based on review of the COVID-19 Event Plan’s compliance with local, state, and national authorities regarding best practices to mitigate the spread of



COVID-19. Approval of the COVID-19 Event Plan by the Health Department does not eliminate the risk of spread of COVID-19.

6. The Department may approve alternate strategies to the requirements listed herein, if the Department determines that those strategies will provide equivalent public health protection.
7. Organizers must follow the COVID-19 event plan during the event or gathering. If necessary, organizers shall make further adjustments during the event to ensure that requirements are met.
8. The event or gathering shall be modified, scaled back, postponed, or canceled if notified by the Health Officer that further restrictions for gatherings and events are necessary based on the Reopening Phase and the epidemiological situation at the time the event will take place.
9. The Health Officer may cancel an event or gathering if it does not adhere to the requirements of this rule and Appendix.
10. The venue may have additional requirements based on this Health Board rule. If requirements for the event or gathering and the venue conflict, the more restrictive requirement applies.