

WRPA Special Event Risk Assessment Framework – Adapted for Washington State

This risk assessment framework for mass gatherings has been adapted from Canadian Public Health guidance:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/mass-gatherings-risk-assessment.html>. It is based on advice from the World Health Organization’s mass gathering guidance ^{Footnote1}, the US Center for Disease

Control’s guidance ^{Footnote2} and the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening Guidance for Governors.

Event Participants / Population at Risk

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Characteristics	Risk considerations	Public health rationale	Weight	Risk mitigation strategies
Population attending the event	How many people are expected to attend the event?	The larger the number of participants, the greater the likelihood of a participant being a case of COVID-19. Large numbers of people may also create greater likelihood of crowding and close contact.	High importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set a capacity for the event that prevents crowding; select venues where capacity can be managed. Implement group and session limits that fit within the capacity of the site. use engineered barriers and administrative controls to manage the venue to preclude crowding.
	Are participants likely to cross County lines or likely to come a great distance?	If participants are traveling, they offer greater risk of spread beyond community borders.	High importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and register participants within one’s home community. Evaluate attendees and determine if focus of the event could put a specific population (ethnicity, age) at greater risk.
	Are participants likely to follow restrictions?	Young children may be at greater risk of amplifying the disease because they are generally less compliant with effective hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette practices and tend to socialize with others in a way that is likely to increase transmissions.	Medium importance	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide attendees with expectations, health screen and event protocols in advance of attending.
	Are all participants registered, with available contact information?	In the event of an outbreak associated with the event, contact information for the participants may be requested by public health for follow up and contact tracing.	Medium importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain contact information for participants.

Mass Gathering / Event Design

Event activities	Will participants be participating in activities that promote transmission?	Activities that could contribute to spread: greetings (handshakes, hugs, kisses), singing, cheering, close physical contact such as when participating in contact sports, sharing cups, dishes, utensils, etc.	High importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer virtual or live-streamed activities; • Provide packaged refreshments instead of a buffet. • Restrict contact activities through pre-ordering of food or vended items. • Promote bringing own items and reducing shared materials.
Crowding	Will participants be consistently within 6 feet of one another?	Respiratory droplets tend to fall within 6 feet of their source, so maintaining a 6-foot distance from others is a precaution to prevent spread.	High importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the venue or event set up/capacity to prevent crowding. • Consider sessions or designated areas at the venue that keep individuals separated from each other and in family units as much as possible (ie designated seating, tables, spaces)

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	Is the event being held indoors, outdoors or both?	Events held outdoors may be lower risk for transmission of respiratory illness than those held indoors due to higher ventilation. Footnote1	Medium importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider holding events outdoors or increasing ventilation by opening windows and doors (weather permitting).
	Will there be restricted points of entrance and exit that force people to be in close proximity and/or pass through high-touch areas (e.g. doors and elevators)?	Crowding and lines at bottlenecks can put participants at increased risk of exposure to respiratory droplets. High-touch surfaces can be contaminated and increase the risk of transmission.	Medium importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger arrivals and departures. Manage entrance/exit flow and times for the least amount of contact. Enhanced environmental cleaning and pay special attention to high touch surfaces.
Event duration	How long will participants be gathered at the event?	Longer events present more opportunities for transmission.	Medium importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shorten events or stagger attendance.
Event resources	Will hand hygiene stations be available throughout the venue?	Hand hygiene will be performed more frequently if alcohol-based hand sanitizer or hand washing sinks with soap and disposable towels are readily available.	Medium importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to hand hygiene stations.
	Can the event flow be configured so routes and common use areas (restrooms, vendors) be spaced?	Respiratory droplets tend to fall within 6 feet of their source.	Medium importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Configure the venue to promote a 6 foot distance at all areas where lines may likely cue or congregation would otherwise be likely.
	Will high-touch surfaces be cleaned and disinfected frequently during the event?	High-touch surfaces can be contaminated and increase the risk of transmission. SARS-CoV-2 may live on surfaces for a few hours or up to a few days. It can be killed with store-bought disinfectants. (link to environmental cleaning Fact sheet)	Medium importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase frequency of cleaning of the environment and pay special attention to high touch surfaces. Use a product that cleans and disinfects

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate staffing to maintain prevention strategies such as hand wash stations and regular cleaning and disinfection
	<p>Will there be screening to aid in early detection of someone who may be asymptomatic?</p>	<p>Although screening may not identify all participants with COVID-19, health professionals may be able to quickly identify and isolate symptomatic individuals from other participants. Health care professionals should be familiar with appropriate PPE and IPC measures.</p>	<p>Low importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider having screening for vendors and entertainers or production staff who may have contact attendees. • Ensure that prevention supplies and training for their use are available to staff/volunteers (e.g. personal protective equipment) • Encourage all guests to wear or bring cloth masks for when they are not able to be more than 6 feet from others (ie pick up food or go to restroom).