



Guidance for Outdoor Gatherings (Festivals and Events)

For Event Organizers:

- Know that gatherings (prolonged contact with others) are high-risk activities. Outdoor gatherings carry less risk than indoor gatherings.
- Consult current health guidance for best practices:
 - [WHO Interim Guidance for all Mass Gatherings](#)
 - [WHO Generic Mass Gathering Decision Tree](#)
 - [WEDC Guidance on Outdoor Gatherings](#)
- Implement strategies to keep all participants that are not from the same household at least 6 feet apart.
 - Change festival/event layout to minimize crowding and allow for adequate physical distancing
 - Move seating options to allow for the 6 feet of distancing between household groups
 - Increase the spacing between vendors to allow attendees and vendors to maintain a safe distance of no less than 6 feet
 - Provide physical distancing reminders via signs and other communication methods.
- Require that all sick individuals (staff, vendors, or attendees) stay home.
- Encourage all participants to wear masks or cloth face coverings.
- Encourage participants not to have physical contact (hugs, handshaking, etc.)
- Provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizers for both vendors and attendees.
- Frequently clean common touchpoints
- Prohibit food samples.
- Do not offer shared food options (i.e., a buffet, condiment stations, etc.)

For Festival/Event Attendees:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover any coughs and sneezes with your elbow.
- Wear a cloth face covering.
- Use hand sanitizer or handwashing stations frequently, if available.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from other attendees and vendors whenever possible.

For Vendors:

- Vendors should NOT attend festival/event if they feel sick or have come into contact with someone who feels or has felt sick.
- Ensure all forms of payment, including electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, tokens, or checks, can continue to be used at the market/event and for any alternative shopping methods.
- Have only one staff person handling payments. Although there is little evidence that money, tokens, or credit cards can transmit COVID-19, having one person take money and talk with customers helps limit the contact of the vendors to possible transmission.
- Minimize shopper time at vendors.
- Only allow staff at the booth to handle products.
- Provide single-use bags to customers.
- Sell pre-weighed packaged items to limit food handling and keep customers moving.
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces, including tables and tablecloths, before the market.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces regularly.
- Prepared foods must be pre-packaged to consume off-site.
- Limit customer contact with product; only allow vendors to touch product before sale.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from customers and other vendors whenever possible.
- Remind customers to maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance between each other while waiting for their turn and moving about the market.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water.
- Use hand sanitizer only on visibly clean hands; hand sanitizer is not effective when hands are visibly dirty.
- Use single-use gloves where needed; if clean, gloves may be worn up to four hours.
- Vendors who serve food should consider ways of serving while also practicing social distancing. Only allow staff at the booth to handle products.
- Customers should not be permitted to share items at food stations. For example, vendors should not designate a “condiment station” as these stations promote the sharing of food containers.
- Disposable utensils and napkins should be provided with each individual food order. Utensils and napkins should not be placed on a communal table.
- Use barrier tables (an extra 3-foot-wide table between the customer and the product) or put a check out table in front of the product; if customers can't see what is being sold, use a chalk or dry erase board to list products.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Employee/Volunteer Health:

- Pre-screen employees and event volunteers for symptoms prior to starting shift.
- Do NOT allow symptomatic people to work. Send them home if they arrive at work sick.
- Encourage staff to wear a mask or face covering.
- Provide the opportunity for staff to wash hands often (or provide hand sanitizer).
- Encourage all staff to cover coughs and sneeze using elbow (not hands).
- Practice social distancing by setting up workstations at least 6 feet from other staff.
- Discourage staff from hugging, shaking hands, etc. of clients.

Communication:

- Clearly and quickly inform your attendees/vendors and broader community of any festival/event policy changes.
- Post signage at entries/exits/restrooms informing attendees of ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - Cough or sneeze into your arm—do not cover mouth or face with your hands.
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Do not high-five or shake hands.
- Post signage at entries/exits/restrooms to encourage frequent handwashing.
- Post signage reminding individuals to practice physical distancing of 6 feet or more.
- Post signage and communicate through other networks that attendees/vendors should NOT attend festival/event if they feel sick or have come into contact with someone who feels or has felt sick.

Disinfection:

- Cleaning materials to sanitize commonly touched surfaces should be made available to festival staff and vendors.
- Restrooms should be cleaned regularly and stocked with soap.
- Portable restrooms should be cleaned and regularly stocked with hand sanitizer.

Revision date: 6/22/2020