



# YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT

Prevention Is Our Business

## COVID-19 Event Guidance

Yakima County is currently experiencing extremely high rates of COVID-19 activity. As a result, large gatherings and events can present a high risk of COVID-19 transmission for individuals and the community. The Yakima Health District is encouraging **all event organizers to postpone their events if at all possible**. If these events are not postponed, event organizers should seek every opportunity to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at their event.

**Everyone** should weigh their risk of exposure amidst a COVID-19 surge and reconsider attending indoor or outdoor gatherings as well as unnecessary travel. **Anyone who recently attended a gathering or venue or traveled, should get tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after attending or travelling.**

**Examples of Large Gatherings and Events:** Large gatherings bring together many people from multiple households in a private or public space. Large gatherings are often planned events with a large number of guests and invitations. They sometimes involve lodging, event staff, security, tickets, and long-distance travel. Large events might be events such as conferences, trade shows, sporting events, festivals, concerts, or large weddings and parties.

### Recommendations for Attendees

For individuals who choose to attend large events, consider these steps to keep yourself and those around you safe:

- Get vaccinated. Visit [www.YakimaVaccines.org](http://www.YakimaVaccines.org) to find a location near you.
- Consider not attending crowded events if you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Wear a facemask in all indoor settings, and in outdoor settings when physical distancing is not possible.
- **As of September 13 in Washington state, masks are required for everyone at outdoor events with 500 or more people, regardless of vaccination status.**
- Do not mix with others outside your household
- Do not attend any events or leave your home if you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 including:
  - Fever or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, Diarrhea.
- Wash your hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes

### Recommendations for Ongoing Events

For indoor and outdoor events that continue, we strongly recommend that organizers take the following precautions to minimize the spread of the virus:

- Screen guests for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms if possible



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- Post signage encouraging individuals to stay home if they have been exposed or have symptoms
- Enforce universal masking indoors, and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible.
- Masks are required for everyone at outdoor events with 500 or more people, regardless of vaccination status
- Enforce physical distancing of at least 6 feet between households
- Promote frequent hand washing and provide opportunities for guests to do so
- Move all events possible outdoors
- Significantly increase ventilation in all indoor spaces
- Limit capacity to indoor spaces

## Additional Considerations

Several factors can contribute to the likelihood of attendees getting and spreading COVID-19 at large events. In combination, the following factors will create higher or lower amounts of risk:

- **Number of COVID-19 cases in the community**—High or increasing levels of COVID-19 cases in the event location or the locations the attendees are coming from increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. Relevant data can often be found on our website or on CDC's [COVID Data Tracker County View](#).
- **Exposure during travel**—Airports, airplanes, bus stations, buses, train stations, trains, public transport, gas stations, and rest stops are all places where physical distancing may be challenging, and ventilation may be poor.
- **Setting of the event**—Indoor events, especially in places with poor ventilation, pose more risk than outdoor events.
- **Length of the event**—Events that last longer pose more risk than shorter events. Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more (over a 24-hour period) greatly increases the risk of becoming infected.
- **Number and crowding of people at the event** – Events with more people increase the likelihood of being exposed. The size of the event should be determined based on whether attendees from different households can stay at least [6 feet \(2 arm lengths\)](#) Physical distancing at events can reduce transmission risk—for example, blocking off seats or modifying room layouts.
- **Behavior of attendees during an event**— Events where people engage in behaviors such as interacting with others from outside their own household, singing, shouting, not maintaining physical distancing, or not wearing masks consistently and correctly, can increase risk.

For additional recommendations and considerations visit the [CDC's webpage on large events and gatherings](#).



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## Resources

### Free COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations Sites

Testing: [www.YakimaTesting.org](http://www.YakimaTesting.org)

Vaccinations: [www.YakimaVaccines.org](http://www.YakimaVaccines.org)

### Signage

Face Masks Required – [English](#), [Spanish](#)

Social Distancing – [English](#), [Spanish](#)

Hand Washing – [Multiple Languages](#)

### WA Notify

Download WA notify on your smartphone to get alerted if you may have been exposed to COVID-19. It is completely private and doesn't know who you are or track where you go. More information is available [here](#).

### Yakima Health District

509-575-4040