



# Interim Guidance for Events and Festivals (August 16, 2021)

**Guidelines for Events and Festivals:** Any scenario in which people gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. Organizers of events and festivals should create and implement a plan to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission. The guidance below will help organizers reduce the spread of COVID-19 among people attending the event and in their communities.

Event organizers should work directly with their Local Health Department to plan and prepare for large events and festivals. Without prevention strategies in place, these types of events have the potential to be significant source of spread of COVID-19, so it is important that organizers work closely with health officials and implement a range of measures.

To help support Local Health Departments with this work, CDC has developed Festival and Other Multi-Day Large Gatherings: [COVID-19 Planning Toolkit for Health Departments](#).

## Events and Festivals

NCDHHS strongly recommends all employers to direct employees and customers to information [Find Your Spot, Take Your Shot](#) and encourage them to get vaccinated. For guidance on vaccinations, please refer to our [Interim Guidance for Individuals Who Have Been Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#) and [Recommendations for Protecting Each Other](#).

### Event organizers should:

- Encourage all employees, volunteers, and patrons to get vaccinated prior to the event.
- Require employees to report vaccination status.
- Require employees who are not fully vaccinated, or do not disclose vaccine status, participate in screening/testing programs and wear a face covering and maintain physical distance from others when they are indoors, unless the individual states that an exception applies.
- Have all patrons who are not fully vaccinated wear a face covering and maintain physical distance from others when they are indoors, unless the individual states that an exception applies.
- Have all employees and patrons (regardless of vaccination status) wear face coverings when they are indoors and less than 6ft away from others, if they are in a county with high or substantial levels of transmissions as [defined by the CDC](#).
- Have a plan to isolate and remove employees and patrons volunteers who become ill during their shift.
- Ensure compliance with any local orders in place at the time of the event.

### Event organizers are recommended to:

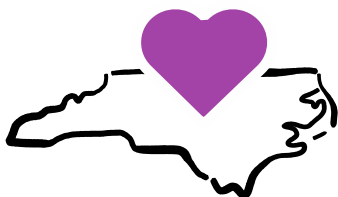
- Consider requiring attendees to provide proof of vaccination or provide negative test results from a specimen collected within 72 hours before entry for those without proof of vaccination.

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- Have vaccination opportunities onsite for event attendees.
- Consider canceling or postponing large gatherings that involve indoor settings in areas of high or substantial levels of transmission as defined by the CDC. If this is not possible, take steps to limit the risk of transmission such taking steps to increase airflow and ventilation, or moving events outdoors if feasible.
- Post signage saying all employees and visitors should wear a face covering, if they are in county of high or substantial levels of transmission as defined by the by the [CDC](#). English: [Option 1](#) | [Option 2](#), Spanish: [Option 1](#) | [Option 2](#)
- Post signage at the main entrance to encourage people to stay 6 feet apart if they are not fully vaccinated.
- Arrange tents, attractions, retail spaces, food service, and other areas so that sufficient social distancing can be maintained while in check-out lines, demonstration areas, and other activities.
- Develop reservation times to the extent possible to help limit wait times and lines and ensure occupancy limits are not exceeded. Consider utilizing self check-ins.
- Provide 6 feet floor markings in waiting areas, check-out lines, and other areas where people may congregate or wait.
- Follow the NCDHHS [Interim Guidance for Bars and Places that Serve Food](#) for restaurants or concession stands.
- Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer for staff and individuals. Require handwashing by staff immediately upon reporting to work, after contact with individuals, after performing cleaning and disinfecting activities, and frequently throughout the day.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance, and any other areas that have commonly touched surfaces, such as games and attractions.
- Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) and assure soap and hand drying materials are available at all sinks.
- Clean surfaces once a day, prioritizing high-touch surfaces. If there has been a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean and disinfect the space using an [EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2](#) (the virus that causes COVID-19).
- Implement a sick leave policy so that employees or volunteers who are ill do not come to work.
- Have a plan to isolate and remove employees or volunteers who become ill during their shift.

### Additional Resources

- NCDHHS: [North Carolina COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- CDC: [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- CDC: [Reopening Guidance](#)
- EPA: [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- FDA: [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- HHS/OSHA: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)



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**Staying apart brings us together.  
Protect your family and neighbors.**

**Learn more at [nc.gov/covid19](https://nc.gov/covid19).**



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