



COVID-19 — Gatherings

Last Updated – September 17, 2021

Information about COVID-19 continues to evolve and we use [provincial gathering guidelines](#) to inform our decisions. If you are unsure about a gathering it is good practice to contact your local public health unit. Ontario is in Step 3 of the Roadmap to Reopen.

Vulnerable individuals or those with chronic conditions are to determine the appropriateness of attending a gathering.

Remember that leaders and organizers are legally responsible for preventing or reducing the risk of infection among staff, volunteers, members, and visitors. This means the leader of the group is accountable and must ensure everyone present always adheres to the protocols below.

Individuals must not attend any gatherings if they have travelled outside Canada within the past two weeks and been told to quarantine; are living with/have been exposed to anyone with symptoms of, or who tested positive for, COVID-19; or are sick or not feeling well.

This form must be completed when planning an indoor Meeting House gathering:

https://meeting.formstack.com/forms/planning_for_gathering

Step 3 - Organized public events and social gatherings

- Indoor organized public events and social gatherings are permitted up to 25 people.
- Individuals who live alone may consider gathering exclusively with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation.
- An indoor organized public event or social gathering can be larger only if it includes:
 - members of the same household (the people you live with)
 - one other person who lives alone
 - a caregiver
- Physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained with people outside your household, except for your caregiver or one person outside your household who lives alone.
- You must wear a mask or face covering if you are within 2 metres of another person who is not part of your household, [with limited exceptions](#).
- Outdoor organized public events and social gatherings are permitted up to 100 people.

Step 3 - Weddings, funerals and other religious services, rites, or ceremonies

Please note that Public Health considers our Home Church gatherings as organized public events and social gatherings (see above section for guidelines)

- All people attending the gathering must comply with public health guidance on physical distancing
- People must wear masks or face coverings when
 - they are in an indoor area at a business or facility that is open to the public, with limited exceptions
 - they are within 2 metres of another person who is not part of their household, with limited exceptions
- Indoor and outdoor capacity limited to permit physical distancing of 2 metres

Planning the Event

- Sanitize any common surfaces prior to and after the event.
- Check that the space being used can always accommodate people staying six feet apart.

Attendance

- Keep a record of who attends the event in case someone is later diagnosed with COVID-19 and contact tracing needs to occur.
- Be sure to record each person's first and last name, email address, and phone number.

At the Event

- Remind participants that if any of them is diagnosed with COVID-19 within two weeks of the gathering, they must let the organizer know.
- As necessary, wash hands frequently with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Singing is not allowed at events as it is a proven way the virus is transmitted.
- No shared food or drink.