

# 2021 Summer Outdoor Celebrations and Events

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HEALTH  
Department

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## Recommendations for 2021 Summer Outdoor Celebrations and Events

*These recommendations for infection control measures are based on the latest Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Epidemic Order – Gatherings and Face Mask Order issued on June 1, 2021 and supported by Allegan County Health Department (ACHD).*

- For questions, please contact ACHD Liaison, Randy Rapp at 269-673-5411, [rrapp@allegancounty.org](mailto:rrapp@allegancounty.org).

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### New Updates

All individuals are able to gather outdoors without wearing face masks due to the lower risk of COVID-19 transmission. MDHHS and ACHD recommend that individuals who are not yet fully vaccinated continue to wear face masks outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained at crowded events.

### Recommended Mitigation Measures for Large Outdoor Events

#### 1. Infection Control Plans

Large event organizers can develop a plan to mitigate COVID-19 transmission. This plan should:

- Demonstrate that the event is designed such that groups of patrons can maintain six feet of distance from other groups at all times;
- Include entry and exit protocols that maintain physical distancing to minimize congregation;
- Cooperate with local public health officials during any case investigation and contact tracing;

- Include protocols for social distancing;
  - Post on a public website; and
  - Provide to the local health department at least seven days before scheduled events. (This submission does not constitute or require approval from the local health department, but rather is for awareness only.)

## 2. Physical Distancing Protocols

Organizers for outdoor events should develop thorough plans for preventing close congregation of attendees, which may include:

- Individuals should enter at designated sections of the venue during designated times to avoid mass congregation. MDHHS recommends scheduling a limited number of individuals to enter in 10-minute increments.
- Individuals should follow a staggered exit schedule as well.
- Designate one-way stairwells or paths to minimize congestion.
- Establish capacity limits for restrooms and other enclosed spaces, such as gift shops.
- Institute distancing markers six feet apart for queues.

## 3. Self-Screening Practices

Individuals, including employees and volunteers, should conduct self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms and close contact before attending an outdoor event.

- The free MI Symptoms tool can be used to complete self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms. Individuals, including employees, should not attend any types of gatherings while symptomatic (even with a negative COVID-19 test or fully vaccinated against COVID-19).

## 4. Comprehensive Communications Strategy

Large event organizers should communicate public health guidance clearly and effectively to attendees and employees:

- Post information about the symptoms of COVID-19 in order to allow attendees and employees to self-assess whether they have any symptoms.
- Display signs regarding COVID-19 mitigation measures throughout the venue.
- Encourage all individuals who attend large gatherings who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to seek a COVID-19 test 1-3 days before the event.
- Provide a list of all nearby sites to receive a COVID-19 test to all individuals who attend large outdoor events.

## 5. Event Hygiene Procedures

Venues should establish a schedule for increased, routine cleaning to disinfect common spaces.

- Venues should use FDA-approved cleaning supplies that are listed here.
- Public event spaces should establish numerous hand sanitizing stations.
- MDHHS recommends utilizing contactless/no-touch practices whenever possible, including:
  - Ticketed entry

- Concessions and other purchases
- Waste/recycling disposal

## 6. Wear Face Masks in Crowded Spaces

MDHHS strongly recommends that individuals continue to wear face masks while in crowded spaces outdoors, especially individuals who are not yet fully vaccinated.

- While gathering in outdoor settings lowers the risk of COVID-19 transmission because of fresh airflow, it is still possible to breathe in enough of the respiratory droplets containing the virus that causes COVID-19 to become infected when gathered close to others unmasked.

## 7. Participant Cohorts

Cohorting or pods should be implemented to maintain small groups while gathering at outdoor events.

- Cohorts should consist of up to six people.
- For outdoor events that have assigned seating, individuals should purchase tickets in advance with the other members of their cohort and remain at least six feet from other cohorts throughout the duration of the event.