

COVID-19

Guidance for organisers of sporting, community and cultural events

An event is an organised meeting that brings together large numbers of people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, theatre, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

An event does not include normal operations at airports, ports or other spaces where large numbers of people will be in transit. **It also does not include typical office environments, retail or food shops** where large numbers of people are present, but where it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for an extended period of time.

We are not recommending the closure of schools, public buildings or workplaces at this time, as doing so would adversely impact island infrastructure and ability to respond to the rapidly evolving situation.

Organisers who will be staging sporting, community and cultural events can help keep our community safe:

- Strongly discourage anyone who is sick with fever or respiratory symptoms from attending.
- Encourage those who are at higher risk for serious illness not to attend.
- Find ways to give people more physical space so that they aren't in close contact as much as possible.
- Display advice and ensure there are adequate supplies of hand hygiene materials and urge attendees to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used.
- Advise attendees to:
 - Avoid close contact with other people.
 - Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue - if available - or into their elbow.
- Clean surfaces with disinfecting wipes and other standard cleaners before, during, and after the event.

The following table sets out a series of risk considerations that you should review when deciding whether to postpone or continue with an event.

Risk considerations when deciding whether to postpone an event

Characteristics	Risk considerations	Implications – why is this relevant?	How important?
Population attending the event	Are persons attending the event coming from regions where there is community transmission of COVID-19 or from countries with unreliable surveillance of the disease?	If participants are expected from affected areas, there is a higher risk of importation of COVID-19 is higher. These travelers may be self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days from their arrival in Guernsey based on Public Health advice.	High importance
	Are persons attending the event members of a professional group that might have increased risk of infection?	Healthcare workers may have greater risk of infection due to the possibility of occupational exposure.	Medium importance
	Are persons attending the event from demographic groups at greater risk of severe disease, such as older adults?	Older adults, people with immune compromising conditions and chronic diseases appear to be at greater risk of severe disease, so consideration should be given to protecting them from possible exposure to COVID-19 cases. Communication about risk to these attendees should be emphasized.	High importance
	Are persons attending the event at greater risk of spreading the disease, such as young children?	Young children may be at greater risk of amplifying disease transmission so consideration should be given to protecting them from possible exposure to COVID-19 cases. Reducing transmission among children indirectly protects the population and may	Medium importance

		therefore reduce the demand on the health care system	
	Are persons attending the event members of critical infrastructure roles, such as healthcare workers?	If transmission occurs at the event, participants may be subject to self-isolation or may become cases themselves. This could lead to critical infrastructure disruptions/absenteeism if the participants at the event represent critical services and industries. If any of the participants attending are considered to be a “single point of failure” by their employer, consideration should be taken as to how this would affect business continuity.	High importance
	How many people are expected to attend the event?	The larger the number of participants, the greater the likelihood of a participant being a case of COVID-19. Large numbers of people may also create greater likelihood of crowding and close personal contact increasing the risk of transmission.	High importance
Event activities	Will participants be participating in activities that promote transmission?	Activities that could contribute to spread: singing, cheering, close physical contact such as when participating in contact sports, sharing food or beverages, etc.	High importance
Crowding	Is the event being held indoors, outdoors or both?	Events held outdoors (i.e. higher ventilation) are likely to be lower risk than those held indoors.	Medium importance

	Will participants be consistently within 2 meters of one another?	Respiratory droplets tend to fall within 2 meters of their source, so maintaining a 2 metre distance from others is a precaution to prevent spread.	Medium importance
Event duration	How long will participants be gathered at the event?	Longer events present more opportunities for transmission. Events at which attendees share overnight accommodation could also increase transmission risk.	Medium importance
Event resources	Will hand hygiene stations be available throughout the venue?	Hand hygiene will be performed more frequently if hand washing sinks with soap and disposable towels or alcohol-based hand rubs are readily available.	Medium importance
	Can event venue(s) be configured to maintain a 2 metre distance between participants?	Respiratory droplets tend to fall within 2 meters of their source, so maintaining a 2 metre distance from others is a precaution to prevent spread.	Medium importance
	Will there be health professionals or first responders at the event to screen and/or attend to someone who may be symptomatic?	Although attendees with COVID-19 may not necessarily be identified through screening, this measure may identify some people with obvious symptoms which could help prevent spread. Should someone become ill while attending the event, a health care professional should be familiar with appropriate PPE and IPC measures	Low importance