

COVID-19 Guidance for Special Events and Gatherings

Background

COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces.

The Sacramento County Public Health Officer in alignment with the State Health Officer Order, has prohibited gatherings of all kinds, with limited exceptions for worship services, cultural ceremonies like marriage ceremonies and funerals, and protest activities.

Events and Gatherings

A “gathering” is an event, assembly, meeting, or convening that brings together multiple people from separate households in a single space, indoors or outdoors, at the same time and in a coordinated fashion—like a conference, festival, fair, party, or performance.

Events such as marriage ceremonies, cultural ceremonies, funerals and worship services have specific guidance that applies to them and can be found at EMD.SacCounty.net

Indoor gatherings are prohibited at this time. Some outdoor gatherings are allowed as long as everyone attending the outdoor gathering strictly complies with all the requirements set forth below to reduce risk and keep everyone who attends as safe as possible.

The criteria for allowing an event includes, but is not limited to:

- The event is located outside
- The event is designed for easy social distancing of households (6 ft)
- The event does not encourage or lead to mingling and interaction of people from separate households.
- The location has support facilities (restrooms and handwashing) that can be kept stocked and sanitized.
- The event does not offer or encourage alcohol consumption.
- The event does not lead to lines or crowding of entrance or exit areas.
- The event lasts for a limited amount of time and doesn't encourage people to stay longer than the designated time.
- The event does not encourage group to cheer, laugh, or sing.
- The event is arranged to ensure social distancing between any staff and attendees

Examples of Events that are allowed

Drive in movie theater, drive-in events - Must follow [Sacramento County Drive-in Event Guidance](#)

Outdoor yoga in the park – *May be held with 6 ft. social distancing of mats*

Outdoor Art Galleries - *May operate with 6 ft. social distancing*

Recreational Classes: Art, Gardening, etc. – *May operate if held outside with 6 ft. + social distancing*

Events that are not allowed in person (virtual ok)

Movie nights in the park, Comedy in the park

Outdoor performances/plays

Indoor art galleries

Gatherings at event centers, lodges, social clubs, comedy clubs etc.

Conventions, Conferences, Product Demonstrations

Class reunions

Career Fairs

Receptions

Requirements for events that are allowed

Face Coverings

Everyone must wear a face covering at all times.

Exceptions include children under 2 years old, people for whom face coverings are medically inadvisable, or people who are hearing impaired. Face coverings can also be removed to meet urgent medical needs (for example, to use an asthma inhaler, consume items needed to manage diabetes, or to take medication).

[California Department of Public Health - Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

Signs are required at all entrances and in prominent locations within the event area.

Signs should include instructions on ***social distancing*** and ***face covering requirements***.

Signs should also be posted and information communicated requesting that people do not attend if they feel sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Restrooms

Events must be held entirely outside, except that attendees may go inside to use restrooms as long as the restrooms are frequently sanitized.

There must be enough restrooms available that lines do not form for restrooms.

Encourage Social Distancing and Handwashing

- Request that household members must stay at least 6 feet away from people in other households at all times.
- If seating is available, it must be arranged to provide at least 6 feet of distance (in all directions—front-to-back and side-to-side) between different households.
- Ensure that handwashing facilities are stocked with soap, paper towels and hand sanitizer.
- Encourage frequently handwashing and/or the use of hand sanitizer.
- Eliminate the use of shared items. People must bring their own picnic blankets, mats, books, and similar items. Any item that is normally passed from hand-to-hand, like a donation box, must be put in a stationary place for people to place their donations into one-by-one.

Singing and Music

- Singing is allowed outside only and with a face covering.
- Any shared microphones or podiums should be sanitized after each use. Instrumental music is allowed as long as the musicians maintain at least 6-foot social distancing.

Event Venues

- Event Halls may not host indoor gatherings.
- Outdoor event venues may only host marriage ceremonies and cultural ceremonies.
- Attendees may only go indoors to use restroom facilities.
- Receptions are not permitted.

Questions

Thank you for your efforts in keeping Sacramento residents and visitors safe! If you have questions please call EMD at (916) 875-8440.

Document was prepared by the Sacramento County [Environmental Management Department](#)

Revision History

9/1/2020: Initial version; PHO 7/14/2020