

Guidance for Community Events

March 12, 2020

The emergence of Novel Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) has led institutions across the country to examine whether to continue with planned events with large crowds. This guidance is meant to provide New Hampshire school officials with the best possible information to make informed decisions about large community events.

EVALUATE RISK

New Hampshire is currently a low-risk area for the spread of COVID-19. Inviting people from around **New Hampshire** for an event does not in itself increase the risk of exposure.

However, if your event would draw attendees from out of state or across the country, including from high-risk areas, you should consider cancelling the event. This may mean, for example, that if you are having a school concert that will include mostly local New Hampshire attendees, that you might discourage extended family and friends from out of state from attending. One way to do that is to either video or live stream the event.

PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

Safety should include the consideration of who might attend an event. **Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions** like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness and we might want to discourage their attendance. One way to do that is to let community know that you will video or live stream the event so that they also might participate.

PLAN

Have extra supplies on hand for event staff and participants, including sinks with soap, hand sanitizers, tissues, and disposable facemasks (for persons who start having symptoms).

Discourage people who are sick from attending events.

Communicate to those who might attend to exercise everyday preventative actions:

- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.

Review your existing emergency operations plan.

COMMUNICATE

Proactively reach out to your communities to let them know that you have evaluated risks, followed CDC and HHS practice guidelines and that the safety of the community is of utmost importance.

Set up lines of communications with your local community to share new information about COVID-19 and your event.

This is a quickly changing situation. Stay up to date on COVID-19 in New Hampshire by regularly checking www.nh.gov/covid19

People who are at higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible. [Find more information here.](#)

For further guidance on large community events, please see the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).



New Hampshire

Department of Education