

COVID-19 Event and Gathering Force Health Protection Recommendations

This document outlines general force health protection recommendations to promote healthy behaviors and maintain a healthy environment to reduce the risk of transmission of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) when large events and gatherings are held. This guidance is not all-inclusive and should be tailored to the event being held, as well as any Host Nation guidance that may be applicable.

Enforcement of Gathering Restrictions

- Organizers will implement an event registration or method for attendees to sign-up to attend.
 - Individuals should not be permitted to participate without advance reservation. Reservations ensure gathering limitations do not exceed prescribed limit
- Maintain attendance logs for at minimum 14 days after the event to aid case investigations conducted by the Installation Public Health Office if an individual tests positive for COVID-19 after the event.
- Offer online/virtual attendance options (i.e., Zoom, Microsoft Teams).
- Display a set of clearly visible rules that outline conditions of entry into the event or gathering.
- Announce any COVID-19 restrictions or protocol at the beginning of the event.

Physical Distancing

- Rearrange seating areas, tables, chairs, benches, etc., and/or remove seats to allow for a minimum of six feet of physical distance between individuals or households.
- Limit the number of individuals at a single table to a household unit or those who already work together within a unit or section.
- Do not allow lines or crowds to form near high utilized spaces (i.e., restrooms, entrances, exits) without maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others. It may be helpful to post signs or markers to help attendees maintain the appropriate social distance of at least 6 feet.

Required Use of Face Coverings

- Venues should post signs and information clarifying what mask requirements apply.
- On-base events: Follow current DoD guidance for mask wear on DoD Installations.
 - Vaccinated: Fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask in indoor or outdoor settings.
 - Events should follow Installation and Host Nation guidance.
 - Events may opt to have fully vaccinated people wear masks if it is occurring in a location with substantial or high transmission, or other attendees are either immunocompromised or unvaccinated.
 - Unvaccinated or refuse to provide vaccination information: Masks required, regardless if the event is indoors or outdoors.
- Off-base events: Events should follow Host Nation guidance for mask requirements, to include who exemptions apply to and type of mask that must be worn.

Individual Control Measures and Screenings

- As needed, conduct temperature screen and/or symptom checks of attendees
- Attendees or volunteers should not attend or participate if any of the following apply:
 - Individuals who are ill.
 - Individuals who are pending the results of a COVID-19 test.
 - Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the preceding 10 days.
 - Individuals who are on quarantine due to being identified as a close contact to an individual confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - Individuals who are on quarantine due to post-travel requirements

Verification of Vaccination Status or Testing

- The meeting organization must outline how proof of vaccination status or negative test results will be obtained for each attendee.
 - All attendees must provide proof of vaccination.
 - Attendees who are not fully vaccinated or decline to provide information regarding their status must provide a negative test no earlier than 72 hours prior to the event, and at least weekly if the event is greater than one week in duration.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Provide hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available for handwashing.
- Clean common touch surfaces at the venue before and after the event.
- Supplies should be made available for routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces in between use, as applicable to the event.

Food and Drink

While there is no evidence that COVID-19 spreads by food, individuals congregating around food service areas or while dining pose a risk.

- Use disposable food service items including utensils and dishes.
- Opt to have individuals serve food versus self-serve options.
- Hand sanitizer should be available prior to perform hand hygiene where food service occurs.
- Fundraiser requests involving food must follow normal protocols outlined by Installation Force Support Squadron.
- All food events are subject to inspection IAW AFI 48-116, *Food Safety Program*.

References

- DoD Force Health Protection Guidance Supplement 17, revision 1 - DoD Guidance for the Use of Masks, Personal Protective Equipment and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions during the Coronavirus Diseases 2019 Pandemic (17 March 2021)
- Deputy Secretary of Defense “Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities” (28 July 2021)
- Deputy Secretary of Defense “Updated Coronavirus Diseases 2019 Guidance Related to Travel and Meetings” (24 September 2021)
- USEUCOM Implementation Guidance Related to Travel and Meetings (22 October 2021)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Guidance for Organizing Large Events and Gatherings” <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>