



The following pages are recommended tools and resources that we have provided to assist you in planning and holding a safe and secure event.

These are only recommendations.

Thank you,

Nathan Mendenhall

Hays County Fire Marshal
Office of Emergency Services

Events and Gatherings: General Readiness Assessment

Use the following tool when making initial preparation before the event to promote healthy behaviors, environments, and operations that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Policies and Procedures	Facilities and Supplies	Education and Training
Point Person(s): _____ Review relevant local/state regulatory agency policies and orders, such as those related to events, gatherings, and travel. Consult local health officials about recommended COVID-19 testing policies for events and gatherings. Consult with the venue operators about their COVID-19 policies prior to the event. Develop a plan to conduct daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of staff and attendees. Develop a plan to allow for social distancing before, during, and after the event (e.g., limiting attendance and modifying layouts before the event, providing physical barriers during the event and staggering exit times after the event). Consider limiting event attendance to staff and attendees who live in the local area (e.g., community, city, town, or county) to reduce risk of spreading the virus from areas with higher levels of COVID-19. If attendance is open to staff and guests from other communities, inform attendees in advance so they can make an informed decision whether they will participate. Develop online attendance options in addition to in-person attendance to help reduce the number of attendees at the event. Develop a flexible refund policy. Designate a staff person responsible for responding to all COVID-19 related situations and concerns. Make sure other staff and attendees know how to contact this person.	Point Person(s): _____ Obtain supplies including: - soap - water for hand hygiene - hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) - paper towels - tissues - cleaning supplies - EPA approved disinfection supplies - cloth face coverings - no-touch/foot pedal trash cans - no-touch soap/hand sanitizer dispensers - gloves - disposable food service items - other: _____ Develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection. Close shared spaces (e.g., a lounge); otherwise develop a plan for staggered use of these spaces and cleaning and disinfecting. Develop a plan for the safe and correct use and storage of cleaners and disinfectants, including storing products away from children.	Point Person(s): _____ Create a plan for educating staff and attendees to ensure they know that they should not come to the event if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. Make sure they know that if they get sick at the event, they should notify event administrators (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) right away. Develop protocols to educate staff on flexible work and leave policies that encourage sick staff members to stay at home without fear of job loss or other consequences. Create a plan for educating staff and attendees about who should wear cloth face coverings, and communicate the importance of wearing them to both staff and attendees. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on. • children younger than 2 years old • anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious • anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without help Create information on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings and distribute to staff members. Create and implement training to be delivered to staff on all COVID-19 safety protocols: • Conduct training virtually or maintain social distancing during training Other: _____

Events and Gatherings: General Readiness Assessment

(continued from previous page)

Policies and Procedures	Facilities and Supplies
Develop policies that encourage sick staff members to stay at home without fear of job loss or other consequences. Protect their privacy, particularly for those with underlying medical conditions and at higher risk for severe illness). Develop options for staff at higher risk for severe illness (e.g., telework or virtual learning opportunities). Develop flexible sick leave policies and practices. Develop options for flexible worksites (e.g., telework) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts). Develop a plan to monitor absenteeism of staff, cross-train staff, and create a roster of trained back-up staff. Develop a transportation and parking plan to limit contact between attendees (e.g., staggered arrival and ride share drop-off times or locations). Develop a plan for if someone gets sick or shows symptoms of COVID-19 while at the event or venue. (See <i>Preparing for If Someone Gets Sick</i>). Develop a plan to safely serve food, beverages, and merchandise, if applicable. Refer to CDC's COVID-19 considerations for restaurants and bars for guidance. Other: _____	Make sure ventilation systems operate properly. If using fans, make sure they do not blow from one person onto another, and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible (e.g., opening windows and doors). Make sure water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown. Develop a plan to use touchless payment options . Develop a plan to use multiple entrances and exits to discourage crowding in waiting areas. Develop a plan to change seating layout or availability of seating, or block off rows or sections so that attendees can stay at least 6 feet apart. Create and install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart. Create physical guides, such as tape on floors and signs on walls, to promote social distancing. Develop a plan to eliminate lines or queues if possible or encourage people to stay at least 6 feet apart by providing signs or other visual cues such as tape or chalk marks in congregation areas such as entrances, exits, and restrooms if a 6-foot distance between attendees is hard to ensure. Develop a plan to reconfigure parking lots, limit congregation points and ensure proper separation (e.g., closing every other space). Purchase adequate supplies to minimize sharing of materials, or limit use to one per family or group of individuals at a time, and clean and disinfect between use. Ensure organizations that share the venue facilities such as food vendors are aware of and follow all safety protocols. Other: _____

Events and Gatherings: General Readiness Assessment

Use the following tool when making initial preparations before the event to promote healthy behaviors, environments, and operations that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Communication and Messaging

Point Person(s): _____

Develop a plan to create and disseminate clear messages (e.g., [videos](#)) about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 to staff and attendees before the event:

websites

email

[social media accounts](#)

other _____

Create and post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures such as wearing cloth face coverings and that describe how to stop the spread of germs in:

entrances

dining areas

restrooms

other _____

Develop a plan to communicate with partner organizations such as vendors to ensure that they are aware of all of your COVID-19 safety protocols.

Develop [signs and communication](#) (e.g., [videos](#)) in alternative formats (e.g., large print posters, braille, American Sign Language) for people who have limited vision, or are blind, or people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Consider posting signs for the national distress hotline: 1-800-985-5990, text TalkWithUs to 66746; The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233, TTY 1-800-787-3224; and The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Develop regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 to be broadcast on public address systems.

Create a plan for communicating with staff and attendees about whom to contact if they have questions and concerns related to COVID-19.

Other: _____

Action Planning—Notes and Next Steps

Point Person(s): _____

Use this space to note any required resources and next steps, or potential barriers and opportunities:

Events and Gatherings: Preparing for if Someone Gets Sick

Use the following tool when making initial preparations before the event for if someone gets sick with COVID-19.

Before Someone Gets Sick	When Someone Gets Sick	After Someone Gets Sick
Point Person(s): _____ Create a plan to educate staff and attendees to ensure they know that they should not come to the event If they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Make sure they know that if they get sick at the event, they should notify event planners (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) right away. Develop systems to: - Allow staff and attendees to self-report to administrators if they have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days. - Notify individuals of closures and restrictions put in place to limit COVID-19 exposure. Develop staff policies for returning to the venue after COVID-19 illness. CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation and quarantine can inform these policies. Identify and create an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive but does not have symptoms. Develop procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. Develop a plan to support staff and attendees experiencing trauma or challenges related to COVID-19. Other: _____	Point Person(s): _____ Immediately separate individual(s) with COVID-19 symptoms from others. Safely transport sick individuals home or to a healthcare facility, depending on how severe their symptoms are. If calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19. Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting them (for outdoor areas, this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area, if applicable). Advise sick individuals that they should not return to the venue until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation. Other: _____	Point Person(s): _____ In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, notify local health officials, staff, and families of a person with COVID-19 while maintaining the individual's confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Notify individuals of closures and restrictions put in place due to COVID-19 exposure. Advise those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home, self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. Close off the area and wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Make sure of safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing them securely away from children. Other: _____

Notes and Next Steps:

Events and Gatherings: Daily/Weekly Readiness Assessment

Use the following tool the day of and during the event to monitor and maintain healthy behaviors, environments, and operations that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Policies and Procedures	Facilities and Supplies	Education and Training
Point Person(s): _____ Maintain regular contact with local health authorities to ensure adherence to their most up-to-date guidance. Ensure an on-duty staff person is assigned to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Monitor absenteeism of staff. Ensure the roster of trained back-up staff is updated in case a staff member is sick. Conduct daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of staff and attendees, if feasible. Ensure staff are using flexible worksites (e.g., telework) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts) when needed. Ensure staff and attendees have received communication about all safety protocols and COVID-19 related policies. Ensure that attendees have received communication about refund policies if they get sick and cannot attend the event. Ensure that all protocols developed, to limit contact between staff and attendees and ensure that attendees can maintain 6 feet of distance, are implemented. Ensure limited opportunities for both staff and attendees to share objects. Ensure the broadcasting of regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on public address systems throughout the event.	Point Person(s): _____ Monitor and restock supplies including: - soap - water for hand hygiene - hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) - paper towels - tissues - cleaning supplies - EPA-approved disinfection supplies - cloth face coverings - no-touch/foot pedal trash cans - no-touch soap/hand sanitizer dispensers - disposable food service items - gloves - other: _____ Monitor adherence to the schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection of: - frequently touched surfaces - communal spaces - shared objects - other: _____ Monitor availability and use of gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash.	Point Person(s): _____ Ensure that staff and attendees have received communication that they should not come to the event if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Make sure they know that if they get sick at an event, they should notify event administrators (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact). Ensure that staff have reviewed the policies on flexible work and leave that encourage sick staff members to stay at home without fear of job loss or other consequences. Reinforce and monitor handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available. Encourage staff to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing and then wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Ensure that communication about the proper use of cloth face coverings is easily seen or heard by staff and attendees. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on. • children younger than 2 years old • anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious . • anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without help

Events and Gatherings: Daily/Weekly Readiness Assessment

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Policies and Procedures	Facilities and Supplies	Education and Training
Review the most recent local/state regulatory agency policies for updates. Other: _____	Monitor safe and correct use and storage of cleaners and disinfectants, including storing products securely away from children. Ensure adequate ventilation when cleaners and disinfectants are used to prevent staff and attendees from inhaling toxic fumes. Monitor ventilation systems to determine if they are operating properly. Ensure that touchless payment options are operational. Ensure all physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart are installed correctly. Ensure that all physical guides, such as tape on floors and signs on walls, to promote social distancing are easily seen. Ensure that all changes to the venue such as seating layout, entrances and exits are well marked and easy to understand. Ensure the staggered use and cleaning and disinfecting between uses of shared spaces. Ensure the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible throughout the event (e.g., opening windows and doors). Ensure that adequate supplies are available to minimize sharing of high-touch materials and monitor cleaning and disinfecting between use. Other: _____	Ensure that information on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings is available. Ensure that all staff present have been trained on relevant COVID-19 safety protocols. Other: _____

Events and Gatherings: Daily/Weekly Readiness Assessment

Use the following tool the day of and during the event to monitor and maintain healthy behaviors, environments, and operations that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Communication and Messaging

Point Person(s): _____

Ensure that [signs](#) are placed in highly visible locations that [promote everyday protective measures](#) such as wearing cloth face coverings and that describe how to [stop the spread](#) of germs at:

entrances

dining areas

restrooms

other _____

Continue to provide or update clear messages (e.g., [videos](#)) about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families on:

websites

email

[social media accounts](#)

other _____

Ensure that partner organizations such as vendors have received communication about all COVID-19 safety protocols.

Ensure [signs and communication](#) (e.g., [videos](#)) in alternative formats (e.g., large print posters, braille, American Sign Language) for people who have limited vision or are blind or people who are deaf or hard of hearing are readily available.

Make sure all staff and attendees have been informed which staff person is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and how to contact them.

Encourage staff to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories about COVID-19, including social media if they are feeling overwhelmed or distressed throughout the event.

Promote healthy eating, exercising, getting sleep, and finding time to unwind among staff to help them cope with stress.

Encourage staff to talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling.

Other: _____

Action Planning—Notes and Next Steps

Point Person(s): _____

Use this space to note any required resources and next steps, or potential barriers and opportunities:

Events and Gatherings: End-of-Day Actions and Other Resources

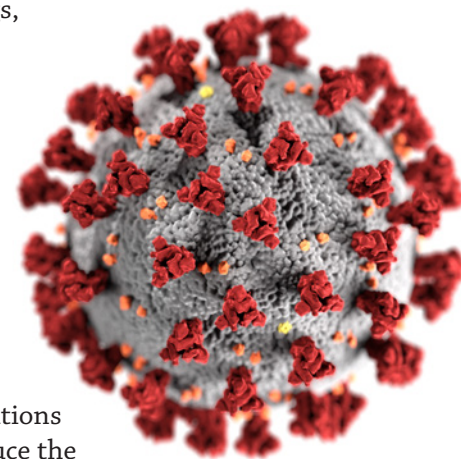
Use the following resources to conduct end-of-day actions and address any additional considerations specific to your program or community context.

End-of-Day Actions	Other Considerations	Other Resources
Point Person(s): _____ Meet with the emergency operations coordinator and/or planning team(s) to discuss and note lessons learned. Determine ways to improve planning and implementation processes if the event will happen again. Inform staff and attendees of any changes made. Update your plans regularly according to the state and local situation and orders. Other: _____	Point Person(s): _____ Use this space to note any other considerations unique to your program or community context.	Point Person(s): _____ • Latest COVID-19 Information • Cleaning and Disinfection • Guidance for Businesses and Employers • Guidance for Schools and Childcare Centers • Guidance for Park Administrators • Shared and Congregate Housing • COVID-19 Prevention • Handwashing Information • Face Coverings • Social Distancing • COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions • People at Higher Risk • People with Disabilities • Coping with Stress • HIPAA and COVID-19 • CDC communication resources • Community Mitigation

Events and Gatherings: Readiness and Planning Tool

CDC Readiness and Planning Tool to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 at Events and Gatherings

As some communities in the United States begin to plan and hold events and gatherings, CDC offers the following readiness and planning tool to share ways event planners and administrators can help protect staff, volunteers, and attendees and slow the spread of COVID-19. This tool aligns with the [Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#) and includes the following:



- General Readiness Assessment
- Preparing for If Someone Gets Sick
- Daily/Weekly Readiness Assessment
- End-of-Day Actions and Resources

Event planners and administrators may review and complete the general readiness assessment while working with state and local officials as part of making initial preparations before the event to promote healthy behaviors, environments, and operations that reduce the spread of COVID-19. The daily/weekly readiness assessment may be used to monitor and maintain recommended practices. Planning tools are also included to help event planners and administrators prepare for if someone gets sick, plan after-event actions, and address the specific needs and circumstances of the local community. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs and context of each community.

Guiding Principles to Keep in Mind

A gathering refers to a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating, or a large number of people in attendance. Examples of gatherings, small or large, include a community event, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, or sporting event.

- The more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the individual's potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and then spreading COVID-19 to others.
- The [higher the level of community transmission](#) in the area where the gathering is held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading at the gathering.
- The size (attendance) of an event or gathering should be determined based on state, local, territorial, or tribal safety laws and regulations.

The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

- **Lowest risk:** Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.
- **More risk:** Smaller outdoor gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., a community, town, city, or county).
- **Higher risk:** Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are organized/laid out to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, some wear cloth face coverings and come from outside the local area (e.g., a community, town, city, or county).
- **Highest risk:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, do not wear cloth face coverings and travel from outside the local area.



cdc.gov/coronavirus



**Homeland
Security**

Mass Gatherings

Security Awareness for Soft Targets and Crowded Places

A mass gathering occurs when a large number of people come together in a particular location for a specific purpose. These locations, especially those associated with large crowds, could be an attractive target for terrorism and other crimes. By connecting with local authorities, developing plans to identify issues and support incident response, training staff and volunteers, and reporting concerns to emergency authorities, many incidents may be mitigated or avoided.

In local communities, DHS Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) work with federal, state, and local government officials and private sector partners to protect soft targets and crowded places. In doing so, PSAs encourage businesses to "Connect, Plan, Train, and Report". Applying these four steps in advance of an incident or attack can help better prepare businesses and their employees to proactively think about the role they play in the safety and security of their businesses and communities.

1 Connect

- ▶ Develop relationships with local law enforcement, fire response, and other businesses in the area.
- ▶ Clarify emergency response responsibilities and other responsibilities related to venue security and emergency response.
- ▶ Share information regarding the event and supporting venue layout with local law enforcement, fire response, and emergency management.

2 Plan

- ▶ Develop plans for security, emergency response, emergency communications, and business continuity.
- ▶ Develop a bomb threat management plan to enable informed decisions and appropriate actions upon receipt of a bomb threat or discovery of suspicious items.
- ▶ Establish procedures for evacuating the venue in the event that a threat is deemed too serious to continue the event.
- ▶ Implement a communication process to inform event attendees of actions to take in case of an emergency and develop scripts for public address announcements.

3 Train

- ▶ Train staff and volunteers on:
 - Security basics, emergency response, emergency communications, and business continuity plans.
 - Staying aware of any suspicious behavior, activities, or items.
 - The "Run, Hide, Fight" response to an active shooter incident and the "Recognize, Avoid, Isolate, and Notify" process when confronting suspicious items or packages.
- ▶ Provide specialized training for employees who will take additional response actions (e.g., using fire extinguishers, administering first aid).
- ▶ Conduct exercises to ensure plans remain applicable, and involve first responders in the exercises to familiarize them with the venue and its security plans, policies, and procedures.

4 Report

- ▶ Post details on reporting suspicious activity, and encourage staff, volunteers, vendors, and the general public to report suspicious behavior to property management security or local law enforcement.
- ▶ Promote general awareness to identify:
 - Potential surveillance; excessive study of event entrances, exits, security features (e.g., cameras or barriers), or personnel; and unexplained use of binoculars, cameras, and recording devices near an event location.
 - Repeat visitors or outsiders who have no apparent business in restricted areas.
 - Erratic vehicle operation, repeated driving near an event location, and parking in the same area over multiple days with no reasonable explanation.
 - Abandoned parcels, suitcases, backpacks, and packages.
 - Bulky or unseasonable clothing.
 - Other unusual behavior, activities, or items.
- ▶ Establish a system for reporting security concerns.

Protective Measures

Mass gatherings — either in the form of indoor events or outdoor gatherings — can take place in many different formats and configurations. The following protective measures provide some basic actions to be considered by those responsible for the safety and security of these locations.



Physical Security

- ▶ Post signage relating to emergency entry and exit points, first-aid stations, and shelter locations.
- ▶ Post signage identifying items that patrons are prohibited from carrying into the venue.
- ▶ Define the perimeter and areas that require access control for pedestrians and vehicles, and identify especially sensitive or critical areas (e.g., control rooms, communications centers, computer server rooms, fuel or chemical storage tanks, mechanical equipment) that require special access controls.
- ▶ Evaluate vehicle traffic patterns near the venue and implement strategies to reduce vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian safety.
- ▶ To the extent possible, keep vehicles at a safe distance from areas where large numbers of people congregate and consider whether fixed or temporary vehicle barriers are needed.
- ▶ Monitor all vehicles approaching an entrance or gathering of people for signs of threatening or suspicious behavior (e.g., unusually high speed, vehicles riding particularly low, vehicles emitting a chemical odor, occupants keeping the windows open even in cold or inclement weather).



Access, Planning, and Personnel

- ▶ Conduct background checks on all staff assigned to critical or sensitive areas.
- ▶ Review personnel files of recently terminated employees to determine whether they pose a security risk.
- ▶ Devise credential systems that indicate areas of access and purpose of activity on the premises.
- ▶ Design a monitoring, surveillance, and inspection program that is consistent with venue operations and associated security requirements. If surveillance cameras are used, train personnel to interpret video and identify potential security-related events.

Additional Resources for Owners and Operators

- Hometown Security Initiative: <https://www.dhs.gov/hometown-security>
- Active Shooter Preparedness Program: <https://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>
- “If You See Something, Say Something®”: <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>
- Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative: <https://nsi.ncirc.gov/>

Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) proactively engage with government partners and the private sector to protect critical infrastructure. For more information or to contact your local PSA, e-mail NLICC@hq.dhs.gov.



HAYS COUNTY SMALL EVENT REQUEST APPLICATION AND CHECKLIST



HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Hays County Fire Marshal's Office

Nathan Mendenhall, Fire Marshal
810 S. Stagecoach Trail
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 393-7300

www.HCFMO.com / firemarshal@co.hays.tx.us

Hays County Environmental Health

Caitlyn Strickland, Director
2171 Yarrington Road
Kyle, TX 78640
(512) 393-2150

www.hayscountytexas.com

Hays County Sheriff's Office

Gary Cutler, Sheriff
1307 Uhland Road
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 393-7800
(512) 393-7896 – Non-Emergency Dispatch
911 – Emergencies

<https://hayscountytexas.com/law-enforcement/sheriff/>

Office of the Hays County Judge, Ruben Beccera

111 E. San Antonio St., Ste. 300
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 393-2205

Alex Villalobos, Chief of Staff

<https://hayscountytexas.com/commissioners-court/county-judge/>