

## Guidance for Events Fewer Than 50 People

March 17, 2020

[www.kingcounty.gov/covid](http://www.kingcounty.gov/covid)

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On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 King County Health Officer Jeff Duchin issued an [Order](#) building on a previous [Order](#) issued on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Health Officer orders that:

### For events:

1. All events with 50 people or more are hereby prohibited until further notice;
2. All events with fewer than 50 people are discouraged and prohibited unless event organizers observe the COVID-19 prevention measures outlined below.

This Guidance provides additional information to the community to support adherence to this Order and a Proclamation issued by Governor Jay Inslee, also on March 16, 2020: [Reduction of Statewide Limits on Gatherings](#).

Both the Local Order and the Statewide Proclamation are in effect for King County. The guidelines below are consistent with both orders. This Guidance provides key information to event organizers to support compliance with both directives.

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**An event is** a gathering on non-tribal lands for business, social, or recreational activities. Events are organized, orchestrated or sponsored. People are invited to attend or encouraged to attend through advertising.

**An event is not** a public location where people pass through, such as public transportation or transportation centers such as airport or light rail stations, public squares and shopping areas. An event is not a workplace or a shelter for people experiencing homelessness. Retail establishments such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and banks are not events.

### Examples of events include:

- Sporting events
- Parades
- Concerts
- Festivals
- Conventions
- Fundraisers
- Business conferences and trainings
- Faith-based and spiritual gatherings
- Large private parties

- Celebrations or banquets
- Performances including film screenings and festivals

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**1. Events with 50 people or more are prohibited.**

**2. Events with fewer than 50 people are prohibited unless event organizers observe the following COVID-19 prevention measures:**

- A. Older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend (including employees).**

Suggestions: Take specific steps to encourage older adults age 60 and above and those with underlying health conditions not to attend event. Note that [CDC recommends](#) that individuals at risk of severe illness should stay at home, avoiding gatherings or other situations of potential exposures, including travel, church attendance, and social events with 10 or more people.

- B. Social distancing recommendations must be met (i.e., limit contact of people within 6 feet from each other for 10 minutes or longer).**

Suggestions: Event organizers should ask themselves: how close will people be and for how long? Ensure that your event is organized in such way to avoid close contact between people. [Washington Department of Health](#) advises that “being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes” constitutes close contact which could result in exposure.

- C. Employees must be screened for coronavirus symptoms each day and excluded if symptomatic.**

Suggestions: Have a plan to screen event organizers (employees or volunteers) who will be at the event just prior to participating in the event. [CDC guidelines](#) identify the key symptoms to watch for as fever, cough and shortness of breath. In advance, organizers should discourage attendance for any person who has these systems. Throughout event, event organizers should require anyone who has the symptoms to leave.

- D. Proper hand hygiene and sanitation must be readily available to all attendees and employees.**

Suggestions: Provide ready access to hand sanitizer and hand sanitizer stations and actively request participants to abide by personal hygiene recommendations. [CDC recommends](#) that people wash their hands often, and if soap and water is not readily available, use hand

sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and to avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

- E. Environmental cleaning guidelines from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are followed (e.g., clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily or more frequently).**

Suggestions: Ensure a clean and sanitary environment for the event. Have employees or volunteers ready to disinfect frequently-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails. [CDC](#) provides detailed environmental and disinfection recommendations.

## **Enforcement**

In King County, public health COVID-19 prevention guidance has been well-accepted, and we believe these new actions will be accepted in the same way to protect our community's health.

The Local Health Order and Statewide Emergency Proclamation by the Governor are enforceable by law. King County will not be actively searching for violations, our focus is on helping people understand the importance social distancing, rather than citations.

If you have specific questions or reports related to this Guidance, please email [coronavirus@kingcounty.gov](mailto:coronavirus@kingcounty.gov).