



DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. 2020-19d

**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING REQUIRED BEST
PRACTICES FOR OUTDOOR GATHERINGS, INCLUDING SMALL OUTDOOR
GATHERINGS, SMALL OUTDOOR MEAL GATHERINGS, OUTDOOR SPECIAL
GATHERINGS FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CEREMONIES AND POLITICAL
PROTESTS**

(PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE)

DATE OF DIRECTIVE: October 20, 2020

By this Directive, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”) issues specific direction that Participants and Hosts, as described below, must follow as part of the local response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic. This Directive constitutes guidance as provided under Sections 4e and 11 and Appendix C-2 of Health Officer Order No. C19-07k issued on October 20, 2020 (the “Stay-Safer-At-Home Order”) and, unless otherwise defined below, initially capitalized terms used in this Directive have the same meaning given them in that order. This Directive goes into effect immediately upon issuance, and remains in effect until suspended, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer. This Directive has support in the bases and justifications set forth in the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. As further provided below, this Directive automatically incorporates any revisions to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order or other future orders issued by the Health Officer that supersede that order or reference this Directive. This Directive is intended to promote best practices as to Social Distancing Requirements and sanitation measures, helping prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard the health of workers, customers, and the community.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER DIRECTS AS
FOLLOWS:**

- 1. This Directive applies to all individuals who participate (“Participants”) and individuals and operators of facilities or other places who organize and host (“Hosts”) these three kinds of outdoor gatherings in the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) as permitted under subsections 4, 9, and 10 of Appendix C-2 of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order:**
 - a) outdoor gatherings of no more than three different Households up to a maximum of 25 people in total between all Households (“Small Outdoor Gatherings”),**
 - b) outdoor gatherings of no more than three different Households up to a maximum of six people in total between all Households, involving eating or drinking occurring somewhere other than at an outdoor dining establishment (“Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings”), and**
 - c) outdoor gatherings among people from more than one Household for religious services or religious ceremonies and for political protests and involving no more than 200 people total (“Outdoor Special Gatherings”).**

(Together, Small Outdoor Gatherings, Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings, and Outdoor Special Gatherings are referred to below as “Outdoor Gatherings”). This



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Directive does not limit gatherings that are otherwise allowed under the Order or any other health directive providing sector guidance. Also, the size number limits for the various types of Outdoor Gatherings that are subject to this Directive do not apply to gatherings of people (including Participants and Hosts) solely from a single Household. Indoor social gatherings among different Households are not allowed at this time.

2. Attached as Exhibit A to this Directive is a list of best practices that apply to Participants and Hosts engaged in Outdoor Gatherings (the “Best Practices”). All Participants and Hosts must comply with all applicable requirements listed in the Best Practices.
3. Hosts that operate a facility or other place in San Francisco and regularly organize or hold Outdoor Gatherings there or who otherwise regularly organize or facilitate Outdoor Gatherings at other locations must, before they begin to host or otherwise facilitate Outdoor Gatherings, create, adopt, and implement a written health and safety plan (a “Health and Safety Plan”). Hosts of any Outdoor Special Gathering must also, before they host or otherwise facilitate an Outdoor Special Gathering, create, adopt and implement a written Health and Safety Plan. The Health and Safety Plan must be substantially in the form attached to this Directive as Exhibit B.
4. Guidance from the Department of Public Health related to Outdoor Gatherings is attached to this Directive as Exhibit C and is available at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>.
5. If an aspect, service, or operation of the Host covered under Section 3 above is also covered by another Health Officer directive (all of which are available at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>), then such Host must comply with all applicable directives, and it must complete all relevant Health and Safety Plan forms.
6. Each Host covered under Section 3 above must (a) make the Health and Safety Plan available to anyone interested in participating in the Small Outdoor Gathering and to any involved Personnel on request, (b) provide a summary of the plan to all Personnel working on site or otherwise in the City in relation to its operations, and (c) post the plan at the entrance to any other physical location that such Host operates within the City. Also, each such Host must provide a copy of the Health and Safety Plan and evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Order upon demand.
7. Each Host subject to this Directive must provide items such as Face Coverings (as provided in Health Officer Order No. C19-12c issued on July 22, 2020, and any future amendment to that order), hand sanitizer or handwashing stations, or both, and disinfectant and related supplies to any of that Host’s Personnel, all as required by the Best Practices. Where feasible, each Host is also encouraged to provide such items to Participants of Outdoor Gatherings or to make sure that Participants bring their own to the gathering. If any Host is unable to provide these required items to Personnel or otherwise fails to comply with required Best Practices or, if applicable under subsections 3, 4 or 5 above, fails to abide by its Health and Safety Plan, then it must cease operating until it can fully comply and demonstrate its strict compliance. Further, any Outdoor Gathering organized by such Host where the Host has failed



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to comply is subject to immediate closure and the fines and other legal remedies described below, as a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.

8. For purposes of this Directive, “Personnel” includes all of the following people who provide goods or services associated with the Host in the City: employees; contractors and sub-contractors (such as those who sell goods or perform services onsite or who deliver goods for the business); vendors who are permitted to sell goods onsite; volunteers; and other individuals who regularly provide services onsite at the request of the Host. “Personnel” includes “gig workers” who perform work via the business’s app or other online interface, if any.
9. This Directive and the attached Best Practices may be revised by the Health Officer, through revision of this Directive or another future directive or order, as conditions relating to COVID-19 require, in the discretion of the Health Officer. All Participants and Hosts must stay updated regarding any changes to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive by checking the Department of Public Health website (www.sfdph.org/healthorders; www.sfdph.org/directives) regularly.
10. Implementation of this Directive augments—but does not limit—the obligations of each Host covered by Section 3 above under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order including, but not limited to, the obligation to prepare, post, and implement a Social Distancing Protocol under Section 4.d and Appendix A of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. The Host must follow these Best Practices and update them as necessary for the duration of this Directive, including, without limitation, as this Directive is amended or extended in writing by the Health Officer and consistent with any extension of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, any other order that supersedes that order, and any Health Officer order that references this Directive

This Directive is issued in furtherance of the purposes of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Where a conflict exists between this Directive and any state, local, or federal public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, without limitation, the Social Distancing Protocol, the most restrictive provision controls. Failure to carry out this Directive is a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH,
Health Officer of the
City and County of San Francisco

Date: October 20, 2020



Exhibit A to Health Officer Directive No. 2020-19d (issued 10/20/20)

Best Practices for Participants and Hosts Involved in Outdoor Gatherings

In addition to preparing, posting, and implementing the Social Distancing Protocol (Appendix A of Health Officer Order No. C19-07k), each Host covered by Section 3 of this Directive that operates in the City must comply with each requirement listed below and prepare a Health and Safety Plan substantially in the format of Exhibit B, below. Participants and Hosts must also comply with each of the applicable requirements listed below.

1. Section 1 – General Requirements For all Outdoor Gatherings, including Small Outdoor Gatherings, Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings, and Outdoor Special Gatherings:

1.1. All people are strongly encouraged to continue staying safer at home and minimizing unnecessary interactions with others, especially in indoor settings. If people believe they must participate in an Outdoor Gathering, they should consider the health risks relating to COVID-19 to themselves and others before doing so and should take all possible steps to mitigate those risks. Before participating in an Outdoor Gathering, Participants and Hosts should read and make themselves familiar with the Tip Sheet for Safer Interactions During COVID-19 Pandemic and the Tip Sheet for Outdoor Gatherings, which may be found at www.sfcdep.org/outdoor-gatherings.

1.1.1. Members of vulnerable populations (that is, those over age 50 or with chronic medical conditions) are encouraged to carefully consider the health risks relating to COVID-19 before determining whether to participate in Outdoor Gatherings.

1.1.2. Participants and Hosts must not attend any Outdoor Gatherings if they feel ill or are experiencing any one of the following symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking/shivering, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, feeling unusually weak or fatigued, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, headache, runny or congested nose, or diarrhea. Participants and Hosts must also not attend any Outdoor Gatherings if they are subject to quarantine or self-isolation under Health Officer Directive 2020-03c, and any subsequent amendments to that Directive.

1.2. Outdoor Gatherings must occur completely outdoors. If necessary, Participants and Hosts may enter a building to access an outdoor area or use indoor bathroom facilities. Participants must not remain inside longer than necessary and must not congregate in or near restroom facilities. Hosts must take all reasonable precautions to prevent Participants from congregating indoors.

1.3. All Outdoor Gatherings must be scheduled to conclude in no more than two hours. And in any event the duration of all gatherings should be limited to the extent possible.

1.4. Multiple Outdoor Gatherings cannot be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same outdoor space at the same time – these simultaneous gatherings would constitute a single gathering exceeding the permitted size. While multiple gatherings that are not jointly organized or coordinated may occur in the same space, such as a public park, Participants must not move among Outdoor Gatherings or switch places with Participants in other Outdoor Gatherings. Also, Participants are strongly discouraged from attending more than one Outdoor Gathering per day, and should not attend more than two Outdoor



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Gatherings per week. The more contacts a person has with others, including during Outdoor Gatherings, the more they are placing themselves and others at risk of transmitting the virus.

- 1.5.** Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Directive, all Social Distancing Requirements of Health Officer Order C19-07j (the “Stay-Safer-At-Home Order”) and the Face Covering requirements of Health Officer Order C19-12c (the “Face Covering Order”), as they may be amended, apply to all Hosts and Participants in Outdoor Gatherings.
- 1.6.** Participants who are not part of the same Household must remain at least six feet apart, follow all Social Distancing Requirements, and wear Face Coverings unless eating, drinking, or exempted from wearing a Face Covering under Section 3.g. or h. of the Face Covering Order. Where eating or drinking is allowed under Sections 2 and 4.2 of this Directive, Face Coverings are not required only for a limited period while the individual is eating or drinking.
- 1.7.** Outdoor Gatherings must not include contact sports, recreational or other activity where Social Distancing cannot be maintained (e.g., basketball, football, boxing or dancing). With the exception of Outdoor Special Gatherings, Outdoor Gatherings may include sports with shared equipment (e.g. Frisbee, baseball, playing catch) among members of up to two different households. This Section also does not apply to organized outdoor fitness classes, which are covered by Appendix C-1 to Health Officer Order C19-07k. If Participants in an Outdoor Gathering engage in physical activity as permitted under the Stay-Safer-at-Home Order, such as dancing or running, they must maintain at least six feet distance from and refrain from physical contact with individuals not part of their Household.
- 1.8.** To prevent virus transmission and assist with effective contact tracing, Participants are strongly encouraged to minimize the number of people in an Outdoor Gathering and keep Participants consistent from one gathering to another. To assist in potential contact tracing efforts, Participants are encouraged to remember who they gather with.
- 1.9.** Participants and Hosts must not share food or drink, or utensils. Participants and Hosts are strongly discouraged from sharing other objects, such as reading materials and religious or spiritual objects with Participants who are not part of their Household. If an object is of critical importance and is shared, Participants and Hosts must take every precaution after each instance of sharing to clean and sanitize the object and/or the hands of the Participants and Hosts who share the object.
- 1.10.** Hosts must not organize an event that encourages Participants to engage in singing, chanting, or shouting or otherwise encourage Participants from doing so during any Outdoor Gathering. Except as otherwise expressly permitted by this Directive, Participants and Hosts are strongly urged not to engage in singing, chanting, or shouting during Outdoor Gatherings – whether or not wearing a Face Covering – due to the substantially increased risk of spreading the virus by airborne transmission during such activities.
- 1.11.** Consistent with the limitations under the State Health Order, Stay-Safer-at-Home Order, and guidance from SFDPH, Hosts and Participants may, subject to any applicable permit requirements, conduct their gatherings under a tent, canopy, or other sun or weather shelter, but only as long as no more than one side is closed, allowing sufficient outdoor



air movement. Also the number and composition of barriers used for gatherings must allow the free flow of air in the breathing zone.

2. Section 2 – Additional Requirements for Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings:

- 2.1.** A group consisting of people (including both Participants and Hosts) from no more than three different Households up to a maximum of six people in total between all Households may participate in a Small Outdoor Meal Gathering. The provisions of this Directive for Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings apply only to such gatherings containing members from more than one Household. The provisions of this Directive for Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings do not apply to outdoor dining establishments.
- 2.2.** Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings may occur outdoors at places such as public parks, open spaces and other spaces where such gatherings are allowed, and subject to any permit requirements and any rules prohibiting use of picnic tables, barbecues or other common equipment. If necessary, Participants may enter a building to access an outdoor area or use indoor bathroom facilities.

3. Section 3 – Additional Requirements for Small Outdoor Gatherings:

- 3.1.** A group consisting of people (including both Participants and Hosts) from no more than three different Households up to a maximum of 25 people in total between all Households, may congregate in Small Outdoor Gatherings. Participants from different Household must follow all Social Distancing Requirements. The size of a group must be reduced according to the size of the outdoor space and Participants' ability to follow Social Distancing Requirements at all times. For example, if the size of an outdoor space allows no more than 10 people to follow Social Distancing at all times during a gathering, then the maximum total size for that Small Outdoor Gathering is three Households up to a maximum of 10 people between all Households.

4. Section 4 – Additional Requirements Specific to Outdoor Special Gatherings

- 4.1.** A group consisting of up to 200 people (including both Participants and Hosts) from more than one Household may congregate for Outdoor Special Gatherings. Participants from different Households must follow all Social Distancing Requirements. The size of a group must be reduced according to the size of the outdoor space and Participants' ability to follow Social Distancing Requirements at all times. Hosts of Outdoor Special Gatherings must follow all applicable rules and regulations governing the use of public parks and other open spaces. Hosts must also obtain any required permits for their gatherings as otherwise required.
 - 4.1.1.** The capacity limits for Outdoor Special Gatherings apply to religious or cultural ceremonies themselves, and not to any reception or similar gathering before or after. Any outdoor reception or gathering is subject to all applicable rules and limitations governing Outdoor Gatherings including this Directive.
- 4.2.** No food or beverages may be served or sold at Outdoor Special Gatherings. Participants and Hosts are prohibited from eating or drinking, and thus removing their Face Coverings to do so, unless necessary for health reasons or proper hydration. Participants must bring their own non-alcoholic beverages if necessary for hydration.



- 4.3. Participants or Hosts may distribute clean, single-use, non-edible items such as maps, flyers, or pamphlets to other Participants at the Outdoor Special Gathering. If such materials are distributed, Participants and Hosts must continue to maintain six feet of physical distance, such as by placing items in a basket or on a table for Participants to pick-up.
- 4.4. Hosts may allow singing, chanting, or shouting by only one person at a time at an Outdoor Special Gathering provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:
 - 4.4.1. The person singing, chanting, or shouting is at least 12-feet from any other person;
 - 4.4.2. The person singing, chanting, or shouting is wearing a Face Covering at all times; and
 - 4.4.3. Participants are not encouraged to sing, chant, or shout along with the person who is engaging in that activity.

5. Section 5 – Additional Requirements Specific to Hosts of Any Outdoor Gatherings

- 5.1. Hosts may organize and hold Outdoor Gatherings provided they have sufficient outdoor space to allow all Participants to comply with Social Distancing Requirements.
- 5.2. In compliance with the Social Distancing Protocol, Hosts covered by Section 3 of the Directive must develop and implement a plan for cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces such as seating, doors, and other common high-touch surfaces before each gathering.
- 5.3. Before hosting an Outdoor Gathering, a Host covered by Section 3 of the Directive must prepare the outdoor space to accommodate attendees and comply with the Social Distancing Protocol. For example, a Host may be required to prepare a plan for safe ingress and egress from the space and add physical markings to demonstrate a six-foot distance in areas participants may be congregating.
- 5.4. Hosts covered by Section 3 of the Directive must prohibit Participants from congregating before or after any Outdoor Gatherings.
- 5.5. Only one Outdoor Gathering may be held by a Host at a single location at a time.
- 5.6. As to Hosts covered by Section 3 of the Directive, Hosts may permit Personnel to participate in sequential Outdoor Gatherings during a single day but are reminded of the increased potential to transmit the virus from one Outdoor Gathering to another. Hosts organizing or participating in sequential Outdoor Gatherings must, in addition to the requirements of this Directive:
 - 5.6.1. Provide a minimum of 20 minutes between sequential Outdoor Gatherings during which Participants may safely egress and clear the area and Personnel may adequately clean and sanitize all high touch surfaces and otherwise prepare the space for the next gathering and
 - 5.6.2. Ensure that before and between sequential Outdoor Gatherings, Personnel thoroughly wash hands and clean, sanitize, or replace any items or clothing that



became soiled or contaminated with secretions or bodily fluids from Participants or different Personnel during earlier gatherings.

- 5.7. Hosts at Outdoor Gatherings must be prepared to assist public health authorities in potential contact tracing efforts. Consider maintaining a list of Participants willing to voluntarily provide their name for contact tracing purposes. Any lists should be discarded after three weeks. If a Participant tests positive for COVID-19, the Host must assist the Department of Public Health to identify other Participants or Personnel who may have been exposed to help prevent further spread of COVID-19.

Health Officer Directive No. 2020-19d (Exhibit B) Health and Safety Plan (issued 10/20/2020)

Each Host Covered by Section 3 of the Directive must complete, post onsite, and follow this Health and Safety Plan.

Check off all items below that apply and list other required information.

Business/Entity name:

Contact name:

Entity Address:

Contact telephone:

(You may contact the person listed above with any questions or comments about this plan.)

- Business is familiar with and complies with all requirements set forth in Health Officer Directive No. 2020-19d, available at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>.
- Make sure no one – including employees – attends a gathering who is experiencing any one of the following symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking/shivering, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, feeling unusually weak or fatigued, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, headache, runny or congested nose, or diarrhea.
- Gatherings are limited to the maximum permissible number of Households and people, scheduled to last two hours or less, and kept as short as possible. Multiple Outdoor Gatherings cannot be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same outdoor space at the same time. Participants do not move among gatherings happening at the same time or switch places with Participants in other gatherings.
- Everyone wears a Face Covering unless eating or drinking or otherwise exempt.
- All Social Distancing Requirements are followed at all times.
- No sharing of food or drink or items like utensils, reading materials, or religious or spiritual objects with Participants. If an object is of critical importance and must be shared, take every precaution after each instance of sharing to clean and sanitize the object and/or the hands of the Participants and Hosts who share the object.
- Avoid singing, chanting, or shouting by Participants or Hosts except as allowed for Outdoor Special Gatherings.
- Develop and implement a plan for cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces such as seating, doors, and other common high-touch surfaces before each gathering.
- Prepare the outdoor space to accommodate Participants and comply with the Social Distancing Protocol. For example, make a plan for Participants to get in and out of the outdoor space safely while maintaining social distancing and add physical markings to demonstrate a 6-foot distance in areas participants may be congregating.
- Only hosting one Small Outdoor Gathering or Small Outdoor Meal Gathering at a time unless there is enough outdoor space to keep simultaneous gatherings separate and socially distanced.
- If Personnel are taking part in sequential gatherings, there is sufficient time between gatherings to engage in proper sanitation and disinfection procedures.

Additional Measures

HSP

Health and Safety
Plan

Checklist

Health Officer Directive No. 2020-19d (Exhibit B)
Health and Safety Plan (issued 10/20/2020)

Explain:



Tips and Frequently Asked Questions for Gatherings

UPDATED October 20, 2020

This document was updated from September 30, 2020, to reflect changes to guidance for outdoor gatherings.

AUDIENCE: Hosts and Participants in different types of gatherings involving people from more than one household.

BACKGROUND: Health Officer Directives 2020-19, 2020-28, and 2020-34 authorize and provide updated guidance for Gatherings. This document summarizes tips and frequently asked questions about how to organize, host, and participate in these types of gatherings during COVID-19.

The Directives and associated documents are available on the [Health Directives page](#) under Gatherings.

- Directive 2020-19 – Outdoor Gatherings
- Directive 2020-28 – Drive-In Gatherings
- Directive 2020-34 – Indoor Worship

Additional guidance can be found at www.sfc-dcp.org/covid19.

Primary changes to this document since the Sept. 30 Version:

- Multiple Outdoor Gatherings are no longer allowed at the same space at the same time
- Small Outdoor Gatherings are limited to no more than 3 different households, with a maximum of 25 total participants
- If eating or drinking take place at Small Outdoor Gatherings (i.e. Outdoor Meal Gatherings) then the limit is no more than 3 different households, with a maximum of 6 total participants
- Note: Indoor social gatherings among different households are still not allowed



Overview of Types of Gatherings			
	GATHERING TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF GATHERING	LIMITS
<i>Outdoor</i>	Outdoor Meal Gatherings	Eating or drinking	No more than 3 households, with a maximum of 6 total participants If all participants are from one single household only, then the 6-person limit does not apply; all household members may participate
	Outdoor Special Gatherings	Religious services or ceremonies (including wedding ceremonies and funerals, but not receptions), political protests	No more than 200 participants
	Small Outdoor Gathering	All other types (e.g. reception, fitness, gathering at a park, any hosted tours)	No more than 3 households, with a maximum of 25 total participants
	Drive-in Gatherings	In vehicles (e.g. for movie) (see Directive)	No more than 100 vehicles; occupants of a vehicle must all be from the same household
<i>Indoor</i>	Indoor Religious and Cultural Ceremonial Gatherings	Indoor religious and cultural ceremonies (see Health Directive No. 2020-34), including wedding ceremonies and funerals (but not receptions)	25% of capacity or 100, whichever is fewer



Frequently Asked Questions

How can I keep a gathering as safe as possible?

- Keep your gathering under 2 hours; the shorter it is, the safer it is.
- Don't attend if you are or a family member is feeling ill or experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms (see www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/covid-guidance/covid-screening.pdf).
- Consider staying home if you are a member of a vulnerable population, e.g. those over age 50 or with chronic medical conditions (see www.sfdcp.org/vulnerable).
- Bring items such as masks, hand sanitizers, and your own water bottles.
- Wear a face covering or mask at all times, unless you are specifically exempted per [Health Order C19-12](#).
- Avoid high risk activities that expel more air and thus increase COVID-19 transmission such as singing, chanting, shouting, and playing wind or brass instruments. See more under "How can singing, chanting, shouting, and playing wind/brass instruments be done more safely?"
- Do not do any activities or sports that don't allow physical distancing. Sports with shared equipment are only allowed among members of up to 2 households.
- Flu vaccines are critical in the fight against COVID-19 by (1) keeping workers and communities healthy and (2) reducing strain on our healthcare and testing systems that are responding to COVID-19. **Strongly encourage all personnel to get an annual flu shot.** Post signage to encourage flu vaccine among customers, visitors, etc.

What do I need to do as a Host business or organization?

- Complete, maintain, and implement the following documents for your Gathering:
 - The relevant [Health and Safety Plan](#) for the type of gathering (see www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-health-directives.asp to find the correct link for your gathering), including, among other requirements, COVID-19 screening for all [Personnel](#) (www.sfdcp.org/screening-handout) and [Participants](#) (www.sfdcp.org/screeningvisitors). This must be provided to Host Personnel, available to Participants, and posted at the physical entrance where the Host operates.
 - A [SFDPH Social Distancing Protocol](#) that includes, among other requirements, a plan to clean and disinfect high touch surfaces such as seating, doors, and others before each Gathering (see [SFDPH Cleaning/Disinfection Guidance](#), posted at www.sfdcp.org/covidcleaning).
- **Indoor Religious/Cultural Gatherings** are required to post [SFDPH Approved Signage](#), stating:
 - That COVID-19 is transmitted through the air and that indoor settings carry a much higher risk of infection.
 - That seniors and those with health risks should avoid indoor settings with crowds.
 - The maximum capacity of the space and the maximum capacity currently permitted under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- Hosts are responsible for assisting public health authorities in contact tracing efforts in case an attendee develops COVID-19 and there is a need to conduct contact tracing.
 - Consider keeping a list of Personnel and Participants willing to voluntarily provide their names for three weeks after an event. Any lists should be discarded after three weeks.
 - Try to maintain an up-to-date contact list to alert attendees in the event of potential exposure.



- Keep the gathering as short as possible to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Follow SFDPH's guidelines on "[COVID-19 Positive At Workplace](#)" if someone at your gathering tests positive for COVID-19.

Indoor gatherings are more risky than outdoor gatherings. How do we make these as safe as possible?

- Observe the applicable measures laid out in "How can I keep a gathering as safe as possible?"
- Personnel and participants should be aware of this heightened risk of indoor gatherings and decide if they can safely attend based on how much risk they want to tolerate.
- Consider making alternations to facilitate social distancing between members of different households such as, moving podiums, creating physical barriers, taping off or moving seating, identifying entrance and exits, prohibiting access to common areas (if possible).
- Maximize ventilation and minimize crowding and touching of high touch surfaces such as keeping bathroom doors propped open, posting social distancing signage.
- Indicate walking paths between spaces designated for prayers to kneel so that people do not walk where someone may touch their head to the floor.
- Increase availability of hand sanitizer or hand washing stations, including at entrances and exits.
- Discontinue use of high touch water vessels, fonts, fountain, and sinks.
- Regularly clean and disinfect common and high touch areas, including bathrooms.
- Consistent with the State's health guidance, singing and chanting activities are **not permitted** during any Indoor Gathering at this time. Even while wearing a face covering, these activities – in particular singing – greatly increase the risk of infection with COVID-19.
- Food and drink may not be served at an Indoor Gathering. If eating or drinking is required for a faith-based ceremony, see "Can we eat or drink at Gatherings?" below for more details.

Can we host multiple gatherings one after another or at the same time?

- A Host may allow Personnel to participate in sequential gatherings in the same day. If Hosting sequential gatherings, the Host must also:
 - Ensure at least 20 minutes between sequential Outdoor Gatherings (30 minutes between sequential Indoor Religious Gatherings) for Participants to leave and Personnel to prepare for the next gathering by cleaning and sanitizing all high-touch areas.
 - Ensure Personnel thoroughly wash hands and clean, sanitize, or replace any items or clothing that became soiled or contaminated with secretions or bodily fluids from Participants or different Host Personnel during earlier gatherings.
- Hosts may not hold more than one Outdoor Gathering at a single location at the same time.
- Hosts may **not** hold both indoor and outdoor gatherings simultaneously to allow for more people to attend a gathering (e.g. indoor and outdoor wedding or funeral).

Can we have multiple indoor worship or cultural ceremonial gatherings at the same time in a large facility?

- Simultaneous or overlapping Indoor Religious or Cultural Ceremonial Gatherings are allowed only under the following circumstances:



- Gatherings must occur in spaces that are completely physically separated from each other, either in different rooms separated by sealed floor-to-ceiling walls, or in separate buildings.
- Each separate gathering must meet all ventilation requirements in Section 3.3 of the Directive.
- Participants from different gatherings must use separate entrances and exits; if only one shared entrance and exit exist, the Host must ensure participants from different gatherings do not enter or exit at the same time.
- Hosts cannot use multiple rooms and combine them within one ceremony or event, in order to evade room capacity limits.
- Before hosting any simultaneous or overlapping gatherings, the host must develop a written plan to address compliance with Section 4.1.3 of the Directive
- Schedule at least 30 minutes between indoor gatherings to allow sufficient time for participants to exit safely and for personnel to clean/sanitize high touch areas.
- Staff may be allowed to work inside the facility while multiple indoor gatherings occur as long as staff follow rules for [the Business Operating Office Facilities Directive](#) and Stay-Safer-At-Home Order
 - In general, keep the areas that are not reserved for an indoor gathering closed unless expressly permitted under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.

Can we eat or drink at Gatherings?

- Eating and drinking is permitted at **Outdoor Meal Gatherings** which are limited to no more than 6 people from a maximum of different households. (If only a single household is involved, there is no limit on the number of people at an Outdoor Meal Gathering).
- Self-service food, potlucks, or family style eating and drinking events should not be held. By avoiding these situations, you can avoid the risk of cross contamination.
- If, as part of a faith-based ceremony, eating or drinking is required, it must done in a way to minimize contact between people, especially involving the hands and mouth. In these circumstances, face coverings must be worn when Personnel and/or Participants are within 6 feet of one another. As an example, communion rituals could have the priest and participants masked at all times, with the participants receiving communion in the hand and moving away from others to briefly lower their mask to place the sacramental bread on the tongue (see example video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8tg8A5jmP0).
- Glasses, cups and utensils should not be shared. If they are, glass, cup, or utensil will be disinfected between each use and the users' hands will be cleaned using appropriate hand washing or hand sanitizer.

Must we wear masks/ face coverings all the time?

- All people must wear masks except as specified in the Face Covering Order.
- Proper use of face coverings is even more critical when in higher risk gatherings, such as indoors.
- Face coverings may be removed briefly while eating or drinking, however proper social distancing should be maintained. If removing face coverings/masks is deemed as essential in a ritual or ceremony, a person may briefly remove their face covering only if they (1) maintain social distance and do not speak, recite, chant, shout or sing; or (2) isolate themselves from all other people to speak or recite, such as by speaking inside an enclosed chamber or behind a plastic or glass partition or face shield no more than 12 inches from the mouth of the speaker and greater than 12 feet away from others.



What about camping, cookouts, or BBQs?

- Arrive with your own supplies including soap, disinfectants, hand sanitizer, paper towels, etc.
- Do not share BBQs or outdoor grilling stations with people outside of your household. Clean all stations frequently.
- If camping with someone from outside your household, consider self-isolating for 14 days before and after if you will be in close contact to minimize the risk of transmission.
- “Close contact” is defined by the CDC as being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before the illness starts (for people without symptoms, this means 2 days before they were tested; www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact).

How can singing, chanting, shouting, and playing wind/brass instruments be done more safely?

- Singing, chanting, shouting, and playing wind/brass instruments raise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because of the forceful exhalation involved and should be avoided. Ideally, play a recording to avoid live performance.
- These activities are permitted at an **Outdoor Special Gathering** by one person at a time and only if:
 - The person performing the activity is at least **12 feet** from any other person.
 - The person singing, chanting, or shouting is wearing a **Face Covering** at all times.
 - The instrument’s bells and/or openings where air/sound exit are covered with a mask/other fabric at all times.
 - Participants may not sing, chant, or shout along with the person who is engaging in that activity.
- When these activities are permitted, consider the following to reduce risk:
 - Ensure the performance is in a large, well ventilated area (see www.sfcddcp.org/COVID-ventilation).
 - Minimize the amount of time engaged in these activities.
 - Minimize the intensity to the extent possible (e.g., sing/play instruments at a reduced volume, use amplifiers, etc.).
 - Consider having a physical barrier between the performer and others in the Outdoor Special Gathering.
 - Project voices and air exhaust from instruments away from Participants (e.g. have performers position themselves in silhouette).
 - Encourage performers to get tested for COVID-19 as close to the performance date as possible, accounting for the turnaround time for the test (which is typically about 2 days but can be longer). People can get tested by their regular healthcare provider or at CityTestSF (<https://sf.gov/citytestsf>).
 - Prohibit anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or anyone who is a “Close Contact” of someone with COVID-19 from performing these activities. See www.sfcddcp.org/screeningvisitors.
 - For wind instruments:
 - Performers must be masked at all times as much as possible when not performing.
 - Instruments must not be shared among individuals of different households.
 - If relevant to the instrument, performers should use a large, thin, plastic-lined pad on their chest and lap to collect spit.



Can ventilation reduce COVID-19 transmission risks for indoor activities?

- Hosts should follow **SFDPH Ventilation Guidance** for any indoor activities: Make any necessary improvements to the ventilation of the establishment, including:
 - HVAC systems (if one is present)
 - Ensure HVAC systems are serviced and functioning properly.
 - Evaluate possibilities for upgrading air filters to the highest efficiency possible.
 - Increase the percentage of outdoor air through the HVAC system, readjusting or overriding recirculation (“economizer”) dampers.
 - Disable demand-control ventilation controls that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy
 - Evaluate running the building ventilation system even when the building is unoccupied to maximize ventilation. At the minimum, reset timer-operated ventilation systems so that they start operating 1-2 hours before the building opens and 2-3 hours after the building is closed.
 - Increase natural ventilation by opening windows and doors when environmental conditions and building requirements allow.
 - Consider installing portable air cleaners (“HEPA filters”).
 - If the establishment uses pedestal fans or hard mounted fans, adjust the direction of fans to minimize air blowing from one individual’s space to another’s space.
 - For more information and additional resources, please see the following: San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH): www.sfcddp.org/COVID-ventilation.

Resources

Useful COVID-19 Resources to keep checking:

- San Francisco guidance: www.sfcddp.org/covid19
- San Francisco Health Officer orders: www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-healthorders.asp
- Printable resources such as signage: <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>
- California guidance:
 - <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>
 - <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>
- CDC guidance: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/index.html