

Given the dynamic nature and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, specific recommendations are needed to help the general public make informed decisions based on a number of variables and a wide spectrum of risk. This tool aims to help individuals assess the risks associated with attending or hosting gatherings during the course of the pandemic, with recommendations on how to make the gatherings safer. **The latest local and provincial public health guidance with respect to indoor and outdoor gatherings should always be followed.** Gatherings that have overall lower-risk variables (under the green column) are safer to attend; and, gatherings with higher-risk variables (under the red column) are less safe. For simplicity, the variables below are not weighted in terms of importance; they have been prioritized within each section.

**LOWER RISK /  
CONSIDER GOING**

**HIGHER RISK /  
RECONSIDER GOING**

## COVID-19 FACTORS

Lower numbers or rates of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations or % positive tests

### LOCAL STATUS

Higher number or rate of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations or % positive tests

Less transmissible AND  
Causes milder disease AND  
Does not evade protection from vaccines

### VIRUS VARIANT

More transmissible OR  
Causes severe disease OR  
Evades protection from vaccines

## WHO IS GATHERING?

Your close bubble, minimum number of different households, people you know and trust

### WHO

Many different households, people you don't know or trust

Small e.g. 10 or less

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE

Large e.g. 100+

All are fully vaccinated

### VACCINATION STATUS

All are unvaccinated or unknown status

No elderly, individuals with high-risk conditions\*, or at-risk groups\*\* present

### AT-RISK PERSONS

Elderly, individuals with high-risk conditions\* or at-risk groups\*\* present

\*High-risk conditions may include weakened immune system from transplant, cancer or medications, chronic heart/lung/liver/kidney disease, diabetes, overweight or obese, pregnant, smokers.

\*\*At-risk groups that may need to take extra precautions include essential and healthcare workers, homeless and marginalized persons, persons with disabilities or long-term care residents.

**LOWER RISK /  
CONSIDER GOING**

**HIGHER RISK /  
RECONSIDER GOING**

## WHERE ARE YOU GATHERING?

Outdoor

**SETTING**

Indoor

Open doors and windows, well ventilated space, HEPA MERV13+ filters/air purifiers, HVAC maintained and fan ON

**VENTILATION**

Closed doors and windows, poorly ventilated space, low efficiency, Fan OFF or unmaintained HVAC

No previous outbreaks, good adherence to public health measures

**TRACK RECORD**

Previous outbreaks, poor adherence to public health measures

## HOW ARE YOU GATHERING?

Nobody has COVID-19 symptoms, exposures or travel within the past 2 weeks

**SCREENING**

No screening; attendees have symptoms, exposures or travel within the past 2 weeks

Test all immediately before

**RAPID TESTING**

No testing before

Everyone is masked and wearing well-fitted medical or N95 masks, with optional face shields or plexiglass barriers

**MASKS & BARRIERS**

Nobody is masked, or masks are worn intermittently, loose or made of cloth. There are no physical barriers

Shorter (e.g. 5 minutes) and once only

**DURATION & FREQUENCY**

Longer (e.g. 60 minutes) and numerous times

2m physical distancing maintained at all times

**DISTANCING**

No distancing

## WHY ARE YOU GATHERING?

Important life event e.g. wedding or funeral, or reason e.g. work, school

**PURPOSE**

No special occasion or important reason

No high risk activities will be taking place

**ACTIVITIES**

High risk activities e.g. exercise, singing, shouting or sharing food will take place

The gathering can be conducted reasonably well in a virtual manner

**ALTERNATIVES**

The gathering must be conducted in-person