

City of Chattanooga - Special Events

Protocols for Safely Returning to Events

Previous restrictions set in place have been evaluated, and health advisors believe a return to events under the established safety protocols will allow us to safely return to events. This document is intended to serve as a guideline for how we can do so safely as “One Chattanooga,” and will be updated regularly as the circumstances of the COVID-19 outbreak are ever-changing. **Our Special Events Committee will be evaluating event plans, monitoring the local infection rate, and our hospital capacities in determining the viability of Special Events in the City of Chattanooga. Note that any event may be canceled by the Mayor and/or his designee if determined to be in the best interest of public safety.**

Mask Guidance

- Event organizers should adhere to CDC mask guidelines.
- Fully vaccinated individuals should wear a mask indoors in public in areas of high transmission to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others. Hamilton County is currently considered an area of high transmission.
- Unvaccinated people should continue to wear masks indoors and in situations where physical distancing isn't possible, including outdoors.

Education through Marketing and Signage

- Event producers should provide ample signage to help direct the flow of pedestrian traffic and information, as well as encourage enhanced hygiene practices.
- Event producers should also provide the following disclaimer, or a similarly approved disclaimer, on their websites, social media outlets, and within their event space:

“We have taken enhanced health and safety measures for you, our artists, and employees. You must follow all posted instructions while attending [Insert Event Name]. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By attending [Insert Event Name], you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.”

Enhanced hygiene

- Recommended masks in areas where CDC recommended distance cannot be maintained.
- Attendees should be encouraged to wash their hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available. Enhanced hygiene practices should include an increased number of hand sanitizing stations and portable toilets, as well as increased staffing to maintain these facilities.
- Event producers are to define a plan and schedule to sanitize surfaces regularly.
- Event planners should consider reducing opportunities for individuals to touch shared surfaces and objects through the implementation of touchless services. This could include online purchases, offsite pre-registrations, and virtual check-ins, cashless pay systems, ticketless entry and/or app based services.

Density reduction

- Encourage physical distancing of 6' or more.
- Site plans should allow for ample distancing between vendors, and provide as much space as possible for crowds in concession/merchandise lines when necessary.
- If using tents or closed-in public spaces, event producers should provide for cross-ventilation.

In most cases, a well thought out event site plan will address the concerns above. Thank you for choosing to host your event in our City, and your dedication to creating "One Chattanooga." We look forward to working with you to create a safe and enjoyable environment.

Jonathan Susman
Special Events Manager
City of Chattanooga