

Guidance for Social Gatherings in Rental Spaces at University Venues During Summer 2021

Purpose and Scope

This document provides summer guidance, effective May 24, for social gatherings such as weddings, receptions, and celebrations, for both university-affiliated and external groups, that are held in rental spaces at the University of Utah. University of Utah staff must be present at the venue and are responsible for oversight and enforcement of guidance throughout each event. Venues may implement additional safety precautions and restrictions, including an internal review process, as appropriate. Resources and training for events and gatherings of Recognized Student Organizations are available at <https://leadership.utah.edu/studentorgs/>.

This university [guidance](#) is based on evolving [CDC](#), [state](#), and county guidance, which is updated frequently. Current CDC [guidance](#) recognizes that being fully vaccinated (i.e., two weeks after the last required dose) is sufficiently protective that additional protective measures (e.g., masks) are not necessary to protect the individual. Therefore, masks are no longer required at University of Utah facilities, except masks will continue to be required inside University of Utah Health facilities where clinical care is provided or when they are required as job-related personal protective equipment (PPE). The CDC [recommends](#), however, that those who are not vaccinated or who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system continue to wear a mask at public events to protect themselves.

General Guidance

Organizers are responsible for notifying participants of restrictions and expectations. Venues are responsible for ensuring compliance during the event. Any individual who is symptomatic, in quarantine or isolation, or has tested positive for COVID-19 within the 14 days prior to the event should not attend. Unvaccinated individuals who have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the event should not attend.

Recommended duration is based on [CDC guidance](#) that, “Events that last longer pose more risk than shorter events.”

Indoor Events

- Recommended maximum duration: 90 minutes
- Maximum attendance: based on the adjusted capacity for the venue.
 - If guests will be eating during the event, the capacity of the venue may be reduced to accommodate the additional distancing required.

Outdoor Events*

- Recommended maximum duration: 3 hours
- Maximum attendance: based on the adjusted capacity for the venue.
- Staggered start and end times may be used to accommodate a larger attendance.
- If the inclement weather plan includes an indoor venue, the reduced capacity of the space may require reducing the number of participants.

Last Updated: May 20, 2021

*Indoor spaces with an open wall (e.g., Carriage House at Monson Center) may be treated as an outdoor space.

Guidance for All Rental Venues:

- Face masks are no longer required at University of Utah facilities, except masks will continue to be required inside University of Utah Health facilities where clinical care is provided or when they are required as job-related personal protective equipment (PPE). Individuals are encouraged to protect themselves by wearing a mask if they are not vaccinated or have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system.
- It is recommended that guests continue to physically distance when feasible.
- Venues should provide options for virtual participation when feasible.
- Announcements, presentations, and toasts should be made using a microphone or microphones sanitized between uses.
- Tables should be distanced at least 10 feet apart.
- Tables (whether for standing or sitting) should be assigned.
 - Groups living in the same household may share a table with the standard number of seats. Table size can be tailored for the expected number of guests from each household.
- Pre-packaged food or individual servings are recommended. Gourmet food bags to take home are an excellent alternative.
- Music may be provided by a DJ. See below for specific guidance on live performers.
- Dancing should be planned in outdoor spaces.

Special Guidance for Speakers or Performers

- Small performing groups (1-4 performers), including dancers, string ensembles, and speakers are encouraged. Larger groups and groups that include vocal or wind instrument performers create a higher risk of airborne spread.
- Attendees should be kept at least 15 feet away from performers.
- Performers should use microphones to avoid the need to project their voice or shout. Sanitize high touch items such as microphones before and after use.
- Performing artist contracts should address considerations related to COVID-19.

The Incident Management / Operations Team is available to advise on events as needed. Please email them at covid19-event-planning@utah.edu.