

Best Practices for In-Person Gatherings and Events – Fall 2021

As we start the fall semester, all members of the campus community are being [asked to work together to keep our community safe](#) in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This document provides some best practices for in-person gatherings and events on any property owned, managed and/or occupied by the University of Utah.

Guidance for All Events:

- Participants are encouraged to follow CDC guidelines regarding face coverings, which call for wearing face masks indoors (regardless of vaccination status). Event organizers should have disposable face coverings available onsite for guests. Practice physical distancing when feasible. Any person 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.
- Encourage attendees to utilize asymptomatic testing before attending events. Consider hosting the event outside whenever feasible, or consider hosting it virtually. Have hand sanitizer available and encourage its use. Meals and buffet service are discouraged at indoor events. It is recommended that meals should be served plated, pre-packaged, or given out as take-home gourmet food bags.
- Post clear signage at all events encouraging face coverings, social distancing and self-monitoring of COVID-19 symptoms. Signage is available through [University Print and Mail Services](#).

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

This document does not provide guidance for gatherings for routine instructional (Academic Affairs and [Health Sciences](#)), [research](#), or [clinical](#) purposes. Events organized by Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) should utilize [Recommendations for Student Organizations](#).

The CDC [recommends](#) that events be limited in time: *“Events that last longer pose more risk than shorter events.”* The recommended maximum duration for indoor events is 90 minutes. The recommended duration for outdoor events is 3 hours.

The CDC also recommends avoiding large events and gatherings when possible because it is harder to maintain physical distance. Consider ways to limit the number of people gathered at one time or ways to increase the ability to physically distance during the event.