

Guidance for Vehicle Gatherings, Parades, and Drive-ins

Holding car gatherings for events is one way to socialize or celebrate more safely and still slow the spread of COVID-19. Car gatherings are events and activities primarily held in vehicles, such as parking lot gatherings, vehicle parades, and drive-ins. This guidance is for organizers of vehicle gatherings to use when planning a vehicle event. Organizers should consider what accommodations can be made to ensure equitable participation (e.g., people without access to a vehicle).

Requirements

- ✓ **Preparedness Plan:** All businesses, organizations, and venues where gatherings take place are required to develop and implement an event specific COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in accordance with the guidance below, and other applicable guidance on the [Stay Safe Minnesota website \(staysafe.mn.gov\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov). This plan must be displayed prominently, so any persons on the premises can easily see this document. Vendors servicing one event may collectively agree to one comprehensive plan, if they so choose.
- ✓ **Masks and face coverings:** As of July 25, 2020, people in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces, per Executive Order 20-81. Additionally, the Executive Order requires workers to wear a face covering when working outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. The Executive Order includes exemptions for people who are unable to wear or tolerate a face covering due to medical or mental health conditions or other reasons. There are also situations in which a face covering may be temporarily removed, such as when eating or drinking, provided that social distancing is maintained between members of different parties. Businesses and venues may choose to have more protective requirements than those in the Executive Order.

For more information about the Executive Order and face covering requirements, see [Masks and Face Coverings \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#masks\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#masks).

Managing the event

- Create a traffic flow plan for how vehicles enter and exit the event.
- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between vehicles with open windows.
- Provide symptom screening for anyone working at the event.
- Post signage outlining established protocols at the venue entrance, near restrooms, and in areas where people may be standing in line.

- Provide controlled flow of participants as much as possible, including upon start and at end of the event.
- Bands are allowed but must maintain social distancing, even during performance.
- See also: [Guidance for Music Activities and Performances \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/musicguide.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/musicguide.pdf)
- Limit the number of speakers and make arrangements so that they maintain distance from others. Whenever possible, provide individual microphones for multiple speakers. If a microphone must be shared, consider cleaning between speakers or leaving it untouched on a stand.

Concessions

- If the venue allows dining, follow the [Guidance for Safe Celebrations and Events \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safeevents.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safeevents.pdf).
- Concession stand lines must have markers to ensure social distancing of at least 6 feet between customers.
 - Curbside concessions may be available for pickup upon entry to the venue to minimize crowding at concession stands.
- Use remote payment systems when possible.
- Serve prepackaged food as much as possible.
- Face coverings may be temporarily removed to enable eating and/or drinking when attendees are seated and apart from members of other households but must be put back on when not eating or drinking.

Restrooms

- Mark areas where people may need to line up to ensure social distancing.
- Provide an ample supply of hand sanitizer or soap and water.
- Clean facilities regularly following the cleaning and disinfection protocol.
- Ensure your maximum number of guests allowed in the restroom will meet current capacity/size guidelines for social distancing.
- Turn off electric hand dryers and rely on touchless paper towel dispensers.

Recommendations

- Encourage no more than one household per vehicle. Carpooling does not comply with social distancing. Attendees should not change vehicles during the event.
- Encourage attendees to remain in their vehicles unless purchasing concessions or using the restrooms.
- Face coverings are recommended in outdoor settings where it is difficult or impossible to maintain appropriate social distancing.

- Consider providing screening for participants. Send communication *prior* to the event to inform staff and participants that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.) is not advised to attend. See the [Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf).
- Discourage those who are “high risk” from attending. Consider offering a virtual option.
- Avoid excessive vehicle idling and exposure to exhaust fumes.

Ceremonies

- Avoid passing of objects or physical contact between persons in different vehicles.
- If objects are passed from event organizers to car attendees, utilize a long arm claw or other mechanism to maintain adequate distance between organizers and attendees.

Summary

We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and fellow Minnesotans from COVID-19. By following current [Executive Orders from Governor Walz \(mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp\)](http://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp) and guidelines at [Stay Safe Minnesota \(staysafe.mn.gov\)](http://staysafe.mn.gov), we can enjoy activities and events while supporting public health, slowing the spread of COVID-19, and minimizing added strain on local communities and health care systems in Minnesota.



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