

# COVID-19 safe events

## Updated Framework for COVID-19 Safe Events and Activities in Tasmania (Events Framework) Factsheet

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COVID**

The purpose of the Events Framework is to help event organisers to identify and manage the risk of COVID-19 for a range of event and activity types in a diverse range of settings. It sets out the process for working with government to deliver a COVID-19 safe event under the current Public Health Directions.

Events are assessed under the Events Framework according to their size, type, complexity and associated risk factors. Public health oversight is applied to events according to a three-tiered system.

### Key elements of the Events Framework

Under the Framework, events will be classified as Tier one, two or three, depending on the number of persons intended to attend the event. Different capacity limits apply to each Tier.

Events may have conditions imposed depending on the particular risk factors of the event. Tier 1 events, while not required to be approved under the framework, may have conditions imposed if higher risk activities are to take place at the event.

### Event types and requirements

TIER	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENTS
<b>Tier 3</b> Seated only	Any indoor or outdoor <b>seated</b> events with 5,001 to 10,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event COVID-19 Safety Plan</li> <li>Event registration through Business Tasmania website</li> <li>Approval from the Director of Public Health required before the event can go ahead</li> <li>Check In Tas QR code required</li> </ul>
<b>Tier 2</b> Free moving / mixing and seated	Any indoor or outdoor event with 2,001 to 5,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event COVID-19 Safety Plan</li> <li>Event registration through Business Tasmania website</li> <li>Approval from the Director of Public Health required before the event can go ahead</li> <li>Check In Tas QR code required</li> </ul>
<b>Tier 1</b> Free moving / mixing and seated	Indoor events with 251 – 2 000 people Outdoors events with 501 – 2 000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event COVID-19 Safety Checklist</li> <li>Submit a checklist via the Business Tasmania website, approval not required</li> <li>Check In Tas QR code required</li> </ul>
<b>Small gatherings</b> (outside the Events Framework)	Indoors up to 250 people Outdoors up to 500 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable – no application or approval required under the Events Framework, refer to Safe Workplaces Framework</li> <li>Check in TAS QR required if the venue is a location specified in the direction Contact Tracing e.g. entertainment venues</li> <li>For gatherings at private property, please refer to <a href="https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au">coronavirus.tas.gov.au</a> and search for household visitors</li> </ul>

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

### Q1. What are the changes for event thresholds from the current Framework?

- Thresholds refer to Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 instead of levels.
- Simpler application, with Tiers based on the number of people in attendance.
- Tier 1 events include events of 500 or more people in outdoor settings (previously set at 1000 or more people) and 250 or more in indoor settings.
- Tier 1 event organisers are required to complete and register a checklist to document how COVID-19 safety will be delivered.
- Free-mixing events are capped at Tier 2 ie, up to 5,000 people.

### Q2. Who is counted in the event capacity limit?

- Patrons or attendees are counted towards the total capacity of the event. Event workers, staff, volunteers, performers and contractors are no longer counted in the total capacity.
- Event venues must still comply with density capacity limits of 1 person per 2 square metres.

### Q3. What were the factors that required the Events Framework to be updated?

- The very high external risk environment with outbreaks of the highly transmissible delta variant of COVID-19 in many jurisdictions.
- Approaching the summer season which is synonymous with larger numbers of events.
- The need to clarify and simplify the requirements for holding COVID-19 safe events.
- A need to improve communication about the public health principles for COVID-19 safety to reduce the risks associated with holding events, especially events with high-risk behaviours.

### Q4. What type of event or activity does the event framework relate to?

- All events or activities of 250+ indoors or 500+ outdoors.

### Q5. Is mask wearing still triggered when there is more than 1000 people at a point in time?

- Yes.

### Q6. If I have less than 250 people indoors or less than 500 people outdoors, do I need to apply under the Events Framework?

- No, the Events Framework does not apply to small gatherings.
- Smaller gatherings must still consider the risks of COVID-19. Please refer to the Safe Workplaces Framework via [WorkSafe Tasmania](#) for the latest templates and information.

### Q7. If I register for a Tier 1 event then I cancel it, what do I need to do?

- If you need to cancel or amend the details of your event, please email [eventsframework@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:eventsframework@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) to advise.

### Q8. How do I change tiers and how much notice do I need to give?

- If the details of your event change and as a result you need to change event tiers, please email [eventsframework@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:eventsframework@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) for advice on the next steps.
- For Tier 1 events that are increasing in size, a representative from Public Health will be in contact to discuss.
- For Tier 2 and 3 events, your application will be reopened to you to update.

### Q9. How long will the assessments take under the new Framework?

- 30 business days unless further information is required at which time the application will be paused.

### **Q10. How long will the Framework be in place for?**

- It is not possible to say how long the Framework will be in place for.
- Tasmania is progressing towards a time when cases of COVID-19 will occur in our substantially vaccinated population.
- Restrictions may change at any time in response to changing COVID-19 circumstances not only in Tasmania but other Australian states and territories and other countries.

### **Q11. What happens if an outbreak of COVID-19 occurs just prior to my event?**

- Event organisers should always be prepared for the possibility that in the lead up to an event, changing COVID-19 circumstances may mean that they will be required to restrict, modify, postpone or cancel the event.

### **Q12. Why is Tasmania's Events Framework stricter than in other states?**

- Each Australian jurisdiction is managing events based on advice from public health authorities, including the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (the key decision-making committee for health emergencies), as well as jurisdiction-specific circumstances. The Frameworks in each jurisdiction may therefore differ.
- Tasmania's gathering limits are proportional to the size of its population and the risk of community spread that might be caused by a positive case at an event. It is noted that a gathering of 10,000 people is just under 2% of the Tasmanian population. By contrast, a gathering of 10,000 in Victoria would be around 0.15% of that state's population.

### **Q13. Will Tasmania's event restrictions be eased once the state reaches a ninety percent vaccination rate?**

- With the easing of border restrictions, cases of COVID-19 will occur in Tasmania even with most of the population having been vaccinated.
- The ongoing careful management of all events, especially large events, will be important to manage risk.

### **Q14. If my event uses multiple venues, can I have 5000 at each venue?**

- Depending on the size of the venues and the type of event, it may be possible to have 5000 people at each venue.
- This would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Q15. Can my event exceed the patron limit if I require all attendees to be vaccinated?**

- No.

### **Q16. How long before my event will I receive notification of whether my plan has been approved or not?**

- Event organisers are encouraged to submit their application well before the event date.
- This will ensure prompt notification of approval.

### **Q17. Can I host an outdoor festival with camping?**

- Camping may be permitted however it has been identified as a high-risk factor.
- An event with camping will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account other risk factors and features of the event.

### **Q18. What are the rules around using zones to maximise the number of patrons at my event?**

- Zoning is an option that can be used to manage large numbers of people at an event, particularly where there is a focal point such as a stage and/or high-risk activities such as dancing or the availability of alcohol.
- Zones also help to minimise congestion and supports contact tracing if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at the event.
- Zones are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Q19. Can event organisers be held liable if COVID-19 is traced back to their event and passed on to other patrons?**

- No.
- However, event organisers may be in breach of the public health directions if they fail to complete, register and implement the COVID-19 safety check list (for Tier 1 events) or fail to develop and implement the Event COVID-19 Safety Plan (for Tiers 2 and 3 events).

### **Q20. Am I responsible if people attending my event fail to comply with physical distancing requirements?**

- Event organisers have a responsibility to implement their approved Event COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- A key requirement of an Event COVID-19 Safety Plan is to ensure patrons can maintain physical distancing.
- An event organiser is not responsible for an individual who does not comply with this requirement.

### **Q21. What will happen if I don't implement adequate public health measures or the Event COVID-19 Safety Plan for my event?**

- The reason for requiring event organisers to implement public health measures and Event COVID-19 Safety Plans at their events is to prevent COVID-19 from entering or spreading at an event.
- Public health attends most events to check on compliance and liaise with event organisers on-site to ensure COVID-19 safety requirements in their approved Event COVID-19 Safety Plan are followed.
- If approved requirements are not followed, it may be referred to the Director of Public Health.
- This may impact on the consideration of any future event applications.

### **Q22. Is the event organiser or the venue operator responsible for collecting and retaining records for contact tracing purposes?**

- The event organiser has primary responsibility for hosting a COVID-19 safe event.
- This includes ensuring records for contact tracing purposes are collected.

A requirement for all Event COVID-19 Safety Plans is to show how this will be managed.

### **Q23. Is there a requirement for event staff to undertake online COVID Safe training prior to working on an event?**

- There is no requirement to undertake a specific training for events.
- However, an online training program on infection prevention and control is available from the Australian Government – [COVID-19 infection control training | Australian Government Department of Health](#).

### **Q24. How will compliance be monitored at my event?**

- Public health attends most events to check on compliance.
- Staff always make themselves known and liaise with event organisers on-site to ensure COVID-19 safety requirements in their approved Event COVID-19 Safety Plan are followed.
- Feedback after the event may also be provided.

### **Q25. My event has indoor and outdoor areas. How do I determine if I should follow the indoor event or outdoor event requirements?**

- Seek advice from [business.tas.gov.au/eventsframework](#) who will be able to guide you in your application process.

### **Q26. I'm hosting an event at a conference centre; do I need to register my event and COVID safety plan or is the venue owner responsible?**

- If the venue owner/operator is organising the conference, then they are responsible for registering the event and ensuring implementation of the plan.
- However, if the event organiser is a separate person/entity to the venue owner/operator, then the organiser is responsible for registering the event and ensuring implementation of the plan.

## **Q27. Will I get progress updates on my application assessment and when I can get an outcome?**

- Public health assesses applications as quickly as possible.
- Progress updates are not provided.
- An Event COVID-19 Safety Plan for Tier 2 and Tier 3 events must be completed and submitted at least a minimum of 30 business days before the key decision date for the event as required by the event organiser.

For full details on the updated Events Framework, you can connect with Business Tasmania online: [business.tas.gov.au/eventsframework](https://business.tas.gov.au/eventsframework) or by calling **1800 440 026**.

If you have an existing application submitted with Business Tasmania, please contact the team directly via email at [eventsframework@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:eventsframework@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) or by calling **03 6165 6650**.