

Information for theatres and entertainment venues



Making way for more people to attend theatres and entertainment venues.

The new Mass gatherings – No. 2 Direction allow owners and operators of entertainment venues including cinemas, concert venues, theatres and auditoriums in Tasmania, to apply to have more people at their venues.

Theatre and entertainment venues are among the first in Tasmania to be able to increase patron limits up to 75 per cent capacity, while maintaining COVID-safe behaviours.

Can my venue go up to 75 per cent?

• For indoor events with fixed seating (where patrons are required to be seated most of the time) in an entertainment venue, the number of patrons that may be permitted at any time is up to 75 per cent of the fixed seating capacity.

For indoor events at cinemas, theatres and other entertainment venues with fixed seating, if there is more than one person per two square metres of floor space available, everyone must wear a fitted face covering (or facemask) while indoors at the event, unless they are exempt. The face covering must cover the person's mouth and nose.

When are facemasks required?

If being filled to 75 per cent of fixed seating capacity will cause the density to be more than one person per two square metres, there are two options:

- Either everyone indoors at the event must wear a fitted face covering (unless they are exempt) - see below - or
- the number of seated patrons must be lowered until the density limit is not exceeded.

The following groups of people are exempt from needing to wear a face covering:

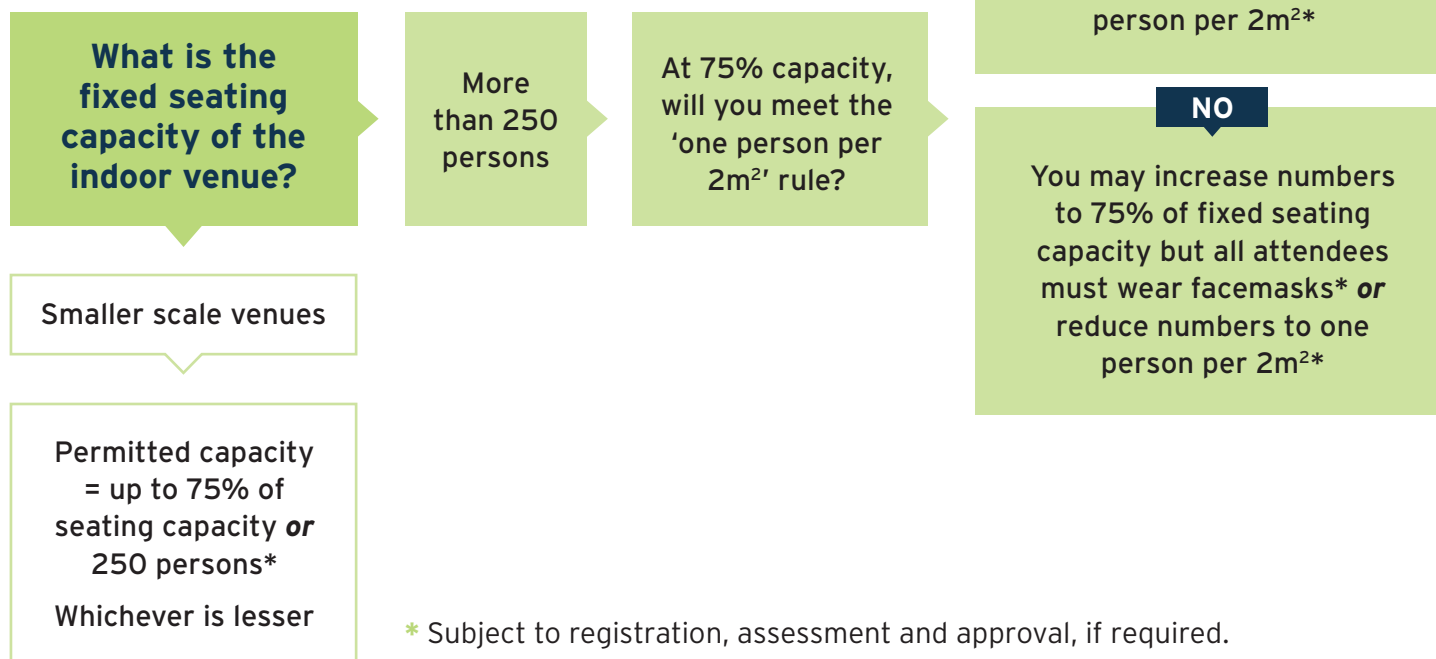
- people performing at the event
- people under the age of 12 years
- anyone with a medical certificate from a medical practitioner, confirming they have an illness or condition that makes wearing a fitted face covering unsuitable.

Permissible reasons for removing the face covering include:

- To communicate with a person who is deaf or has impaired hearing, if visibility of the mouth is essential for communication
- To communicate clearly as part of their employment or training
- To eat or drink
- If wearing a facemask would create a risk to the health or safety of the person.

In the situations above, the person must put their face covering back on as soon as practicable.

Calculating the permitted seating capacity for indoor events with fixed seating



Registration, assessment and approval

Applications must be submitted through the Events Framework for theatres and entertainment venues to increase capacity limits up to 75 per cent.

It may take around three weeks to complete the application process, depending on the number of applications, the need to seek further information from applicants, and availability of qualified staff.

There must be a COVID-19 Safety Plan developed and implemented for all events and venues. The event organiser (or contact person) must be able to present the plan to a police officer, WorkSafe Tasmania officer or other authorised person immediately upon request.

Requirements under other directions under the Public Health Act 1997 (other than density limits if a lower density limit has been approved) must be complied with.

How can I find out more?

To find out more, contact Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 or by email to: ask@business.tas.gov.au