

COVID-19: GUIDANCE FOR PLANNING A WEDDING

October 4, 2020

This guidance will help you plan your wedding to reduce the risk of COVID-19. All public health orders must be followed when planning your wedding and small outdoor events are preferred. Family and cultural expectations should be flexible to protect the health and safety of attendees.

Prevent COVID-19

Encourage good [infection prevention and control practices](#) at your event to help reduce the risk of transmission

- Tell your guests to stay home if they are feeling ill – no matter how mild their symptoms are
- Encourage physical distancing (2-metres) among guests at all times
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available at the entrance of the venue and high traffic areas
- Encourage one-way movement of guests and limit crowding in hallways, entrances, exits and washrooms
- Remind guests to not hug, kiss and shake hands
- A mask must be worn at all time when indoors and when physical distancing is difficult, except when eating (remind guests to bring their own mask)
 - The couple may remove their mask during the ceremony
 - Masks can be removed by performers who are behind a physical barrier (singing) or engaging in physical activity (dancing)
- Limit singing and loud speaking even with masks on
- Keep music to a conversation level to avoid people having to speak loudly or shout over the music to be heard
- Ensure you can contact attendees in the event that someone was contagious while at your event (keep a record of RSVPs, create online guest book, do not pass a pen between people)
- Post signs to encourage public health measures
 - [Covid-19 Self-Assessment](#)
 - [Physical distancing](#)
 - [Hand Washing](#) and [Hand Sanitizing](#)
 - [Mask or face covering required](#)
 - [Respiratory etiquette](#)

Number of Guests

COVID-19 is most commonly spread from an infected person through respiratory droplets and close contact such as touching or shaking hands. To reduce transmission, reduce the size of your event and limit the length of time people are together.

All religious services, rites, ceremonies and related celebrations/events must comply with gathering restrictions, as outlined in the [Reopening Ontario Act – Stage 3 Orders](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH

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These gathering limits are the maximum allowed if all staff and guests maintain 2-metres [physical distancing](#).

	Religious service, rite or ceremony	Staffed event or social gathering^a at a licensed facility^b	Private event or social gathering at a private home setting^c
Indoor	30% capacity or less of any given room in the building	50 people or less	10 people or less
Outdoor	100 people or less <i>Note a religious service performed in a backyard (e.g., wedding) must adhere to the private event / social gathering limits</i>	100 people or less	25 people or less

^a Includes social activities before and/or after service, receptions with food after service etc., and may be planned or spontaneous

^b Includes businesses and facilities operating in accordance with [O. Reg. 364/20](#) (e.g. places of worship, restaurants, bars, cinemas, gyms, and recreational sporting or performing art events)

^c Includes unstaffed businesses or facilities (e.g. private residences, backyards, parks, and other recreation areas). See [COVID-19: Guidance for Public Gatherings](#) for more information

- You cannot combine indoor and outdoor events to increase the size of your gathering
- Staff and performers are not included in the gathering limit

Modifications

- Limit group photos and avoid activities that congregate guests
- Avoid close contact and sharing of items
- Limit alcohol service to prevent guest from relaxing public health measures
- Dancing and mingling is not permitted except by the couple. The couple getting married are permitted to dance with their parents
- Consider a virtual option to join your event to allow additional guests to attend

Food and Drink

- Restaurants and banquet halls must comply with food premises regulations and COVID-19 guidelines
- Guests must stay seated except to leave and use the washroom
- Guest may only remove masks when eating
- Potluck, buffet and self-serve stations are not permitted
- Seating should be arranged by households and adhere to 2-metre distancing

More Information

For more information, visit our website at york.ca/covid19