

Guidance for the use of the WHO Mass Gathering Sports Addendum Risk Assessment tools in the context of COVID-19

Guidance for organizers of sports events planning mass gatherings during the current outbreak of COVID-19

Routine planning for mass gatherings includes conducting risk assessments to determine the overall risk of disease spread. In view of the current outbreak of COVID-19, a disease-specific and event-specific risk assessment and mitigation checklist has been developed for use by host countries and organizers of mass gathering, to assess the specific risk of COVID-19.

This tool includes all factors from the general WHO risk assessment and mitigation checklist for mass gatherings as well as additional factors relating to sporting events, to enable event organizers to determine a more accurate overall risk score.

The following risk assessment and mitigation checklist should be used in conjunction with the WHO Mass Gathering Sports Addendum Guidelines.

In order to accurately provide answers the following risk assessment and mitigation checklist, organizers must be knowledgeable on the current COVID-19 outbreak. The organizers should reference the daily global COVID-19 situation reports provided by WHO as well as the national COVID-19 situation reports, if available.

The tool must be completed in this Excel spreadsheet (see following tabs), as the scores are automatically calculated there. After the tools have been completed, the scores you receive in the Excel spreadsheet for both sections will need to be entered into the decision matrix found on the final tab ("Overall risk scores") for the overall risk score to be determined.

It must be ensured that this risk assessment is conducted with input from local public health authorities and that the necessary personnel with expertise in mass gatherings, risk assessment, epidemiology, and infectious disease control measures are included from the initial stages of planning.

For the overall determination, factors under consideration include:

- the current stage of the COVID-19 outbreak and known transmission dynamics
- the geographical distribution and number of participants, and their individual risk profile
- the risk assessment tool
- the mitigation measures that are currently in place or feasible

It is important to remember that while mitigation measures can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections, they cannot completely eliminate the threat. It is WHO's view that all countries with community transmission should seriously consider postponing or reducing mass gatherings that bring people together and have the potential to amplify disease and support the recommended best practice of physical distancing. Any decision will be supported through the use of WHO tools, in particular the Risk Assessment for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19.

Mass gathering risk assessment for COVID-19: addendum for sporting events

The questions below will enable sport event organizers to review the additional considerations specific to sporting events involving mass gatherings, and thus inform their risk assessment of COVID-19 associated with the event. This will help organizers to understand and manage any additional risk from COVID-19.

The risk assessment should be reviewed and reassessed regularly during the planning phase and updated immediately prior to the transition to the operational phase, especially in light of the rapidly evolving nature of the outbreak. Reference should be made to the latest technical guidance and situation reports on the WHO website.

The risk assessment for COVID-19 associated with the sporting event must be coordinated and integrated with the host country's national risk assessment for COVID-19. The person completing the questionnaire should include input from the local public health authorities, consult WHO's latest technical guidance and ensure that there is an up-to-date evaluation of the epidemiological situation.

Risk assessment

Please answer Yes (1) or No (0) to the following questions to determine a risk assessment score that incorporates factors specific to mass gathering sporting events

Additional risk of COVID-19 to the mass gathering sporting event	Yes (1)/No (0)	Score
Will the event be held in a country that has documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread)?	1	1
Will the event be held in multiple venues/cities/countries?	0	0
Will the event include international participants (athletes and spectators) from countries that have documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread)?	0	0
Will the event include a significant number of participants (athletes or spectators) at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease (e.g., people over 65 years of age or people with underlying	0	0
Will the event include sports that are considered at higher risk of spread for COVID-19 (eg, contact sports)?	0	0
Will the event be held indoors?	0	0
Total COVID-19 risk score		1

Mass gathering mitigation checklist for COVID-19: addendum for sporting events

Mitigation measures assess the current effort and planning to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 disease for the event. As mitigation measures can reduce the overall risk of the mass gathering contributing to the spread of COVID-19, they should be taken into account after the risk assessment has occurred to gain a clearer understanding of the overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19, should the mass gathering be held. Together with the risk assessment score, the mitigation measure will contribute to the decision matrix and influence the assessment of the overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering.

Topic	Key consideration	Score Yes/Completed (2), Maybe/In progress (1), No/Not considered (0)	Weighting	Total score	Comments
Understanding of the overview of the current COVID-19 situation by the event organizers	Have the relevant organizers and responsible staff been informed about the latest available guidance on the COVID-19 outbreak (official web resources available from local public health authorities)? And are the organizers and staff concerned committed to following the available guidance?	2	1	2	www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/covid-19/pages/default.aspx
	Are organizers aware of global and local daily situation reports as provided by local public health authorities?	2	1	2	
	Do the organizers and responsible staff understand the risks and transmission routes of COVID-19, the steps that event attendees can take to limit spread, the recognized best practices (including respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, physical distancing, etc.), and the travel restrictions adopted by different countries that may affect the mass gathering?	2	1	2	
Event Preparedness & Response plans	Is there an Emergency COVID-19 Outbreak Response Coordinator/Team in the organizing committee or other structure structure for the mass gathering with defined roles and responsibilities, coordinating the health preparedness and response planning for the outbreak?	1	2	2	
	Has the organizer requested support from local public health authorities?	0	3	0	
	Have the organizers of the mass gathering event acquired the following supplies to help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19?				
	Personal protective equipment (e.g. masks, gloves, gowns) for onsite medical personnel	0	3	0	
	for safe disposal of hygienic materials (e.g. tissues, towels, sanitary products) in washrooms and changing rooms	2	3	6	
	Hand sanitizers and alcohol rubs for all entrances and throughout the venue	2	3	6	
	If a person feels unwell/ shows symptoms of an acute respiratory infection during the event:				
	Is there a procedure for athletes or spectators to clearly identify whom to contact and how to do so if they or other event participants feel unwell?	2	3	6	
	Is there a protocol on whom meeting organizers should contact to report suspected cases and request testing and epidemiological investigations?	2	3	6	Refer to our event contact tracing list
	Are first-aid services or other medical services in-place and equipped to support patients with respiratory symptoms?	1	2	2	Host venue responsibility
	Are there isolation rooms or mobile isolation units available onsite?	1	2	2	Host venue responsibility
	Has a cleaning schedule been developed to ensure the venue is clean and hygienic – wiping surfaces and any equipment regularly with disinfectant is strongly recommended (before, during and after the event and between each round of competition)?	2	3	6	
	Are there established screening measures , including temperature checks in place for participants at the point of entry, venues, routes and on-site medical facilities (first-aid points)? (Please specify in Comments what these screening measures include)	2	3	6	Temperature Check - 38c and above = NO PLAY Rule
	Is the host country conducting COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic tests ? (If Yes, please specify in comments the type of COVID-19 diagnostic test used)	2	3	6	
Does the host country have a national public health emergency preparedness and response plan that can address severe respiratory diseases, including COVID-19?	2	2	4		
If the event is for a duration of 14 days or longer, does the medical response plan for the event include resources and protocols for managing all public health interventions that would be necessary and supporting the national public health authorities if participants are infected and become unwell at the event? (If the event is for less than 14 days, please score 0)	2	3	6		
If the event is for less than 14 days, does the medical response plan include protocols for organizers to notify all participants of possible exposure to COVID-19 if the organizers are made aware of any suspected or confirmed cases that attended the event? (If the event is for 14 days or longer, please score 0)	2	3	6		
Stakeholder and partner coordination	Is there an established mechanism for collaboration and coordination between the health and security sectors , which is considered as crucial?	2	2	4	
	Are there agreed, clear and easily understood processes in place for reporting to external multi-sectoral stakeholders and disseminating risk communication messages (Media)?	2	2	4	
Command and control	Is there a decision-making authority/body and an agreed procedure to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the mass gathering sporting event related to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak?	2	3	6	
	Are there arrangements to activate a strategic health operations centre if there are suspected COVID-19 cases in connection with the sporting mass gathering?	2	2	4	
	Have the mass gathering organizers and staff undergone training and exercises on personal safety procedures and emergency mitigation measures (including those specifically listed in this checklist)?	1	3	3	
Risk communication	Is there a risk communication strategy for the sporting mass gathering in regard to COVID-19?	2	3	6	
Public health awareness of COVID-19 before and during the event	Has public health advice on clinical features of COVID-19, preventive measures, especially respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene practices, and physical distancing, been shared with all staff involved in the event, athletes, the public, and personnel of all relevant stakeholders?	2	3	6	
	Has information on the at-risk populations been provided to all athletes, the public and others so they may make an informed decision on their attendance based on their personal risks?	2	3	6	
	Has public advice included information on the meaning of the following measures: quarantine, self-isolation and self-monitoring ?	2	2	4	
Specific mitigation measures	Will there be daily health checks of athletes/competitors?	2	2	4	
	Will the athletes be separated from other groups , such as officials, support staff and spectators, to limit transmission?	2	2	4	
	Are there measures in place to limit the sharing of equipment, water bottles, towels, etc. ?	2	3	6	
	Does the designated seating provided allow for physical distancing between spectators (minimum of 1 metre)?	2	2	4	
	Have pre-travel health checks been performed on all athletes to ensure underlying co-morbidities, medications, allergies, etc. are documented?	2	2	4	

Sum of mitigation measures	135	135
Total mitigation score (%)	61	

Mass gathering overall risk score: addendum for sporting events

The decision matrix takes the risk score and the mitigation score to provide a colour determination. This colour determination identifies the total risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering. The "Colour Determination" key below the decision matrix describes the total risk for each colour.

Total COVID-19 risk score (from "Risk Assessment" Tab)	1
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Total mitigation score (from "Mitigation Checklist" Tab)	61
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Risk Vs. Mitigation Matrix

Total Risk Assessment Score	Very Prepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (76-100)	Somewhat Prepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (51-75)	Somewhat Unprepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (26-50)	Very Unprepared to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts (0-25)
0 - Negligible	Very low	Very low	Very low	Very low
1 - Very Low Risk	Very low	Very low	Low	Low
2 - Low Risk	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
3 - Moderate Risk (low-moderate)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
4 - Moderate Risk (high-moderate)	Moderate	Moderate	High	Very High
5 - High Risk	High	High	Very High	Very High
6 - Very High Risk	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

KEY FOR COLOUR DETERMINATION OF OVERALL RISK	
VERY LOW	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering is considered <u>very low</u> .
LOW	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering is considered <u>low</u> . Recommend checking whether mitigation measures can be strengthened.
MODERATE	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering is considered <u>moderate</u> . Recommend <u>significant</u> efforts to improve mitigation measures or reduce risk of transmission (decrease risk assessment score).
HIGH	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering is considered <u>high</u> . Recommend <u>significant</u> efforts to improve <u>both</u> mitigation measures and reduce risk of transmission (decrease risk assessment score).
VERY HIGH	Overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering is considered <u>very high</u> .