Event/Mass Gathering Health Considerations and Mitigation Strategies

	Characteristics	Considerations		Implications	Weight
EVENT	 Population attending the event	Community Transmission?	Are persons attending the event coming from regions where there is community transmission of COVID-19 or from countries with unreliable surveillance of the disease? See affected areas list.	If participants are expected from affected areas, the risk of importation is higher. These travelers may be self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days from their arrival in Canada, based on public health advice provided upon entry to Canada.	High
		Increased Professional Risk?	Are persons attending the event members of a professional group that might have increased risk of infection?	Healthcare workers may have greater risk of infection due to the possibility of occupational exposure.	Medium
		Vulnerable Population?	Are persons attending the event from demographic groups at greater risk of severe disease, such as older adults?	Older adults, people with immune compromising conditions and chronic diseases appear to be at greater risk of severe disease, so consideration should be given to protecting them from possible exposure to COVID-19 cases. Communication about risk to these attendees should be emphasized.	High
		Increased Transmission risk?	Are persons attending the event at greater risk of spreading the disease, such as young children?	Young children may be at greater risk of amplifying disease transmission so consideration should be given to protecting them from possible exposure to COVID-19 cases. Reducing transmission among children indirectly protects the population and may therefore reduce the demand on the health care system.	Medium
		Critical Infrastructure Roles	Are persons attending the event members of critical infrastructure roles, such as healthcare workers?	If transmission occurs at the mass gathering, participants may be subject to self-isolation or may become cases themselves. This could lead to critical infrastructure disruptions/absenteeism if the participants at the event represent critical services and industries.	High
		# Attendees?	How many people are expected to attend the event?	The larger the number of participants, the greater the likelihood of a participant being a case of COVID-19. Large numbers of people may also create greater likelihood of crowding.	High
DISEASE	Transmissibility 	Mode of Transmission	How readily does this disease transmit amongst people?	Epidemiologic evidence suggests this virus transmits readily by respiratory droplets and contact. This suggests that attendance at a mass gathering could result in transmission if a case is present.	High
		Silent Transmission	Can people transmit this disease without symptoms?	It is possible that cases transmit the virus in the early phase of their illness, when their symptoms are non-specific or mild. This suggests that attendance at a mass gathering could result in transmission if a case is present.	High
	Virulence	Severity	How serious is the disease caused by this virus?	Evidence suggests most cases are mild, although high-risk for age 65+ persons and those with underlying health conditions.	Medium
	Incubation period	Time to symptom presentation	How long from the time someone is infected to the time they develop the disease?	Estimated to be 5-6 days on average, with a maximum incubation period suggested to be 14 days. If people are infected at the mass gathering, they may not shown any sign of illness until after returning home, which could result in geographic dissemination of the disease.	High
ENVIRONMENT	Health system capacity	Infrastructure strain	Does the local health system have the capacity to assess, test and care for persons suspected of COVID-19, potentially in large numbers?	Persons under investigation and cases of COVID-19 could present a substantial burden to the local health system if many require testing and care in a short period of time.	High
	Geographic location	"Nearest Neighbor"	Is the location of the event in a densely-populated area?	Proximity to a densely populated area could result in more rapid dissemination of disease.	Medium
	Local demographics and epidemiology	"Vulnerable Neighbor"	Is the local population at increased risk of severe disease if COVID-19 circulated?	Nearby vulnerable populations could be at higher risk of exposure through imported cases of COVID-19.	Medium
	Environmental contamination	Decontamination potential?	Does the event have difficult-to-disinfect areas like numerous booths, wooden furniture, etc.?	The more potential exposure surfaces and their construction can make cleaning and disinfecting difficult or less effective, promoting potential transmission through environmental contamination.	Medium
	Crowd Density	Are attendees in close contact?	Will event participants be unable to maintain recommended social distancing (6-foot distance between attendees), due to crowding?	The crowd density is an important factor because it greatly increases the potential of close contact exposure. *see Other Considerations	High
	Hygiene	Hygiene stations at entrances?	Will the event have alcohol-based hand sanitizer or portable hand-washing stations available at all event entrances and food sevice areas?	Handwashing and hand sanitizer remain some of the most effective preventive measures to "flatten" the curve of an epidemic and mitigate transmission of communicable disease.	High

Risk Mitigation Strategies:

-Reduce the number of participants or change the venue to prevent crowding
-Stagger arrivals and departures
-Provide packaged refreshments instead of a buffet
-Increase access to handwashing stations
-Promote personal protective practices (hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, staying home if ill)
-Offer virtual or livestreamed activities
-Change the event program to reduce high risk activities such as those that require physical contact between participants

***Other Considerations:**

-Business event or social? (i.e., public meeting requiring quorum, religious service, etc.)
-Length of event? Prolonged close contact increases risk
-High Activity event? Sports events or concerts where attendees are yelling or singing
-Indoor vs. Outdoor

DISCLAIMER: This tool is provided for planning purposes only and should be considered only as a guide and part of an overall plan for decision making.

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