Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Current NT Risk informed decision tool for assessment of Public Gatherings (as at 15 March 2020)

# COVID-19 AND PUBLIC GATHERINGS

The Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPPC) on 13th March 2020 advised COAG of emerging evidence of community transmission in localised areas within Australia and of emerging international evidence that social distancing measures are best introduced at the earliest stages of community transmission to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the country and its health systems.

AHPPC advised the time has come to put in place social distancing measures to mitigate spread, rather than a strategy based primarily on case finding.

The measures include:

• limiting static non-essential organised gatherings to fewer than 500 people. *Static events are those where people are seated or in close contact in one place.*

• limiting non-essential meetings or conferences of critical workforce such as healthcare professionals and emergency services

• encouraging all Australians to use personal responsibility for social distancing measures

• initiating measures to protect vulnerable populations, such as reducing visitors to all residential care facilities and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Non-essential organised gatherings include gatherings that may result in large numbers of people being in close contact for extended periods of time and can contribute to the transmission of the virus causing the current outbreaks of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Non-essential organised gatherings are any function or event that a large group of people attend including, but are not limited to, conferences, music festivals, sporting events, some religious and life celebrations, cultural events, elections and other public occasions.

The decision to proceed with an event or to restrict, modify, postpone or cancel the event should be based on a thorough risk assessment. This tool provides advice to help inform organisations risk assessment for any event they may be considering.

**The Public Health advice is to use this risk assessment tool to assist decision making around whether events should proceed noting that erring on the side of caution is encouraged.**

# RISK CONSIDERATIONS WHEN ASSESS A PUBLIC GATHERINGS

# Step 1. Answer the questions below and for every yes answer apply the score.

| Population attending the event *Score each ‘yes’ as indicated* | Yes/No | Score |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Are persons attending the event coming from regions in the NT or interstate where there is community transmission of COVID-19 or coming from overseas? (30 points) |  |  |
| Are persons attending the event from demographic groups at greater risk of severe disease, such as older adults, remote NT community members or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Groups? (30 points) |  |  |
| Are persons attending the event members of critical infrastructure roles, such as emergency services and healthcare workers? (30 points) |  |  |
| Size of the event *Score each ‘yes’ as indicated* |  |  |
| Attendance < 50 people (10 points) |  |  |
| Attendance 51 - 500 people (20 points) |  |  |
| Attendance 501- 2000 people (40 points) |  |  |
| Attendance 2000 -10,000 (60 points) |  |  |
| Attendance more than 10,000 (80 points) |  |  |
| Other aspects of the event likely to impact transmission | Yes/No | Score |
| Is the event static? (50 points) |  |  |
| Is the event held indoors? (20 points) |  |  |
| Does the event run over multiple days? (20 points) |  |  |
| Will there be crowding (participants are unlikely to be able to maintain distance of 1.5 metres throughout the event)? (20 points) |  |  |
| Does the event involve singing, cheering, close physical contact such as when participating in contact sports, sharing food or beverages or sharing physical objects (i.e. pens)? (30 points) |  |  |
| TOTAL A |  |  |

# RISK MITIGATIONS

# Step 2. Answer the questions below and apply the score for each component.

# Total the score and subtract from the total obtained at Step1 for your final risk assessment

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| Are there risk mitigations in place which are likely to reduce transmission  *Score each ‘yes’ as indicated. ‘Unknown’ equates to a ‘No’* | Yes/No | Score |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is the event going to support appropriate hygiene measures (Provide sanitizing hand rub dispensers, regularly refill, provide washing facilities, tissues and bins for disposal)? (5 points) |  |  |
| Is the event able to support and promote community messaging of appropriate behaviours (provide information and advice on appropriate respiratory and hygiene measures, to not attend if unwell, to not attend if exposed to an infected person or have travelled to a high risk area in the two weeks before the event)? (10 points) |  |  |
| Is the event able to ensure appropriate measures to ensure appropriate separation of attendees from each other? (20 points) |  |  |
| Are event organisers able to contact and communicate and provide advice to participants before, during and after the event?  (10 points) |  |  |
| Is the cleaning program sufficient to reduce risk of transmission at in high risk and other areas? (10 points) |  |  |
| TOTAL B |  |  |
| TOTAL RISK (A-B) |  |  |

# RISK ASSESSMENT

| Very High Risk | 150 or more |
| --- | --- |
| High Risk | **100-149** |
| Lower Risk | **Less than 100** |