

COVID-19 safe events

Requirement to wear face masks at events with over 1000 people

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COVID**

From 18 September 2021, face masks are required to be worn at any event that is expected to have more than 1,000 people in attendance.

Throughout the COVID-19 health emergency, events have been identified to be among the highest-risk environments for COVID-19 transmission. The new mask-wearing requirement is a response to the currently heightened COVID-19 risk nationally, relating to the highly infectious Delta variant of the virus.

It is important that patrons attending your events are able to enjoy the experience in a COVID-safe way, and that we are able to continue holding events in Tasmania.

For more information about wearing face masks go to coronavirus.tas.gov.au/facemasks.

Information for event organisers

Masks are required if there are more than 1,000 people expected to be at an event, regardless of whether the event is seated or unseated, indoors, or outdoors (see Q4).

Organisers of events must inform all attendees, staff and third-party vendors attending the event that every person onsite at the event is required to wear a mask. Full details on the required Events Framework can be found at business.tas.gov.au/coronavirus_information/event_framework.

The total number of people at an event includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- patrons (including children and babies)
- onsite staff
- food and beverage staff
- security
- cleaning crews.

Q1. How long will events with 1,000+ people need to wear masks for?

Masks are an extra form of protection, in environments where large groups of people are gathering, where it may be difficult to maintain physical distance or where there are people who have particular health vulnerabilities.

The main reason for wearing a face mask is to protect other people. If a person is unknowingly infected with COVID-19, wearing a mask reduces the chance of them passing the virus on to others. It is likely mask wearing in certain settings will remain a feature of Tasmania's response to COVID-19 for the foreseeable future.

Q2. Is mask wearing required while an event is set up and packed up?

No, mask wearing is required only for duration of the event. Set up and packing down an event is outside of the event itself and does not require those present to wear masks.

Q3. Are all attendees included in the calculation of attendee numbers?

Yes. All persons attending the event must be included in calculating the total number of persons present. This includes patrons, participants, staff, volunteers and security personnel.

Q4. Do masks only need to be worn when there is 1,000+ attendees at a time?

Face masks are required to be worn at any event when 1000+ attendees are expected over the duration of the event (or single day if it is a multi-day event), regardless of the number of persons at any one time.

Face masks are required to be worn for the period the person attends the event (see Q6 below for rules around eating and drinking).

Q5. Are masks required to be worn if sitting in a vehicle watching an event?

No. If you are in your own vehicle you are not required to wear a mask. However, if you get out of the car to mix and mingle at the event, you are required to put a mask on.

Q6. What happens when people eat/drink? Can they remove masks? Including stall tastings at a market?

Removing a mask for the purpose of eating and drinking is permitted but the mask must be refitted as soon as the activity is complete.

There are also certain activities which a person may be undertaking in which a mask can be removed for the duration of that activity. These circumstances are outlined on the Coronavirus website, go to Face masks at events and gatherings from coronavirus.tas.gov.au/face masks.

Q7. Is an event organiser responsible for providing masks?

No. Each person attending is responsible for supplying their own fitted face mask while attending an event. It is however recommended that an event organiser keep a stock of masks on hand in case patrons arrive at an event without a mask.

Event operators are required to notify attendees of the requirement to wear a mask at their event. This should be done at the time of booking and it should be clearly stated on the event website and via social media.

Q8. What do event organisers do if people arrive at a 1,000+ event without a mask?

Event operators are required to notify attendees of the requirement to wear a mask at their event, and each person attending is responsible for supplying their own fitted face mask while attending an event. It is recommended that a stock of masks be held on hand in case patrons arrive at an event without a mask. If a person arrives at an event and does not have a mask, then the event operator should be able to supply a mask.

There are a range of support materials to assist event organisers to hold a COVID safe event. If you have further queries or need assistance contact the team at Business Tasmania on **1800 440 026** or email ask@business.tas.gov.au.

Resources can be found at business.tas.gov.au/coronavirus_information/event_framework.