



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Guidance regarding the responsibilities of those holding and attending religious and other mass gathering events

The World Health Organization named Coronavirus Disease as COVID-19. It is a severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. It spreads from person to person through droplets that live on surfaces. You can help prevent the spread of the virus by wiping down surfaces regularly, not touching your face, and frequently washing your hands for about 20 seconds. Furthermore, when coughing and sneezing do it into a tissue or on your sleeve. Also, avoid close contact with other people who are sick, and stay home if you're sick.

This virus is spread so quickly, we, therefore, must act decisively to slow it down. To reduce social contact, the government has published regulations that there should be no social, sporting, meetings, cultural, religious or any gathering of over 100 people.

Mass gatherings should be avoided if possible; we do appreciate that certain events and social gatherings will take place despite the outbreak of COVID-19. But if gatherings should take place the following guidance to mitigate unnecessary risk.

Keep to under 100 people

1. Responsibility of those holding events

- a.** Importance of maintaining a register of all attendees
 - Details of the event
 - Description of event, date, address at which event held, contact details of the person responsible for organizing the event
 - Contact details of attendees
 - Name, surname, date of birth, RSA ID or other, home address, telephone number, alternative telephone number
 - Above information will be forwarded to provincial CDC team and will assist with contact tracing in the event of confirmed COVID-19 cases at a gathering
- b.** Waste management

- Arrange for appropriate waste management to minimize unnecessary exposure to potentially infectious material, including plastic bags to dispose of used tissues
- c. Hygiene and sanitation**
- Provide suitable facilities for handwashing (running water and soap). If these facilities are not available, sufficient access to hand-sanitizer should be made available
 - Provide tissues to avoid coughing in hands
 - Try to ensure social distancing to prevent unnecessary crowding – people must sit or stand 2 meters from each other
 - Try to ensure proper ventilation – better to hold events out-doors if possible

2. Responsibility of those attending events

- a.** Do not attend events if having any of the following symptoms
 - Fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath
- b.** Try to practice social distancing – avoid overcrowded spaces
- c.** Practice good hand hygiene

Brief guidelines prepared by the following:

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