



Guidance for General Assemblies

General Assemblies are critically important to the governance of First Nations and not subject to current gathering restrictions. While larger events do pose additional risks for transmission of COVID-19, it is possible to safely conduct a General Assembly by strictly adhering to safe spacing requirements and infection prevention and control measures.

Hosting General Assemblies outdoors (weather dependent) will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. If held inside, ensure attendees are able to maintain physical distancing.

Citizens who are ill, or who have underlying medical conditions and elders are encouraged to stay home, and attend virtually if this option is available. When a General Assembly vote is conducted, consider using a show of hands rather than a ballot vote when possible.

Spacing requirements

The venue size and layout should enable staff, volunteers and citizens to maintain a safe space of two metres from each other at all times. Physical distancing still applies for General Assemblies held outdoors. Individuals from the same household or combined household bubble can remain closer together.

Handshaking, hugging, touching or passing objects between people should be discouraged to minimize physical contact. While General Assemblies provide citizens an opportunity to visit and spend time with each other, it is strongly encouraged to limit interactions to members of the same household or combined household bubble.

Hygiene, cleaning and disinfection

- Providing access to handwashing facilities and placing hand-sanitizing dispensers in prominent locations throughout the location where the general assembly is being held.
- Providing additional respiratory etiquette supplies such as tissues and lined waste containers.
- Frequently cleaning high touch surfaces such as tables, pens and pencils, door knobs, seating areas and counters.
- Washrooms should be frequently cleaned and disinfected. Physical distancing must be maintained in washroom and in washroom line-ups
 - Requirements for the number of toilets and hand washing stations have not been affected by COVID-19.

Meals and food handling

- The following precautions must be taken if food or drink is provided before, during or after a General Assembly:
 - Food and drink should be served in pre-packaged or individual portions;

- Food and drink utensils and containers, such as coffee pots, snack bowls and water or milk pitchers, should not be shared or passed between attendees.
- Physical contact between serving individuals and attendees must not occur while serving food or drink;
- Serving individuals should wash or sanitize hands immediately before and after serving.

Cultural Activities and Entertainment

Singing is not recommended as it is considered a high-risk activity because infected people can transmit the virus over greater distances through saliva or respiratory droplets.

Playing wind instruments (ex: saxophone or trumpet) may also increase the risk of spreading the virus due to airborne respiratory droplets.

Cultural activities such as hand games and dancing are not recommended because it is difficult if not impossible to maintain proper physical distancing.

Operational plan

While an operational plan for a General Assembly is not required, it may be helpful to fill in a plan to ensure you have thought of all aspects of planning the event safely. A plan template can be found [here](#).

Additional resources

The following resources from Yukon.ca/covid-19 may be of use when planning and conducting a General Assembly safely:

Six steps to staying safe: Covid-19

<https://yukon.ca/en/6-steps-staying-safe-covid-19>

Operating businesses, services, and events safely during Covid-19

<https://yukon.ca/en/operating-businesses-services-and-events-safely-during-covid-19>

Physical distancing guidelines

<https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/physical-distancing-guidelines-home-and-work>

Cleaning and disinfecting in the work place (applies to this type of activity)

<https://yukon.ca/en/cleaning-and-disinfecting-work-place>

Covid-19 posters and handouts related to physical distancing and hygiene

<https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/download-covid-19-resources>