

Spectator Capacity Response Protocol

Background

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Alberta Health has released a series of relaunch guidance documents to provide sector specific public health guidance. Specific recommendations regarding indoor gatherings and spectator guidelines can be found in [Sport, physical activity and recreation](#). Spectator public health recommendations provided by Alberta Health include:

- Spectators should be kept out of participant spaces (e.g., fields of play, courts, ice surfaces).
- With 2 metres of distance maintained between members of different households (with the exception of core/household cohorts), the following capacity restrictions apply:
- A **maximum of 200 spectators is permitted for outdoor seated/audience** events/settings.
- A **maximum of 100 spectators is permitted for indoor** events/settings.
- Cheering and yelling is strongly discouraged as it presents a high risk of spreading droplets.
- It is strongly recommended that spectators wear masks.

Strathcona County has implemented a requirement for the mandatory wearing of masks or face coverings by all visitors of Strathcona County indoor facilities. In addition, corresponding capacity limits have been determined for all spectator areas to enable 2m of physical distancing between members of different households.

Purpose

Recreation, Parks and Culture has developed a spectator capacity response protocol in order to maintain adherence to AHS public health protocols. The spectator capacity response protocol will serve to guide decision making if spectator capacities pose risk to public health and guideline recommendations are not met.

Phase 1 Response

1. Limit Entrance to Spectator Area

When capacity is reached, the entrance to the spectator area will be closed and no additional spectators will be permitted to enter. Spectators already in attendance will be permitted to leave and return (ex, washroom use).

2. Close Spectator Area to the Public

If spectator capacity cannot be controlled by limiting entry to spectator area, the entire spectator area will be closed to the public and no opportunities for viewing will exist. Spectators will be asked to wait outside of the facility.

3. Cancellation of Booking

If closing spectator areas to the public does not serve to eliminate hazards associated with spectator capacity, it may be decided that the booking will be cancelled. In the event of a cancellation, all players, coaches, officials and spectators will be asked to leave the facility.

Phase 2 Response

The Phase 2 Response Protocol will be initiated if:

1. A single Phase 1, Step 3 response is required to cancel a booking and close a spectator area.
2. A pattern of spectator capacity incidents requiring frequent application of the Phase 1, Step 2 response.

1. Closing Spectator Area for a Specific Booking

If a spectator area has to be closed and/or a booking cancelled, a decision will be made if the closure is a single event or if multiple closures will be applied to the specific user group

2. Closing a Spectator Area for a Day

If consecutive bookings present a public health hazard due to spectator capacities, the decision can be made to close the spectator area for the remainder of the day. The closure may be a complete closure or specific to bookings by a specific user group/organization.

3. Closing Spectator Areas for Extended Periods

If spectator capacities cannot be managed to adhere to Alberta Health Public Health Protocols the decision can be made to close spectator areas for an extended period. Closures may be complete closures or specific to certain user groups/organizations.

Phase 3 Response

A Phase 3 Response may be initiated if:

1. A Phase 2, Stage 3 response is required to close any spectator areas for extended periods of time
2. Strathcona County receives specific direction from Alberta Health regarding mandated closures or any related public health order.

Closing Spectator Areas Indefinitely

If spectator capacities cannot be managed to adhere to Alberta Health Public Health Protocols the decision can be made to close spectator areas indefinitely.

Mandatory Face Coverings

As part of Strathcona County's efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, non-medical masks (face coverings) have been required for people (10 years of age and older) entering all County-owned buildings (including recreation centres) and transit, since **August 4, 2020**.

Strathcona County's mandatory face coverings bylaw came in effect on **October 5, 2020**. Face coverings are required in all public indoor spaces and vehicles for hire.

Mask Compliance

