

WHO

Mass Gatherings

Guidance

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Here's my MICE events angle on the WHO guidance, which we would predict is likely to form the backbone of any new legislation in the UK.

Generally, it's clearly focused around gatherings that are intended to be much, much larger than the average corporate event, but the principles are sound.

Huge Positives

The guidance acknowledges several times the benefits of mass gatherings for people's "Psychological well being" and they "Provide employment for a great number of people" - Hoorah!!

The process should, as expected all revolve around a detailed and specific risk assessment. Something that we in the UK are very used to by now - but will obviously need a new COVID approach.

There is a COVID specific framework in which we need to work.

Key Considerations:

Current transmission scenarios.

What's the national and local pandemic situation? How are local healthcare settings coping? We've seen across the UK there are different rates and capacity issues, so these need to be addressed and recorded.

Risk factors associated with the event.

What's the likelihood of transmission without control and how vulnerable are your audience?

Your capacity to introduce control measures.

Willingness, ability, financials. This should never be a problem with corporate events unless you have particularly unruly delegates!

RISK EVALUATION

Location, Size,
Indoor, outdoor,
Crowd density,
Public access, other
groups

The
Venue

The
Event

Overall flow
Contact journey
Contact duration
closeness of contact
Event duration

Age
Health
Travel to event
group size

The
Delegates

The
Local Health
System

Current transmission
status
Local facilities

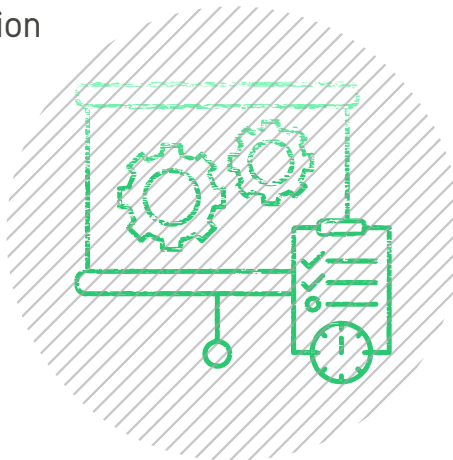
PRECISION PLANNING

CAPACITY & RESOURCE

PPE & Medical equipment, isolation
rooms & cleaning schedules

CLEAR LINES OF RESPONSIBILITY

Kay named person in charge
of COVID-19 safety plan



INVOLVE STAKEHOLDERS

Organisers, clients, local health
authorities, venues

EVENT PLAN

Must fit in with local &
national regulations &
emergency planning

DELEGATE COMMS

Assess each individual's risk.
Questionnaire - health & exposure.
Communicate measures & delegates own
responsibilities

POST EVENT

Check in with local authorities to
monitor the impact of your event

CONTROL MEASURES



Monitoring of the venue and the event.

- Host completely or partially outdoors
- Adjust capacities
- Hand washing facilities/stations
- Cleaning
- Delegate flow



Monitoring of delegates before and during the event.

- Physical distancing
- 'Cough' etiquette
- Hand washing protocol
- High risk of transmission asked to stay away
- High risk of severe illness asked to stay away



Protocol for detecting & reporting symptoms throughout the event.

- Temperature scans
- Isolation rooms & medical provision
- Transport to leave the event.



Delegate comms for key instructions. Signage! Visual reminders for:

- reminders for PPE / masks.
- Action if symptoms develop
- Distancing, coughing & hygiene.



Adapt schedules for maximum efficiency.

- Keep duration of the event to a minimum
- Reduce interaction to a minimum



RISK ASSESSMENT

Final Risk Assessment

Approached in the normal way, each company must complete and record a written Risk Assessment, which considers the **HAZARDS**, the **LIKELIHOOD** and the capacity of the organisers to **MITIGATE** the risk, using the above **CONTROL MEASURES**.

There are WHO approved resources which then assign a numerical score/matrix to the overall risk. This must then be **REVIEWED** regularly in light of the new knowledge, regulations or circumstances, as they unfold. Now more than ever we need to recognise that the risk is dynamic and will evolve in the life cycle of the event.

"See such events as an opportunity to enhance the way of working and to pass this learning onto future event organisers".

More Good News....

Generally, the WHO says that "events associated with a low or very low risk COVID-19 transmission.....may be considered sufficiently safe to proceed".

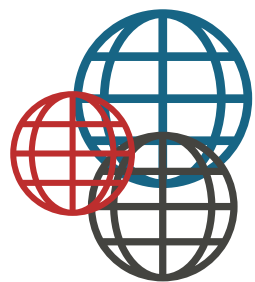
Legacy

Not generally an area considered much for corporate events - but certainly should be here. Not just in a CSR perspective, but also a duty to public health and improving best practice. Particularly for large or unusual events, organisers are encouraged to review lessons learnt and ideally to conduct a formal assessment of the processes and policies.

THE WHO

Full Guidance published 29/05/2020.

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/mass-gathering-risk-assessment-covid-19-key-considerations>



OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

To Note... These were issued towards the beginning of the pandemic and I would strongly advise that additional work would be required to create a proper Risk Assessment for a corporate event, in light of our current situation.

- How to use WHO risk assessment and mitigation checklist. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/how-to-use-who-risk-assessment-andmitigation-checklist-for-mass-gatherings-in-the-context-of-covid-19> (19 March 2020)
- Mass Gatherings risk assessment. <https://www.who.int/who-documents-detail/mass-gathering-risk-assessment-covid-19-key-considerations> (20 March 2020)
- Decision tree flow chart. <https://www.who.int/who-documents-detail/decision-tree-for-risk-assessment-for-mass-gathering> (08 April 2020)