



**ND SMART
RESTART**

Large Gathering Tiered Capacity Document

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Supplemental Guidance for ND Smart Restart Large Gatherings Event Tiers

- Local community leaders are encouraged to require a permit and approval process for any large gathering or event larger than 50 people.
- Submittal of a *COVID-19 Preparedness and Safety Plan* and consultation with Local Public Health Officials is strongly recommended as part of the local approval process.
- Managers of large venues should meet criteria as defined in Event Tiers 1 – 4 described in this document.

ND Smart Restart Protocols define Large Gatherings as: any public or private event temporarily bringing together people in a room, designated area, or enclosed space (whether indoor or outdoor) at the same time. Such gathering or event is temporary and takes place over a limited period, such as hours or days.

For example, events and gatherings include fairs, festivals, concerts, live performances, trade shows, spectators/audience at sporting events, business meetings or conferences, parties or receptions within a single or multi-room venue, and similar groupings that occur within larger, more permanent businesses, public assembly facilities, amusement park, fairground, etc.

Conversely, people sharing a space within an office building, classroom, while working on a production floor, shopping in a retail store, dining in a restaurant, or similar regularly occurring operation of a business, or organization, are not events or gatherings. [Smart Restart Standards for All Industries](#) and industry-specific protocols should be referenced for these types of settings:

K-12 schools and college extracurricular activities and sporting events:

[Click here for guidance](#). School boards, school districts, state and national activity associations, university systems, and local public health officials should follow the [North Dakota Department of Health COVID-19 Recommendations for Sports](#) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine rules for participants, athletes, athletic staffing, and coaches who are taking part in extracurricular activities.

School and Collegiate Activities and Sporting Events, Recreational and Club Sports, and Semi-Pro/Pro sports: Follow Large Gatherings protocols for spectators/audience only (excluding athletes, coaches, athletic staffing and credentialed event staff).

Restaurants, Bars, Breweries, Distilleries, Food Trucks and Other Food Service Operations:

- Orange/High Risk level at 50% occupancy but no more than 150.
- Yellow/Moderate Risk to 65% occupancy but no more than 200.
- Green/Low risk to 80% but no more than 300.
- Blue/New Normal may operate at normal capacity while continuing to follow health guidance.
- [Click here for Smart Restart Protocols.](#)

Movie Theaters: [Click here for Smart Restart Protocols.](#)

Non-essential businesses and retail stores: [Follow Standards for All Industries.](#)

Tier One Events: Public Assembly should meet the following criteria for Large Gatherings

- For non-seated events, has an event space of 20,000 or more net square feet and max normal occupancy of more than 10,000 people at one time per approved fire rating.
- For seated events, has seating capacity of 3,500 or more.
- Has a professional grade HVAC system with robust air exchanging capabilities.
- Has professional venue staff dedicated to the facility.
- Has a *COVID-19 Preparedness and Safety Plan* (see checklist below). Community leaders may require event planners to submit a *COVID-19 Preparedness and Safety Plan* to their local health authority no later than 30 days before the event.
- Requires use of [face coverings](#) and [social distancing](#) is always maintained.
- Food and Drink concessions or alcohol sales are permitted provided the consumption of the food and drink is done at least 6' away from other pods (no more than 10 people) or individuals and following all Smart Restart Protocols.
- School and Collegiate Extracurricular Activities and Sporting Events, Recreational and Club Sports and Semi-Pro/Pro sports follow Large Gatherings protocols for spectators/audience only (excluding athletes, coaches, athletic staffing and credentialed event staff).
- Examples: Fargo Dome (football game), Alerus Center (conference), Ralph Englestad Arena (hockey game), Bismarck Event Center (conference), Scheels Arena (hockey game), State Fair Center – All Season's Arena (rodeo).
- Examples listed may vary depending on the space in use i.e. may include one space, a sum of spaces, or the entire public assembly facility.

Tier Two Events: Public Assembly should meet the following criteria for Large Gatherings

- For non-seated events, has an event space of 10,000 to 19,999 net square feet and normal occupancy limit of 5,001 to 10,000 people at one time per approved fire rating.
- For seated events, has a seating capacity of 2,001 to 3,499.
- Has a professional grade HVAC system with robust air exchanging capabilities.
- Has professional venue staff dedicated to the facility.
- Has a *COVID-19 Preparedness and Safety Plan* (see checklist below). Community leaders may require event planners to submit a logistics and emergency operations plan to their local health authority no later than 30 days before the event.
- Requires use of [face coverings](#) and [social distancing](#) is always maintained.
- Food and Drink concessions or alcohol sales are permitted if the consumption of the food and drink is at least 6' away from a non-pod individual.
- School and Collegiate Activities and Sporting Events, Recreational and Club Sports, and Semi-Pro/Pro sports **follow Large Gatherings protocols for spectators/audience only (excluding athletes, coaches, athletic staffing and credentialed event staff).**

Examples – Chester Fritz concert, Jamestown Civic tradeshow, Roughrider Center volleyball tournament. Examples listed may vary depending on the space in use i.e. may include one space, a sum of spaces, or the entire public assembly facility.

Examples may also include theaters that can manage crowd traffic by ticketing events and assigned seating, auditoriums, ballrooms, and meeting spaces that meet the criteria listed above.

DOES NOT apply to nightclubs or bars that sell alcohol for on-premises consumption aside from a meal transaction. These types of businesses should follow [ND Smart Restart Restaurant Protocols](#).

Tier Three Events: Public Assembly should meet the following criteria for Large Gatherings

- For non-seated events, has an event space of 5,001 to 9,999 net square feet and normal occupancy limit of 2,000 to 4,999 people at one time per approved fire rating.
- For seated events, has a seating capacity of 1,001 to 2,000.
- Has a professional grade HVAC system with robust air exchanging capabilities.
- Has professional venue staff dedicated to the facility.
- Has a *COVID-19 Preparedness and Safety Plan* (see checklist below). Community leaders may require event planners to submit a logistics and emergency operations plan to their local health authority no later than 30 days before the event.
- Requires use of [face coverings](#) and [social distancing](#) is always maintained.
- Food and Drink concessions or alcohol sales are permitted if the consumption of the food and drink is at least 6' away from a non-pod individual.
- School and Collegiate Activities and Sporting Events, Recreational and Club Sports, and Semi-Pro/Pro sports follow Large Gatherings protocols for spectators/audience only (excluding athletes, coaches, athletic staffing and credentialed event staff).

Examples: Dakota Ballroom (Ramkota Bismarck banquet), Maysa Arena (hockey tournament), Fargodome (conference in meeting rooms). Examples listed may vary depending on the space in use i.e. may include one space, a sum of spaces, or the entire public assembly facility.

Examples may also include theaters that can manage crowd traffic by ticketing events and assigned seating, auditoriums, gymnasiums, ballrooms, and meeting spaces that meet the criteria listed above.

DOES NOT apply to nightclubs or bars that sell alcohol for on-premises consumption aside from a meal transaction. These types of businesses should follow [ND Smart Restart Restaurant Protocols](#).

Tier Four Events: Public Assembly should meet the following criteria for Large Gatherings

- For non-seated events, has an event space of less than 5,000 net square feet and normal occupancy limit of up to 2,000 people at one time per approved fire rating.
- For seated events, has a seating capacity of less than 1,000.
- Has a professional grade HVAC system with robust air exchanging capabilities.
- Has a *COVID-19 Preparedness and Safety Plan* (see checklist below). Community leaders may require event planners to submit a logistics and emergency operations plan to their local health authority no later than 30 days before the event.
- Requires use of [face coverings](#) and [social distancing](#) is always maintained.
- Food and Drink concessions or alcohol sales are permitted if the consumption of the food and drink is at least 6' away from a non-pod individual.
- School and Collegiate Activities and Sporting Events, Recreational and Club Sports, and Semi-Pro/Pro sports follow Large Gatherings protocols for spectators/audience only (excluding athletes, coaches, athletic staffing and credentialed event staff).

Examples: Belle Mehus symphony, Fargo Theater showing. Examples listed may vary depending on the space in use i.e. may include one space, a sum of spaces, or the entire public assembly facility.

Examples may also include theaters that can manage crowd traffic by ticketing events and assigned seating, auditoriums, gymnasiums, ballrooms, and meeting spaces that meet the criteria listed above.

DOES NOT apply to nightclubs or bars that sell alcohol for on-premises consumption aside from a meal transaction. These types of businesses should follow [ND Smart Restart Restaurant Protocols](#).

How to Calculate Occupancy for Large Gatherings and Events Using ND Smart Restart Protocols

Step 1. Public assembly facilities hosting events or gatherings should determine the established occupancy limit for the space in use (or sum of spaces) defined by the [International Fire Code \(IFC\), 2018 Edition](#), as required by the [North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office](#).

Step 2. After determining the normal occupancy limit for the space in use (or sum of spaces), then use the attendee calculator below to determine how many people are permitted to attend the gathering or event.

Step 3. Occupancy caps have been implemented for each event tier and for each risk level. This is the max number of people allowed and is important to prevent gatherings that would compromise the state's health care infrastructure and hospital capacity. If the percentage of occupancy is a lower value than the cap; use whichever amount is fewer.

Event Tiers 1 – 4: Attendee Calculator for Indoor Public Assembly Facilities By Risk Level

Event Tier	FOR NON-SEATED EVENTS Max Occupancy Load* by Net Square Footage <small>(max number of people at one time in a designated area or space)</small>	FOR SEATED EVENTS Max Occupancy Load* by Assigned Seat <small>(max number of people seated at one time in a designated area or space)</small>	Orange/High Risk Level 25 Percent of Max Occupancy but no more than CAP (whichever is fewer)	Yellow/Moderate Risk Level 50 Percent of Max Occupancy but no more than CAP (whichever is fewer)	Green/Low Risk Level 75 Percent of Max Occupancy but no more than CAP (whichever is fewer)	Blue/New Normal <small>*Resume to normal capacity while continuing to follow health guidance</small>
1	Over 10,000 people Net space \geq 20,000 sq ft	seating capacity \geq 3,500	1,000	5,000	7,500	*
2	5,001 – 10,000 people Net space 10,000 - 19,999 sq ft	seating capacity 2,001 - 3,499	600	1,750	3,750	*
3	2,001 – 4,999 people Net space 5,001 - 9,999 sq ft	seating capacity 1,001 - 2,000	300	750	1,500	*
4	Up to 2,000 people Net space \leq 5,000 sq ft	seating capacity \leq 1,000	150	500	1,000	*

***Occupancy load** is the normal occupancy load limit or total number of people allowable in the assembly or event space at one time based on the fire rating of the space(s) in use. For events that have both seated and non-seated guests, you should use the seated capacity limits.

Contact your local building or [fire code officials](#) if you're unaware of the occupancy limit of the public assembly or event space.

When no fire code capacity is published or unavailable for indoor venues, calculate the indoor occupancy load for event space as:

- 1 person or pod (up to 10 people max) per 200 gross square feet for Orange and Yellow Risk Levels
- 1 person or pod (up to 10 people max) per 130 gross square feet for Green Risk Level

**Examples listed may vary depending on the space in use i.e. may include one space, a sum of spaces, or the entire public assembly facility. Examples may also include theaters or auditoriums that can manage crowd traffic by ticketing events and assigned seating, ballrooms, and meeting spaces that meet the criteria listed.

Examples **DO NOT** apply to nightclubs or bars that sell alcohol for on-premises consumption aside from a meal transaction. These types of businesses should follow [ND Smart Restart Restaurant Protocols](#).

Event Tiers 1-4: Attendee Calculator for Outdoor Public Assembly Facilities By Risk Level

Event Tier	FOR NON-SEATED EVENTS <u>Max Occupancy Load*</u> by Net Square Footage <small>(max number of people at one time in a designated area or space)</small>	FOR SEATED EVENTS <u>Max Occupancy Load*</u> by Assigned Seat <small>(max number of people seated at one time in a designated area or space)</small>	Orange/High Risk Level 25 Percent of Max Occupancy *No Cap	Yellow/Moderate Risk Level 50 Percent of Max Occupancy *No Cap	Green/Low Risk Level 75 Percent of Max Occupancy *No Cap	Blue/New Normal <small>*Resume to normal capacity while continuing to follow health guidance</small>
1	Over 10,000 people Net space \geq 20,000 sq ft	seating capacity \geq 3,500	*	*	*	*
2	5,001 – 10,000 people Net space 10,000 - 19,999 sq ft	seating capacity 2,001 - 3,499	*	*	*	*
3	2,001 – 4,999 people Net space 5,001 - 9,999 sq ft	seating capacity 1,001 - 2,000	*	*	*	*
4	Up to 2,000 people Net space \leq 5,000 sq ft	seating capacity \leq 1,000	*	*	*	*