Guidance on Large Group Gatherings
Sponsored by Health Ministries (Essential- and Non-Essential Operations)

June 22, 2020

It is the position of MercyOne Incident Command that for the remainder of calendar year 2020 all in-person fundraising events and large group gatherings, not essential to health ministry operations, be deferred/ moved to virtual / or canceled. This is consistent with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommendations. Of note, there have been several outbreaks investigated by CDC involving transmission to several participants in large groups from a single person who had asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic infection.

Rationale:

- In-person fundraising events and large group gatherings (e.g. over 50 people in an enclosed space – refer also to state-specific requirements under Executive Orders) present a significant risk of spreading COVID-19. CDC guidelines state that the more people an individual interacts with at a gathering, and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of possible exposure and transmission of COVID-19.

- In addition, large in-person gatherings present the highest level of transmission risk (see CDC’ risk stratification below) to attendees, regardless of whether the event occurs indoors or outdoors.

- These events also are an avoidable possible exposure for participants who may have underlying conditions or are older adults who are at higher risk of severe infection. Participants to which these risk factors apply may still try to participate even with pre-event notice that many people will be gathering.

To best protect our colleagues, our benefactors and our communities, these in-person events should to be deferred/ moved to virtual / canceled or avoided. Instead a virtual platform to facilitate communication and network aimed at supporting those we serve.

CDC risk strata:

- **Lowest risk**: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.

- **More risk**: Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

- **Highest risk**: Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.
Three key questions to assess the risk of holding an in-person event:

- Is the event essential to operations?
- Can the event be effectively virtualized?
- Can social distancing and masking be enforced?

Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Can the event by effectively virtualized?</th>
<th>Can social distancing and masking be enforced?*</th>
<th>How should the event be held?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Rounding</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>In person; must meet in a conference room to comply with privacy laws.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Clinical Rounds or Department Huddles</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Virtual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site, Function or System Town Halls</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Virtual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleague Recognition events</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Virtual Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philanthropic Events</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Virtual Event</td>
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</tbody>
</table>