

Victorian Government Public Events Framework: FAQs

Question	Response
<p>Clarity on what classifies as a public event?</p> <p>How do the Restricted Activity Directions relate to the COVID-19 Public Events Framework?</p>	<p>The definition of a public event is:</p> <p><i>A public event is an organised public gathering for a common purpose on a profit or not-for-profit basis which is conducted on a one-off or periodic basis, open to members of the public, publicly announced or advertised, and may be subject to specific licences, approvals or permits</i></p> <p>If a venue is hosting a regular event as part of their business as usual operations, they must align with the Restricted Activity Directions.</p> <p>E.g. A theatre hosting a weekly comedy night.</p> <p>If a venue is hosting a one-off or periodic event, they must follow the process outlined in the COVID-19 Public Events Framework.</p> <p>E.g. A theatre is hosting an international comedian performing a short series of shows.</p> <p>However, if a business as usual event is seeking to access the higher attendee limits permitted in the COVID-19 Public Events Framework, an application can be made through the COVID-19 Public Events Framework.</p>
<p>“Event Organiser” needs to be defined – is this the venue vs the promoter (see recommendation below)?</p>	<p>Each public event following the COVID-19 Public Events Framework process must be covered by an approved COVIDSafe Event Plan.</p>

	All venues must have a COVIDSafe Plan. The COVIDSafe Event Plan can comprise the venue's COVIDSafe Plan, along with information specific to the event and/or promoter.
Can venues operate under an overarching plan and not require event-by-event approvals?	<p>Venues or promoters can submit a COVIDSafe Event Plan that covers a season or series of events.</p> <p>E.g. A series of ballet performances in the same venue.</p> <p>A new submission will be required if the venue is hosting an event that deviates from the approved COVIDSafe Event Plan.</p> <p>E.g. The approved COVIDSafe Event Plan covers seated concerts, however the venue is seeking to host a concert with general admission (non-seated) ticketing. This event has a different risk profile and would require a revised COVIDSafe Event Plan.</p>
Can 1 application cover the operations of each venue/area and not be event-specific (see recommendation below)?	The COVIDSafe Event Plan must be specific to the event type. See details above.
Can events proceed with announcement and on sale while waiting for approval via PEF?	Tier 3 events with fewer than 1,000 people do not require approval by Government and can proceed with a COVIDSafe Event Checklist or an existing COVID Safe plan for their venue or business.
Does the government have any restrictions/guidance about announcing or promoting a festival or event that requires phase 3 conditions prior to us being at phase 3 and/or prior to receiving approval?	<p>An event seeking to be held during Phase 3 can be announced when it has received Government approval, which may be before we enter Phase 3.</p> <p>Phase 1 permits 75% up to 5,000 and Phase 2 permits 75% up to 25,000 people.</p>

<p>Does this application replace the COVIDSafe Event Plan that needs to be done in addition to the venue’s COVID Safe Plan – to what extent do we need to double up information (see recommendation below)?</p>	<p>The venue’s COVIDSafe Plan can be used as the basis for the COVIDSafe Event Plan. The unique nature of each event requires the additional information from the event promoter to create a comprehensive COVIDSafe Event Plan.</p>
<p>Do multiple shows per day count towards the Tier 1 or 2 number?</p>	<p>The Tier 1 or 2 rating is based on the per session attendance.</p> <p>Multiple sessions of 500 attendees, still place the event within Tier 3.</p> <p>Cleaning must be undertaken between sessions in accordance with the DHHS cleaning guidance.</p> <p>https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/preventing-infection-workplace</p>
<p>Confirming Private Events (functions with invited guests) do not fall under PEF?</p>	<p>Correct.</p>
<p>With an 8 – 10 week notification period for phase 3, can you submit a COVID plan even if we are only in phase 1 or 2? So can an event that is GA and of scale (20k for example) scheduled for Spring 2021, apply now? If so, how does the timeline shift? The second part of this question was asked in the meeting but not addressed and is currently the most critical.</p>	<p>Yes. Government will consider plans for future phases in the COVID-19 Public Events Framework.</p> <p>Approval of these events and the associated attendee limits will be conditional on a review of the epidemiological conditions around the time of the event.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will do its best to provide as much certainty as possible, noting the COVID-19 pandemic can move rapidly as we have seen in South Australia recently.</p> <p>Approval of a COVIDSafe Event Plan may be revoked, based on public health advice to protect the Victorian community.</p>

<p>Confirming multistage/multi day camping events are covered in the final phase?</p>	<p>The Victorian Government is seeking to gradually reintroduce general admission and multi-stage events during Public Event Phase 3.</p> <p>The exact nature of the allowances for these events and the timeline will be published in due course, subject to the epidemiology in Victoria and in other states.</p>
<p>With large major events normally stakeholder meetings occur pre the event, so can someone from the approval task force attend this?</p>	<p>For large, major events DJPR and DHHS representatives are available to attend planning meetings to assist with COVIDSafe measures.</p> <p>This practice is already in place with some large live entertainment and sporting events.</p>
<p>If phases change after approval, can organisers change their event to increase capacity or change format in line with the new phase?</p>	<p>The event can increase capacity to be in line with the current phase of the Public Events Frame at the time of the event.</p> <p>The Victorian Government expects the event to scale up the COVIDSafe measures and staff to support a larger crowd.</p> <p>However, if the nature of the event is changing (moving from seated to general admission) a revised COVIDSafe Event Plan is required.</p>
<p>What happens with events that have spectators (i.e.: sporting events)?</p>	<p>Spectators are counted as attendees, in the same way that patrons at a live music event, theatre show, or one-off public event are considered. The Public Events Framework permits 75% up to 5,000 people in Phase 1 and 75% up to 25,000 people in Phase 2.</p>
<p>Will local government be involved in the communication of approvals?</p>	<p>This framework should be read in conjunction with the Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events (2018). Event organisers are still required to engage with and obtain the necessary approvals from other federal, state and local government bodies.</p>

	A list of approved events will be published on the Public Events Coronavirus website, which local councils can freely access.
How are local and state governments going to ensure they are coordinating rules and regulation changes and providing consistent messaging to organisers?	The Victorian Government has been meeting with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Local Government Victoria (LGV) to ensure they are informed and supported around the expectations of the Public Events Framework.
How are local and state governments going to ensure they are providing consistent messaging to the general public?	A weekly bulletin will be provided to LGV and MAV to ensure there is alignment across local and state Governments.
Who is responsible for providing advice on emerging issues as they arise - state, local, agency?	DHHS and DJPR will work together to ensure that any changes to the Restricted Activity Directions (Victoria) and the Public Events Framework (PEF) are communicated to stakeholders via both websites and social media.
How will procedures and regulation be enforced and by whom? Who undertakes 'random compliance' checks of COVIDSafe Event Plans and under what authority?	COVIDSafe Marshals are required at Tier 1 and Tier 2 events and DJPR will send observers to all Tier 1 events to observe behaviour and report and breaches of activity to Authorised Officers (As), COVIDSafe Marshals or Victoria Police, where appropriate.
Contact tracing requirements	To support contact tracing, events must request that each person who attends the venue for more than 15 minutes (including staff) provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First name • Phone number.

	<p>If the ticketing system is only able to capture group booking information, then a secondary system, such as a QR code, must be implemented to ensure all records are collected.</p> <p>Records can be kept electronically or in hard copy and should be kept for 28 days.</p> <p>The Victorian Government recently launched a QR code system that feeds directly into DHHS's contact tracing systems.</p>
Patron health screening	<p>The screening of patrons can be conducted prior to the event through pre-event communications.</p> <p>The Victorian Government recognises that it may be impractical to conduct patron screening at the point of entry.</p>
Why a time range for the review and approval process?	<p>The process for reviewing each COVIDSafe Event Plan will differ from event to event depending on the circumstances of each event, and the overall volume of events seeking review and approval at any one time. A range gives event organisers (and venues) the most accurate timeframe possible.</p>
Who are the government officials event organisers need to contact early in relation to their COVIDSafe Event Plan?	<p>DJPR is the first point of contact for Event Organisers and can be contacted at COVIDSafeEvents@ecodev.vic.gov.au.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Public Events Framework includes a section that refers to 'government officials'. This is to note that at certain points in the review process, officers from other departments might require clarification regarding an event organiser's COVIDSafe Event Plan.</p>