



## **Main Key Questions:**

1. What would the events industry need to do to be treated more like restaurants, retail and places of worship?
2. Why were tradeshow allowed last year and into the fall but are now in step four? What changed to have their status to something that appears more high risk? The tattoo show happened in October with zero transmission.
3. Is there any hope for outdoor summer events to open? What would you say to the festivals that are desperately hoping to happen this summer (and who are likely going to go bankrupt and not be able to function again if they cannot bring in revenue for another year)?
4. We are now seeing fall events start to cancel or reschedule due to uncertainty, which if it continues means our industry is heading into 18-24 months without any revenue - what is the best case scenario for the fall/winter? Is it 25% capacity? This is crucial for you to actually give a firm answer. IF events are able to go in the summer/fall/winter - we will start at 25% capacity and move up to 50% capacity in 3 weeks and so on.
5. How can we work with you to build capacity gradually with events based on space instead of a set number? (so the number permitted is based on the size of the venue rather than the number of people)
6. What special considerations need to happen for indoor seated events to happen again?
7. What further economic supports may become available to groups that will be further impacted by not being significantly limited or not allowed to operate until step 4 (and potentially well into step 4)
8. How can we work with you to develop a set of guidelines on events that are easy to get AHS approval on? ALEC has submitted so many best practices documents that these documents show an ease in re-opening safely
9. Can venues open for internal purposes (i.e. a theatre can be open for rehearsals providing they follow recommended health and safety protocols)?
10. How can we work with the GOA and AHS on proper verbiage so there is no misunderstanding and inconsistencies with messaging on guidelines for this industry. We have seen people work "around" what is being said and our fear as this will continue to happen and it will reflect in a poor perception of our industry and have another chance of being shut down
11. Now that the population is scarred al leaving there home, what is the plan to bring live events back



### **Other Questions that came in on the chat**

1. We are not scheduled to open until the final phasing which is beyond indeterminate until literally mass vaccination is completed. What programs or subsidies are planned to provide businesses in this industry to survive in the interim if we're at this point not going to be allowed to open for anywhere up to likely a year from now given that it's already been a year in less than a month?
2. How many people will be allowed in an event in stage 4? 10? 1,000?
3. We've heard the numbers and reasons, but there are 456 shoppers bumping into each other at Superstore, the question is - why can't we produce a professional conference with a controlled "audience" of 300?
4. I am struggling to understand how the household cohorts would be any different in a structured audience setting vs. a restaurant? Likewise, how is having 8-10 people interacting with masks and distanced different from an essential meeting? Performing arts are work settings too.
5. Is there not a concern that if the professional event sector is unable to execute even small events in public spaces that are following stringent cleaning protocols (such as hotels) that there will be a large number of Albertans choosing to have events in secret without the assistance of event professionals in unregulated venues such as private properties and private homes? A structured dining event at a hotel or professional event venue for a small size wedding (with the exact same rules as current restaurant regulations) has much lower risk than a frustrated Albertan choosing to host a wedding or party or baby shower in their home without ANY risk mitigation tactics in place.
6. Will there be a blanket approach for festival and events like summer 2020 that said no events allowed unless it within the magic gathering number. we're in a hard situation with stage 4, but the gathering numbers are going to be important for general public events unless ticketed events only will be the way of the future.
7. What safety protocols need to be in place for both indoor and outdoor live events to take place again?
8. This is the first industry to be grossly impacted by the Covid shut down, and the last one to be considered for re-opening... As of now, we're are not scheduled to open until the final phasing which is beyond indeterminate until literally mass vaccination is completed. What programs or subsidies are planned to provide businesses in this industry to survive in the interim if we're at this point not going to be allowed to open for anywhere up to likely a year from now given that it's already been a year in less than a month?
9. Will the advocacy include support for all levels of the music industry, including smaller concerts or events that help to support local artists? Or will it be prioritizing larger scale events like the NHL bubble? Just want to emphasize the importance of advocating for all levels of the music industry and not just big concerts.
10. What I am most confused about, is that Convention Centres are allowed to reopen in phase 2 but events aren't slated to be allowed until stage 4. Doesn't make much sense.



11. Is the province worried that we will begin to see 'illegal' events starting to take place, because people are tired of the inconsistencies between big box stores versus well run, professionally managed events?
12. Can we ask Minister Shandro what we as event pros can do starting tomorrow, specific actions we can take to help ensure live events are included in phase 2,3,4 and that more differentiation between types of events as they ease restrictions.
13. Can you clarify why the baseline for most of the grants/loans have a threshold loss of income of March/April 2019 revenue? Most of us are seasonal and have the majority or most of our income during Summer and don't qualify to any programs.
14. We recognize our sector is critical to the return of tourism revenue and consumer participation. As was mentioned earlier, great, large-scale events that attract tourists require a significant amount of time to plan and build. If there is a desire by the government that there will be any sense of a tourism/event season this year, we need clarity and direction urgently. Can we expect revisions to the staged reopening plan now that the research and recommendations from ALEC have been considered?
15. How will the government be in a better position to forecast when live events will happen again in AB? What is the criteria?
16. Outdoor endurance races operate similarly to a ski hill in scope and practice. Why can ski resorts operate and we cannot?
17. Why are sport arenas/events allowed before private events who exceed Covid-19 guidelines?
18. This has not provided the clarity I had hoped attending would offer. I hope to hear how AHS can develop an efficient method to reviewing exemptions and standing approvals for events that put risk mitigation controls in place - so planning cycles can really start now in advance.
19. We are all willing to work together to prevent the spread of COVID19, and in so many cases, that has meant devastating sacrifices within our organizations and businesses. It is clear from this chat that what we are seeking isn't permission to operate blindly – but the opportunity to understand that it means for our industry if the likely event occurs that we are required to continue to be shuttered in the interest of safety. Goalposts, economic recovery and/or access increased recovery and survival grants
20. I'm very concerned that other countries are moving forward with large events & festivals in summer 2021. U.S., New Zealand, U.K....it's very concerning that Canada isn't being proactive like other countries
21. What would the events industry need to do to be treated more like restaurants, retail and places of worship?