



Guidance FAQs – Gatherings

(Updated 1-11-2021)

Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) [Sector Guidance for Gatherings](#). OHA provides these FAQs to help the public understand the guidance, to respond to stakeholder questions, and to clarify how the guidance may apply in specific scenarios. These FAQs may be intermittently updated. The FAQs are not intended to take the place of the guidance, but rather to interpret, supplement and provide details of the guidance.

Q1: Do the at-home and social gatherings limits that are based on the [designated risk level](#) of the county, allow for indoor and outdoor gatherings at the same time?

A1: Yes, but if there are both indoor and outdoor at-home or social gatherings occurring at the same time, hosts of those gatherings have to ensure that the total number of people does not exceed the number allowed at an indoor at-home or social gathering for the [designated risk level](#) in the county where the gathering is located.

Q2: What is the gathering limit for funerals?

A2: Funerals that take place at private residences are required to follow the gathering limits for [social and at-home gatherings](#) based on the [designated risk level](#) of the county where the funeral occurs. Funerals that take place at a funeral home, mortuary or cemetery are required to follow the maximum capacity limits for faith institutions, funeral homes, mortuaries and cemeteries based on the designated risk level of the county where the funeral occurs.

Q3: Do K-12 schools have to follow OHA's Statewide Guidance for Gatherings?

A3: No. Schools must follow the Oregon Department of Education [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance for School Year 2020-21](#).

Q4: Do faith-based institutions, such as churches, have to follow specific maximum capacity limits?

A4: Faith institutions are strongly recommended to follow the maximum capacity limits based on the [designated risk level](#) of the county where the faith institution is located.

Q5: What maximum capacity size limits and guidance should recovery meetings (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous) that meet inside faith institutions follow?

A5: Recovery meetings that meet inside faith institutions are required to follow the requirements for community meetings in the [General Guidance for Employers and Organizations](#). For capacity limits and risk levels for counties, please refer to [Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart](#).

Recovery meetings must comply with the [Statewide Guidance for Masks, Face Coverings, Face Shields](#) and ensure six (6) feet of distance is maintained between all attendees and staff.

Q6: Which guidance do fraternal organizations follow for gathering limits? Is a meeting at an Elks Lodge considered a social gathering?

A6: A meeting at an Elks Lodge is considered a social gathering and must follow the social gathering limits for the [designated risk level](#) of the county where the fraternal organization is located.

If a fraternal organization operates food and drink service, it must also follow the [Eating and Drinking Establishments Guidance](#).

Q7: Can businesses, such as construction or house cleaning, enter homes? If so, would they be part of an at-home gathering?

A7: Businesses that need to enter a home in order to complete repairs, cleaning or other services may do so. Employees of these businesses who enter residences are not part of an at-home gathering. These businesses must follow the [General Guidance for Employers and Organizations](#), [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield guidance](#) and any other OHA applicable guidance.

Q8: If I use a faith institution space for something other than a faith gathering, for example an orchestra practice, do I follow the OHA Guidance for Faith Institutions?

A8: No. Activities that take place in a faith institution, and are not faith services, must follow the sector guidance for that activity. For example, orchestra practices must follow the [Indoor Entertainment Establishments Guidance](#) for the designated risk level of the county where the faith institution is located.

Q10: If our household has more than the number of people that is allowed based on the designated risk level for where the gathering is held, may all of our household gather with another household?

A10: No. A household that contains more than number of people that is allowed is not required to reduce its household but may not gather with others from another household if the limit will be exceeded.

Q11: What is the definition of a household?

A11: A household is considered all the individuals who live in the same private residence.

Q12: If I have people in my home for faith purposes, such as a bible study or services, can I follow the maximum capacity limits for faith institutions?

A12: No. Gatherings at private residences are required to follow the at-home and social gatherings limits based on the [designated risk level](#) for the county where the gathering is held.

Q14: Are fraternal organizations considered faith institutions and therefore allowed to follow the maximum capacity limits for faith institutions?

A14: No. Fraternal organizations are not considered faith institutions. Gatherings at these organizations must comply with the social gathering limits based on the designated risk level for the county where the fraternal organization is located. In addition, fraternal organizations must comply with the [Sector Guidance for Eating and Drinking Establishments](#) if they serve food and beverage.

Q15: If I book a vacation rental like AirBnB or VRBO, do the at-home gathering limits apply?

A15: Yes, the at-home gathering limit applies for the designated risk level of the county where the vacation rental is located. Renters are required to follow the [Sector Guidance for Gatherings](#).

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