

## Oregon Health Authority: Frequently Asked Questions about the Governor's Executive Order Prohibiting Large Gatherings

Topic	Question	Answer
Governor's Executive Order	Will the information you are working on include advice or guidance for events with fewer than 250 people?	During the press conference, Governor Brown stated that she hoped Oregonians would honor the intent of the order. The guidance related to events hosting vulnerable populations has helpful and applicable guidance for events with fewer than 250 people.
Governor's Executive Order	Would splitting an event across separate structures (for example, at a fairgrounds), each limited to 250 persons, suffice as compliance with the Governor's directive?	If there were separate buildings with no more than 250 people that would be OK. Three feet distance between people should be encouraged in all settings.
Governor's Executive Order	Can you clarify why Oregon is defining social distancing as a minimum of 3 feet rather than 6 feet per the CDC?	We're balancing science and practicality. For events larger than 250 people where maintaining 3 feet of social distance is not possible, the Governor is requiring these events be cancelled. While 6 feet is routinely recommended, for example in having a conversation with another person, the science shows 3 feet is sufficient to prevent the spread of a virus in droplet form. If possible, use the 6 feet rule, but when it is not practical (example, buying something at the grocery store) try to maintain the 3 feet minimum. Social distancing measures reduce opportunities for person-to-person virus transmission and can help delay and slow the spread of the disease, as well as save lives. We appreciate your help in this effort.
Governor's Executive Order	I'm looking for further clarification from Director Patrick Allen regarding this morning's conference on the crowd ban. It sounded like outdoor retail like Portland Saturday Market will be allowed, depending on the ability to maintain social-distancing?	An event is banned under the Executive Order if it is: An event with 250 or more people, and Social distancing of three feet between individuals cannot be maintained. If outdoor markets can maintain appropriate social distancing measures, then they can continue to operate, even if more than 250 individuals are shopping at the market at any one time.

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Governor's Executive Order	I am a farmers market vendor and the policy chair of the statewide Oregon Farmers Markets Association. While markets are community social gatherings, they are primarily retail locations with an already existing culture of health and wellness. We are prepared to limit occupancy inside to 200 customers plus less than 50 staff and publicize 3 foot distancing. Does that comply with the Governor's declaration?	An event is banned under the Executive Order if it is: An event with 250 or more people, and Social distancing of three feet between individuals cannot be maintained. If outdoor markets can maintain appropriate social distancing measures, then they can continue to operate, even if more than 250 individuals are shopping at the market at any one time.
Governor's Executive Order	Would a large wedding fall under the Governor's large gathering ban?	Yes, the ban would include a large event like a wedding. That said, the Governor wants weddings and marriages to go forward. The state is hoping that all Oregonians comply with the spirit of the ban which is to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect Oregonians who are at most risk, like the elderly and individuals with underlying health conditions. Even if a wedding is 240 people, individuals in vulnerable populations should be encouraged to stay home.
Governor's Executive Order	Can I still use public transit?	Yes. The state has been working with TriMet and other public transportation partners to increase their environmental cleaning and wiping down commonly touched surfaces. While using public transit, where possible, try and maintain at least 3 feet separation from yourself and other passengers.
Governor's Executive Order	If things improve in 2 weeks will you lift the ban? Or are you going to keep it in effect for the full month?	We will be making decisions moving forward based on recommendations from the CDC and public health professionals and medical experts. At this point in time, we are committed to the ban.
Governor's Executive Order	How did Oregon land on the number 250 for the large gathering ban?	The Governor made that decision based on the CDC guidelines and after talking to medical experts and local public health professionals.
Governor's Executive Order	In the Seattle area they've canceled a lot of churches, church gatherings, masses. Would you recommend that for say, the Portland Archdiocese?	Faith based gatherings of 250 or more, if a distance of more than 3 feet cannot be maintained between individuals, do fall under the Governor's ban. We understand this is a hardship for many, many families. All Oregonians are encouraged to comply with the spirit of the Governor's order and encourage our faith-based community to explore options such as individual gatherings and or the internet for Oregonians to get the spiritual guidance that they need.
Governor's Executive Order	Does the ban include large outdoor gatherings, like the Oregon Saturday Market?	The ban applies to large gatherings of 250 or more where maintaining a distance of at least three feet between individuals is not feasible. If an outdoor event is able to maintain this social distancing, then it would not fall under the Governor's ban.

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Governor's Executive Order	What new information triggered the Governor's Order to ban large gatherings? Did the Governor realize that the previous approach of telling people to cover their cough, etcetera, wasn't working?	We are continuing to tell people to cover their coughs and sneezes and stay home when they're sick because that continues to be the very best thing people can do to protect themselves and others from the disease. A variety of things influenced the Governor's decision to take these measures, including: an analysis of predicted cases in the state which by May 15th, could be as high or higher than 75,000; the World Health Organization made its pandemic decision; and there was a need for a consistent set of measures for the state.