



# COVID-19 Restrictions on Large Gatherings

## *What You Need To Know*

- A “social or civic gathering” is an event involving multiple persons from different households. It does not apply to retail stores, restaurants, worship services or any office space.

*Examples: weddings, ceremonies, reunions, fundraisers, conventions, parties, sporting events*

- If a gathering is reasonably expected to have more than 125 attendees, organizers are required to have approval of the Vanderburgh County Health Department, 10 days prior to the event.

*Form is accessible at <https://vanderburghhealth.org/event-review/> or (812) 435-2400*

- If an event/gathering does not have an approved plan by the Vanderburgh County Health Department, local law enforcement will ask the attendees to leave. Refusal can lead to further action by law enforcement per city code.

*This restriction only applies to gatherings inside the city limits.*



# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***#1 – The County Board of Health made recommendations on 10/15. Why not follow them?***

**RESPONSE:** The City of Evansville already has a restriction on the size of large gatherings taking effective on 10/19/20. That decision was based on recommendations from the Vanderburgh County Health Department, Indiana State Health Department and leadership of Deaconess and Ascension St. Vincent Hospitals. Since March, Mayor Winnecke has consulted with these medical professionals on all decision-making related to the pandemic. Unfortunately, the appointed County Board of Health has not made any recommendations during the pandemic until 10/15/20.

## ***#2 – Why limit gatherings to 125?***

**RESPONSE:** Ensuring that large gatherings have a plan that meets health & safety protocols is our top priority. While the state has a capacity of 500, it was recommended by local health officials that 125 was manageable for contact tracing. The restrictions for large gatherings vary from state to state as the CDC does not recommend a number. Most importantly, no one is debating the simple fact that “the larger the event, the higher the risk of transmission.” It is our intention to implement the 125 threshold for gatherings and will certainly re-evaluate if changes are needed.