

**Outline of protocol between the HSE and the NPHET for Risk Assessment of Mass Gatherings at Local and National Levels**

**COVID-19**

During the COVID-19 epidemic, a risk assessment should be carried out by event organisers prior to making a decision to go-ahead with, postpone, cancel or re-schedule a Mass Gathering event.

During the current containment phase of the COVID-19 epidemic, the decision will be made on a case by case basis.

Guidance has been developed for the Organisers of Mass Gatherings to assist in the decision-making process. The Guidance is intended to assist Organisers in undertaking their own Risk Assessment.

In the event that Organisers require further advice or assistance with Risk Assessment, they should contact their regional HSE Emergency Management Office who will coordinate the HSE engagement.

A designated person from HSE Public Health/Environmental Health and Emergency Management in each region/area will be assigned to represent their HSE service in this process.

These representatives will be appointed by the relevant HSE Assistant National Directors.

Appropriate HSE contact details should be provided on the published Guidance.

HSE Emergency Management will consult with other HSE Environmental Health and Public Health as required for the risk assessment.

For a limited number of events, the decision to go ahead with, postpone, cancel or reschedule an event may need to be escalated from regional HSE via the National Crisis Management Team to the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) for decision, following Risk Assessment.

A full risk assessment with recommendations should be provided to NPHET by the HSE to inform the decision making process.

Events that may require a NPHET decision will include:

- Events where there is disagreement between organisers and the HSE regarding the outcome of the risk assessment and whether the event should go ahead or not
- Events of national significance