

Table 2 WHO key considerations for preventing and controlling infection during mass gatherings

Stage	Key activities and considerations
Before the event	• Identify infection risks; • Evaluate existing IPC measures; • Assess training of HCPs on IPC measures and address any gaps; • Review the legal framework for implementing IPC measures; • Conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis of IPC measures; • Assess the status of public health and other services involved in IPC; • Engage in international collaboration for risk assessment, information sharing, and rapid communication; • Evaluate potential mitigation measures, including pre-event immunisation and health status assessment before entry; • Assess the impact of restrictive IPC measures on public opinion, political, economic, psychological, and human rights aspects; • Develop IPC guidelines based on international recommendations and tailor them to local contexts; • Train event staff in IPC measures; • Regularly check supplies of IPC equipment and utilities.
During the event	• Provide free access to health care to encourage prompt identification of, and response to, infection; • Provide easily accessible written information in languages relevant to attendees; • Support populations with low health literacy through visual aids and empowerment strategies; • Immunise contacts of infected individuals and monitor the health of close contacts; • Follow established protocols for transporting cases; • Isolate contagious individuals and quarantine exposed persons; • Implement appropriate responses to infection risks, such as hand hygiene, face masks, cough etiquette, physical distancing and contact avoidance; • Communicate infection risks to the general public using pre-developed materials.
After the event	• Maintain ongoing situational awareness for rapid reporting and response to the spread of communicable diseases; • Engage in international collaboration, including exchange of knowledge and experience.

IPC: infection prevention and control; HCPs: health care professionals.

Source: WHO (48).