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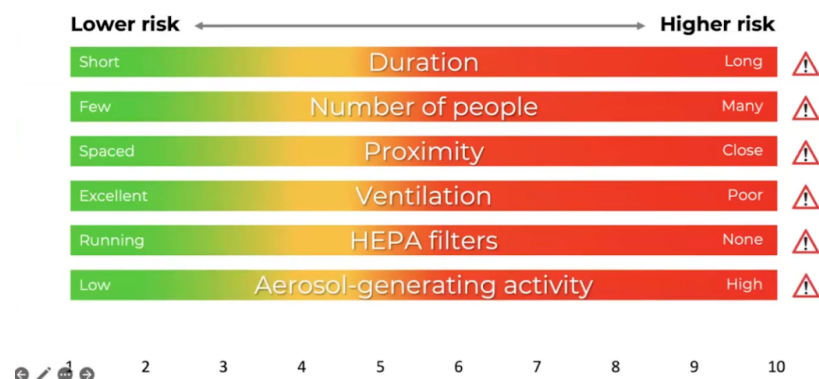
I am writing to you as a constituent to encourage you to take a few simple steps to sustainably protect your volunteers' health (as well as community members and you) during the election campaign. The success of your campaign relies on the hard work of your volunteer workforce; keeping them (and you) safer, healthier and more productive is a win-win situation for all.

There are a number of airborne infectious diseases currently prevalent in our community, including COVID-19, flu, RSV, and measles. They spread through the air like smoke and we breathe them in. Crowded campaign events (especially those held indoors) have the potential to be superspreader events and unmitigated airborne transmission can decimate the availability of volunteers, both short and long term. Fortunately there are a number of things you can do to reduce the risk of airborne infections in campaign spaces.

Firstly, let volunteers know not to attend if they have any viral or bacterial symptoms as they are likely infectious and can spread illness throughout the team. A simple, consistent message could be "Please do not attend if you're displaying any symptoms of viral or bacterial infection. There will be future events you can attend. We'll miss you this time round but ask that you stay home to keep your team and your community safe."

There are four D's of managing risk: duration, density, dilution and distance. If you can create gatherings that have volunteers exposed for less time; in a less crowded setting and with better ventilation and/or filtration to dilute pathogens, this reduces the risk of an infected (possibly asymptomatic) participant infecting others.

Risk factors for COVID infection



Layered mitigations do work to keep everyone safer, these include ventilation which can be as simple as opening doors and/or windows to clear the air; using a CO2 monitor to assess Indoor Air Quality; portable HEPA air filtering units that clean the air; providing high quality respirator masks; testing (RATs) before gatherings and isolating when infectious; and encouraging everyone to be up to date with vaccines, eg flu and COVID-19.

Tips:

- 2 open windows and/or doors improves air flow, especially if on opposite sides of the room; fans can also be used to improve air flow
- If using mechanical ventilation, ensure that it is set to bring in fresh air, rather than recirculate - this is important in vehicles as well as buildings
- CO2 monitors measure how much you're breathing in other people's rebreathed air; keep levels below 800 ppm and preferably below 600 ppm
- HEPA air purifiers are High Efficiency Particulate Air filters which clean the air; cost-effective, portable units are convenient tools
- N95/P2 respirator masks are highly effective protection for individuals and reduce the amount of virus in the air at an event. Even if you don't want to mandate masks, you can make them readily available
- Rapid Antigen Testing (RATs) are useful to determine who is infectious and ensure they isolate, especially as a large percentage of airborne transmission comes from asymptomatic individuals
- To keep all volunteers healthier, they should not attend events in person if they are unwell or symptomatic
- Performing, public speaking, cheering, singing and even talking are high aerosol generating activities
- Bathrooms can be high transmission zones, added ventilation or HEPA filtration is recommended

Questions to ask

- Could we run this event outside in the fresh air? This is the safest option
- If not, have we opened doors and windows?
- Is there a fan we can turn on?
- Is there a HEPA air purifier we can turn on?
- Do we know what the IAQ is in this space?
- Do we have good quality respirator masks available for participants if they want them?
- Can we use RATs to ensure infectious individuals can isolate?

Indoor Air Quality is not just about engineering solutions and investment. There is the potential for millions of good choices by individuals to reduce the risk of infectious diseases spreading - if individuals are educated about the importance and protection of Clean Air. A high risk event or venue can be made safer by improving ventilation - something as simple as opening a window. Similarly, turning on a portable HEPA air purifier, suitably sized for the room, or shortening the time frame of the event, will reduce the risk. People can combine all of these mitigations, or move the event outdoors, and reduce risk even further. Risk mitigation is straightforward once people understand airborne transmission.

Any improvements you can make are good, it doesn't have to be perfect to make a positive impact on the health and availability of your valued volunteer workforce. It can be simple and affordable to organise successful, sustainable and inclusive in-person events where participants are protected. This also ensures your events are genuinely inclusive, protecting those at higher risk of poor outcomes from infections.

I hope you find this quick guide useful; I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have or help organise layered protections for your team. My priority is to help you sustain a safer, healthier, more productive volunteer workforce for the duration of your successful election campaign.

Regards