



# COVID-19: Remembrance Day Ceremonies



**Remembrance Day is a special day to reflect on the sacrifice and dedication of Canadians who have served and continue to serve, during times of war, conflict and peace, to keep us free. Remembrance Day ceremonies can proceed in 2020, but must respect the guidelines in place for the appropriate recovery level.**

- In **YELLOW LEVEL** that means that gatherings of up to 50 people with physical distancing are allowed. If the gathering is larger than 50, the organizer/business/organization is required to maintain a record of the names and contact information of all persons who attend. Information is to be kept in a secure place and not in public view. More information can be found in [Collection of names and contact information under the Mandatory Order COVID-19](#).
- In **ORANGE LEVEL**, outdoor gatherings with physical distancing of 10 people or fewer are permitted.
- In **RED LEVEL**, gatherings may only be held outdoors with a maximum of five people.
- **IN ALL LEVELS**, public health [measures](#) in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 must be adhered to at Remembrance Day events, at all times during ceremonies. This includes:
  - » Physical distancing of two metres, unless in instances where people are seated and every person continuously wears a mask, in which case physical distancing of one metre is acceptable;
  - » Masks are required in all indoor public areas. In Orange and Red levels, masks are required in outdoor public areas as well;
  - » Staying home when ill;
  - » Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing;
  - » Sneezing/coughing into a tissue or an elbow or sleeve if a tissue isn't available;
  - » Cleaning frequently touched surfaces frequently and thoroughly.
- Many of the people who attend and are honoured at ceremonies are often the most at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes older adults and those with medical conditions, such as heart disease, high blood pressure, lung disease, diabetes, cancer and weakened immune systems. For this reason, it is recommended that those at higher risk consider watching the ceremonies on television or online instead of attending in person.
- Organizers can consider these recommendations for a safe and healthy Remembrance Day:
  - » Hold gatherings outdoors where more room for distancing and better ventilation reduces the risks of COVID-19;
  - » Hold a virtual ceremony instead;
  - » Create a display in a central location that allows people to drive by to pay their respects;
  - » Have people pay their respects via recorded videos to be shared online;
  - » Online donations could be given to receive a virtual poppy that could be displayed electronically.
- Those selling poppies must ensure that public health measures are followed, including keeping two metres of physical distance between the seller and patrons, washing/sanitizing their hands before giving out poppies, mandatory masks in public places, etc. Donation boxes could be used and poppies could be individually packaged to reduce contact.