



COVID-19 Social Gathering Guidance

June 29, 2020

Definition

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) define gathering as “a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating or a large number of people in attendance such as a community event or gathering, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, or sporting event.”

- The *more people* an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.
- The higher the level of community transmission in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during a gathering.
- The size of an event or gathering should be determined based on state, local, territorial or tribal safety laws and regulations.”

Tips for Attending a Gathering

- **Stay home if you are sick.**
 - Individuals should stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Anyone who has had close contact with a person who has COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.
 - Individuals who live with those at higher risk should also consider the potential risk to their loved ones.
- **Maintain physical distance.**
 - Remember to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from people you do not live with.
- **Wear a face covering.**
 - Wear a cloth face covering as much as possible, especially when indoors or when physical distancing of six feet cannot be continuously maintained.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than age two or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, cannot move, or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- **Clean hands often.**
 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when entering and exiting social gatherings. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
 - Remember to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before eating and when you return home.
- **Bring your own food and drink.**
 - Consider bringing your own food and drink, as well as serving materials, to the gathering.

- If you are bringing a dish or food item for the group to share, consider pre-packaged items or individual serving packages that can be easily shared (e.g., individual chip bags or individually packaged desserts).

Tips for Hosting a Gathering

- **Remind guests to stay home if they are sick.**
 - Individuals should stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Anyone who has had close contact with a person who has COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.
- **Maintain a guest list.**
 - Consider keeping a list of guests who attend the gathering for potential future contact tracing needs.
 - Communicate your expectations for the gatherings with your guests in advance (e.g., are you asking your guests to bring their own food and drink?).
- **Encourage physical distancing.**
 - Suggest guests use contact-free greetings, such as elbow bumps or waves, rather than hand shaking or hugging.
 - Remind all guests to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from people they do not live with.
 - When planning your guest list, consider how many people you can safely keep six feet apart in your gathering space, whether indoors or outdoors.
 - Host your gathering outdoors, when possible. If this is not feasible, make sure the indoor gathering room or space is well-ventilated. Prop doors open to avoid touching of door handles and increase ventilation by opening windows.
 - Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing and seat members of the same household together.
 - Mark seating areas, using tape or chalk, to help guests maintain physical distance.
 - Post signs to discourage crowding or lines outside bathrooms or food serving areas.
 - Invite guests to participate in activities they can enjoy while maintaining physical distance (e.g., chalk art, scavenger hunts, bingo, charades, distanced dancing, etc.).
- **Wear a face covering.**
 - Wear a cloth face covering as much as possible, especially when indoors or when physical distancing of six feet cannot be continuously maintained. Encourage guests to do the same.
 - Consider providing face coverings for guests or remind guests to bring their own face coverings.
 - Ensure that individuals preparing or serving food and drinks wear a face covering.
- **Encourage hand washing**
 - Consider placing hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol on tables and in clearly marked hand washing areas.
 - Remind guests to wash their hands before serving or eating food.
 - Make sure there is adequate soap or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol available in the restrooms.

- Use single-use hand towels or paper towels for drying hands so guests do not share a towel.
- Consider providing cleaning supplies that allow guests to wipe down surfaces before they sit and when they prepare to leave.
- **Limit the number of people handling food.**
 - Encourage guests to bring their own food, drink, and serving materials.
 - If guests do not bring their own serving materials, consider providing disposable plates, napkins, cups, and cutlery for each guest at their table.
 - When possible, choose food and drink options that are not self-serve to limit the use of shared serving utensils, handles, buttons, or touchscreens. Consider plated or pre-packaged meals for guests.
 - If serving food, consider designating food servers so multiple people are not handling the serving utensils. Identify your designated servers before the gathering.
 - Limit access to the food preparation area (e.g., the kitchen or grill) to individuals designated to preparing or serving food.
 - Avoid shared serving containers, such as pitchers or salad dressing containers. Instead consider single-use options or designating an individual to serve from the container.
 - Place bottled drinks in open and labeled coolers or containers.
- **Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items.**
 - Use touchless garbage cans or pails.
 - Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash.
 - Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use, when feasible.
 - If you choose to use any shared items that are reusable (e.g., seating covers, tablecloths, linen napkins), wash, clean, and sanitize them after the event.