



GATHERINGS AT PRIVATE RESIDENCES

(Updated February 14, 2021)

*Pursuant to the Governor's Emergency [Directive 037](#), effective February 15, 2021, indoor private social gatherings are restricted to ten (10) or fewer persons and outdoor private social gatherings are restricted to twenty-five (25) or fewer persons. Face coverings **MUST** be worn at private social gatherings anytime individuals are with people outside of their household, even if you're socially distant.*

Social interaction is important for our mental health and well-being, but we all must follow strict social distancing measures to ensure we are being as safe as possible. If you are planning to host or attend a residential or social gathering, always remember this guiding principle from the [CDC](#):

"In general, the more people you interact with, the more closely you interact with them, and the longer that interaction, the higher your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces because indoors, it can be harder to keep people at least 6 feet apart and the ventilation is not as good as it is outdoors."

If you are hosting or attending a residential or private social gathering, please review the information and best practices below to help protect yourself and others.

RISK LEVELS: Gatherings and Events

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, so you should try to understand the current community transmission risk in your area before deciding to host or attend a gathering. According to the [CDC](#), 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 risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

- Lowest risk: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.
- More risk: Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- Higher risk: Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.



- Highest risk: Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

***RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES:**

- DO NOT attend or host a private gathering if you or a household member are sick. Stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (symptoms of COVID-19), if you are waiting for COVID-19 test results or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Remind invited guests to stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or are showing COVID-19 [symptoms](#). Anyone who has had [close contact](#) with a person who has COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health. Invited guests who live with those at higher risk should also consider the potential risk to their loved ones.
- If you are hosting a social or residential gathering, you are strongly urged to keep a list of guests who attend for potential future contact tracing needs.
- People from different households should stay at least 6 feet apart.
- Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing. Set up seating areas ahead of time that allow for adequate space between people.
- Host your gathering outdoors, whenever possible. If this is not feasible, make sure the room or space is well-ventilated (for example, open a window). Stay within your local area as much as possible.
- Try to minimize sharing items and equipment with people not in your household. If you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol once you are done.
- When guests arrive, minimize gestures that promote close contact. For example, do not shake hands, do elbow bumps, or give hugs. Instead wave and verbally greet them.
- Face coverings **MUST** be worn at private social gatherings anytime individuals are with people outside of their household, even if you're socially distant. Wear a face covering when you arrive, when you leave, and if you must move around among people.
- Consider providing face coverings for guests or asking them to bring their own.
- Encourage guests to bring their own food and drinks.
- Limit people going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen or around the grill, if possible.
- If serving any food, consider identifying one person to serve all food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils.



Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal

- Use single-use options or identify one person to serve sharable items, like salad dressings, food containers, and condiments, so that multiple people are not handling the items.
- Use touchless garbage cans or pails.
- Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
- 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.

***CONFIRMED CASES**

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who tests positive.
- Work with local health authority to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notification. All suspected infections or exposures should be tested.
- Following testing, contact local health authority to initiate appropriate care and tracing.
- Shutdown any facility for deep cleaning and disinfection, if possible. Use disinfectants outlined on [EPA List N](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[Personal and Social Activities \(CDC COVID-19 Guidelines\)](#)

[CDC Readiness and Planning Tool to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 at Events and Gatherings](#)