

CDC GUIDELINES

CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOSTING OR ATTENDING GATHERINGS

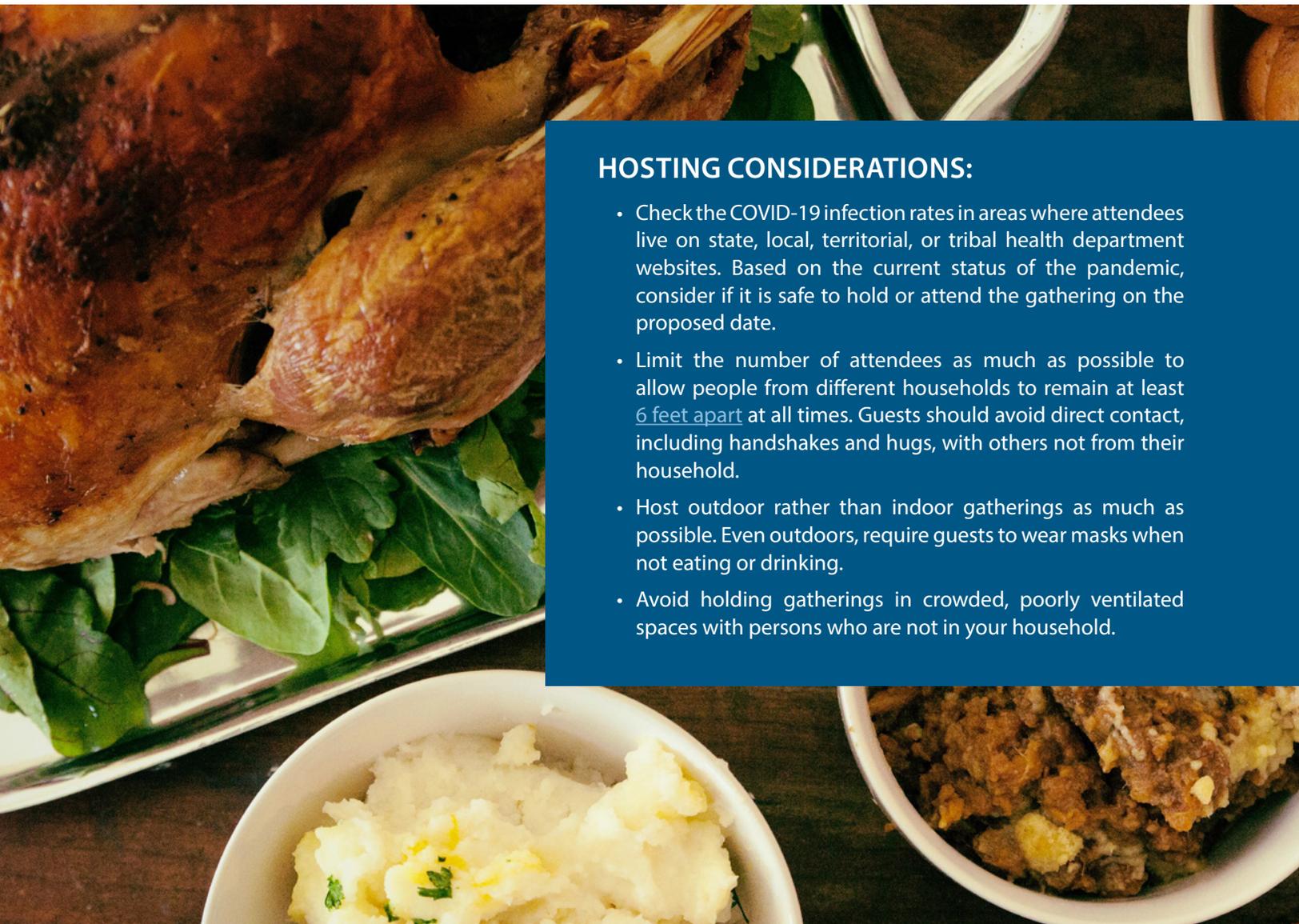


Gatherings during the upcoming holidays can be an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. This holiday season, consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe.

Below are some general considerations for hosting a gathering that brings together people from different households.

Guests should be aware of these considerations and ask their host what mitigation measures will be in place during the gathering.

If you will be attending a gathering that someone else is hosting, follow CDC Considerations for Events and Gatherings.



HOSTING CONSIDERATIONS:

- Check the COVID-19 infection rates in areas where attendees live on state, local, territorial, or tribal health department websites. Based on the current status of the pandemic, consider if it is safe to hold or attend the gathering on the proposed date.
- Limit the number of attendees as much as possible to allow people from different households to remain at least [6 feet apart](#) at all times. Guests should avoid direct contact, including handshakes and hugs, with others not from their household.
- Host outdoor rather than indoor gatherings as much as possible. Even outdoors, require guests to wear masks when not eating or drinking.
- Avoid holding gatherings in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces with persons who are not in your household.

HOSTING CONSIDERATIONS:

- Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather, or by placing central air and heating on continuous circulation.
- For additional information on increasing ventilation, visit CDC's information on [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home](#).
 - Winter weather can be cold, wet, and unpredictable. Inclement weather makes it difficult to increase ventilation by opening windows or to hold an event outdoors.
- If setting up outdoor seating under a pop-up open air tent, ensure guests are still seated with physical distancing in mind. Enclosed 4-wall tents will have less air circulation than open air tents. If outdoor temperature or weather forces you to put up the tent sidewalls, consider leaving one or more sides open or rolling up the bottom 12 inches of each sidewall to enhance ventilation while still providing a wind break.
- Require guests to wear masks. At gatherings that include persons of different households, everyone should always wear a [mask](#) that covers both the mouth and nose, except when eating or drinking. It is also important to stay at least [6 feet away](#) from people who are not in your household at all times.
- Encourage guests to avoid singing or shouting, especially indoors. Keep music levels down so people don't have to shout or speak loudly to be heard.
- Encourage attendees to [wash](#) their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use [hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Provide guests information about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and steps that will be in place at the gathering to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Provide and/or encourage attendees to bring supplies to help everyone to stay healthy. These include extra [masks](#) (do not share or swap with others), [hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol, and tissues. Stock bathrooms with enough hand soap and single use towels.
- Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items, such as serving utensils.
- [Clean and disinfect](#) commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible. Use [EPA-approved disinfectants](#)
- Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash.
 - Use touchless garbage cans if available.
 - Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Plan ahead and ask guests to avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before the gathering.
- Treat [pets](#) as you would other human family members – do not let pets interact with people outside the household.

The more of these prevention measures that you put in place, the safer your gathering will be. No one measure is enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

► For more information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>



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