

INFECTION PREVENTION & YOU



HOW TO HOST SAFE SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

With summer upon us and the end of the pandemic around the corner, you may be asking, “How can we safely enjoy summer this year?” **While the CDC continues to recommend against larger in-person gatherings,** below are some important risk factors and questions that may help you determine if hosting/attending celebrations this summer is a safe option for you. Nothing is entirely risk-free, but there are strategies you can use to prioritize safety.

Consider the following tips to help keep you and your community safe as we begin to resume normal, pre-pandemic summer activities like neighborhood BBQs and weddings!

Are you and/or your guests fully vaccinated?

The CDC has updated their guidance for fully vaccinated individuals, including resuming activities that you may have participated in prior to the pandemic. “Fully vaccinated” is defined as two weeks following a second dose in a 2-dose series (e.g., Pfizer and Moderna vaccines), or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine). It is important to understand that this new guidance applies **ONLY** to those who are considered fully vaccinated. **It is highly recommended that you be fully vaccinated prior to hosting or attending a social gathering.** Avoid attending or hosting events if you are feeling unwell.

Does my community have high or increasing COVID-19 cases?

Find out if your community has high or increasing COVID-19 cases by reaching out to your local health department or utilizing the CDC’s [COVID Data Tracker](#). Confirm if social gatherings are allowed in the community, and follow state and local guidelines for large, in-person events.

Can I host or attend an indoor celebration?

A celebration held outdoors greatly improves physical distancing, ventilation and airflow, and lessens high-touch surfaces, but be sure to have a backup plan in the event of unexpected weather conditions. If indoors, make sure to open windows, doors, and use fans to help improve airflow. The CDC still defines COVID-19 exposure as being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Make sure there is enough space indoors for all guests to socially distance appropriately. You may have to adjust room layouts or limit the guest count. If possible, invite only fully vaccinated guests to indoor gatherings (although there is no way to guarantee all guests will be fully vaccinated). Virtual gatherings are still the safest way for unvaccinated people to celebrate.

What precautions should I take?

While the CDC has suggested more freedoms for fully vaccinated individuals, event hosts will likely not know the vaccination status of attendees.

Therefore, hosts and guests should continue to take the necessary safety measures.

Precautions regarding communication:

- As the host, set expectations regarding measures like social distancing, mask wearing, and vaccination status.
- As a guest, have a conversation with the host about their expectations.

Precautions regarding seating and guest activities:

- Space out or block off seats to avoid congestion during a sit-down or indoor event
- Avoid crowding at the entrances and exits
- Request that certain activities, such as picture taking, occur outside if choosing to unmask
- Keep music volumes low to discourage shouting
- Limit alcohol consumption as this can inhibit appropriate safety behaviors

Precautions regarding timing and transportation:

- Consider only hosting or attending celebrations within your own community where the COVID-19 risk level remains the same
- Shorten the celebration to limit potential exposure time for unvaccinated individuals
- Encourage attendees who are not fully vaccinated to avoid forms of public transportation due to poor physical distancing and airflow—vaccinated individuals should continue to wear a mask and social distance as required by local guidelines

Precautions regarding cleaning and supplies:

- Identify your high-touch surfaces ahead of time (bathrooms, chairs, door handles, microphones, etc.)
- Provide enough soap and hand sanitizers to promote good hand hygiene
- Have extra single-use masks available for attendees who may forget theirs

- Clean reusable dishes and utensils as soon as the celebration has ended

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

“Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html

“COVID Data Tracker”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021. covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

“Events and Gatherings: Readiness and Planning Tool”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/COVID19-events-gatherings-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf

“Guidance for Organizing Large Events and Gatherings”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html

“Guidance for Unvaccinated People: Large Gatherings”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/large-gatherings.html

“Guidance for Unvaccinated People: Small Gatherings”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/small-gatherings.html

“Health Department Directories”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021.

www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/index.html

“When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated: How to Protect Yourself and Others”. CDC. Retrieved 1 June 2021. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html



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