

HOLIDAY GUIDANCE

As Chester County residents plan for the upcoming holiday season, we offer the following considerations to help keep our families, friends, and communities safe from COVID-19. If you host a holiday celebration, keep it small, consistent, and local. If you are considering travel, be aware of [Pennsylvania's travel orders](#). If you participate in a celebration, follow public health guidance.

The safest way to celebrate the holidays this year is to celebrate virtually or with people in your household. If you do plan to celebrate with people outside your household, take steps to make your holiday safer.

Any time you're near people you don't live with:

- Wear a mask when not eating or drinking
- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Stay at least six feet apart from others
- Consider if those around you may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as older adults or those with certain medical conditions, and take extra precautions
- If gathering indoors, improve ventilation by opening windows and doors

Lower Risk Activities

- Limit in-person holiday gatherings to **only people you live with or limit to a small group of individuals with whom you are regularly in contact**
- Keep visits short – gatherings that last longer pose more risk than short gatherings
- Hosting a virtual holiday dinner with extended family or friends, especially if they are at higher risk for illness from COVID-19
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors and deliver them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others

Moderate Risk Activities

- Hosting an outdoor gathering
- Visiting a public outdoor attraction, such as a pumpkin patch, apple orchard, or light show
- Attending outdoor sports events, even with COVID-19 safety measures in place

High Risk Activities

- [Large, indoor gatherings, dinners or parties](#), especially with people from outside your immediate households
- Shopping in crowded stores and malls before or after the holiday
- Attending crowded public events, such as races or parades



If You Plan to Celebrate the Holidays In-Person with People You Don't Live With:

- Stay home if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, or are waiting for test results, stay home
- Wear your mask and watch your distance at all times
- Avoid any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets and potlucks
- Consider small seating table arrangements in multiple rooms with plenty of spacing, instead of a large family table
- If gathering indoors, improve ventilation by opening windows and doors
- Attendees should consider quarantining for 14 days following the celebration

Planning Ahead for the Holidays

- Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together
- Before and after holiday gatherings, minimize contact with other people, and leave home for only for essential services
- Obtain a negative result from PCR SARS-CoV2 test prior to the celebration
 - **A negative test result should only be used in addition to quarantine and following public health guidance**
 - Information about testing in Chester County can be found at <https://bit.ly/cchdnstesting>
- The day before any events, all guests should screen for symptoms and stay home if they are not feeling well
- Hosts and guests should have a plan for what to do [if someone becomes sick](#)

Other Important Considerations

- Consider the number and rate of COVID-19 cases in your community and in the community where you plan to celebrate when deciding whether to host or attend a holiday celebration
- Find information on cases in [Pennsylvania](#) and across the [United States](#)
- [Download the COVID Alert App](#). Features include a COVID-19 symptom check-in, alerts for potential exposures to the virus, updates on the latest data, and public health guidance for what to do if you have a potential exposure to COVID-19
- All Chester County residents are also encouraged to get the [flu vaccine](#)
- For additional information and holiday guidance, please visit <https://bit.ly/CDCHolidayGuidance>

