

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Celebrating Holidays

As families start to plan for the holiday season it is important to consider how to celebrate safely in order to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Planning early and identifying safe alternatives to some of the more traditional but risky methods of celebration will be key. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health would like to share information on how to take part in the holiday season in a manner that reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19. Since some of the traditional ways in which holidays are celebrated are not permitted this year, consider some safer alternatives that are listed below.

Not Permitted (gatherings and events are not currently allowed under the Health Officer Order)

- Carnivals or festivals.
- Department store Santa/holiday displays or photo opportunities that do not allow everyone to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from non-household members at all times.

Not Recommended

- Door to door activities, such as caroling, are not recommended because it can be very difficult to maintain proper social distancing on porches and at front doors and ensure that everyone answering or coming to the door is appropriately masked to prevent disease spread.

Permitted and Recommended

- Online parties/contests (e.g. Thanksgiving meal, tree trimming).
- Car parades that comply with public health guidance for [vehicle based parades](#) including:
 - a. Drive by events or contests where individuals dress up or decorate their vehicles and drive by “judges” that are appropriately physically distanced.
 - b. Drive through events where individuals remain in their vehicles and drive through an area with holiday displays.
 - c. Drive in events where individuals can receive a treat bag (limited to commercially packaged non-perishable treats) or take away item from an organizer while the participants remain in their vehicle.
 - d. Drive in events where individuals drop off or pick up toys or other donations.
- Holiday movie nights at drive-in theaters (must comply with the public health [drive-in movie theater](#) guidance).
- Live Performances or Concerts done at Drive-in theaters. (must comply with the public health [drive-in movie theater](#) protocol).
- Holiday themed meals at outdoor restaurants (must comply with the [restaurant](#) protocol).
- Holiday themed art installations at an outdoor museum (must comply with the public health [museum protocol](#)).
- Dressing up homes and yards with holiday themed decorations.
- Gatherings of 3 households are permitted if they are held outdoors.

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The fewer people you and your household have in-person contact with, the lower your risk of getting COVID-19. You and your household are allowed to gather with one or two other households as long as the gathering is outside, lasts no more than 2 hours, and everyone wears face coverings and stays at least 6ft from non-household members. If you do choose to take this risk, it is safer to mix with the same 1-2 household(s) repeatedly rather than with different groups. For additional details on private gatherings see the posted [Health Officer Order for Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community](#).

Travel

Since the holiday season is often a busy travel time, you may be considering doing a bit of travel this time of year for vacation or to visit friends and family. Before you travel consider the following:

- Is COVID-19 spreading at your destination?
 - The more cases at your destination, the more likely you are to get infected during travel and spread the virus to others when you return.
 - The following CDC sites can help you to assess the risk of travel both locally and internationally:
 - [CDC COVID Data tracker](#)
 - [CDC Travel Recommendation by Destination](#)
- Are you or is someone you live with at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19?
 - Anyone can get very ill from the virus that causes COVID-19, but older adults and people of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness if they become infected with COVID-19.
- Does your destination have requirements or restrictions for travelers?
 - Some destinations have requirements, such as requiring people to test prior to travel or to quarantine upon arrival. Check state, territorial, tribal and local public health websites for information before you travel. If you are traveling internationally, check the destination's Office of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Health or the [US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Country Information](#) page for details about entry requirements and restrictions for arriving travelers.
- It is important to note that LA County does recommend that travelers stay home for 14 days when arriving into LA after travel.

Personal Protection Measures:

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate the holidays it is important to keep the following in mind:

1. Correctly wear a cloth face covering to prevent disease spread¹ when outside your home and around others that are not part of your household.

¹ Wear masks with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19. Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin. For more info, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html> and <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protection/GuidanceClothFaceCoverings.pdf>

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2. Avoid confined spaces - Actively stay away from indoor spaces that don't allow for easy distancing of at least 6ft between you and others.
3. Avoid close contact – Stay at least 6 feet away (3 or more adult steps) from all other people who are not part of your own household, especially while talking, eating, drinking, and singing.
4. Remain outdoors as much as possible when socializing with people not in your household.
5. Wash or sanitize your hands often.
6. Clean frequently touched items regularly.
7. If you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 stay home, away from others, and get tested.

Know where to get reliable information

Beware of scams, false news and hoaxes surrounding novel coronavirus. Accurate information, including announcements of new cases in LA County, will always be distributed by Public Health through press releases, social media, and our website. The website has more information on COVID-19 including FAQs, infographics and a guide to coping with stress, as well as tips on handwashing.

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
 - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
 - Social media: @lapublichealth

Other reliable sources of information about novel coronavirus are:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)
 - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day.