

Happy Holidays During COVID-19

With many holidays coming up, and widespread vaccine availability allowing us to have a more relaxed and safe season this year, you may be wondering how to keep everyone safe while enjoying the celebrations with friends and family. Holidays can also be emotional, especially while we are still battling the COVID-19 pandemic. What can you do to make the holidays safe and enjoyable for you, your family and friends? **Plan and share your decisions early.**

Options For Holiday Events Include Everyone Being Expected To:

1. Be fully vaccinated.
2. Be vaccinated **and** show a negative test result taken no more than 1 week before the holiday.
3. Be vaccinated **or** show a negative test result taken no more than 1 week before the holiday.
4. Show a negative test result taken no more than 3 days before the holiday with same day rapid test.
You can choose the type of test you'll require. Give adequate notice for the timing of the tests.
5. Attend regardless of vaccination status or testing procedures.

Note: Testing may require an appointment. More accurate testing can take more time to get results. Same day rapid tests may be less accurate, but allow for testing quickly, closer to the holiday and may be more affordable.

Ask Yourself These Questions

Host(s)

- Have you invited friends and loved ones who are at high risk for COVID-19 (Over 65+, children under 12 or immunocompromised)?
- Will you host indoors in close proximity to each other or will you host the event outside?
- Will you require everyone who attends to be vaccinated? (If yes, do you want to see copies of their vaccination cards?)
- Will you offer the option of a recent COVID-19 test in place of or in addition to a vaccination? (How recently? What type of test? How far out can you schedule tests, is the test enough without vaccination?)

Guest(s)

- Are you comfortable attending events if vaccination is required?
- Are you comfortable attending if vaccination is not required?
- Can you arrange or pay for testing if the host(s) ask for it?
- Can you offer an alternative event or location for those family members whose comfort level requires something different than what the host(s) requests?
- If you are experiencing any cold symptoms, please be considerate and stay home.

Remember, if you are a guest, try to be kind and respectful of the hosts' choices. If you are concerned about attending, consider something new this year: eat at the beach, find a new restaurant, pack a meal and go for a hike or create a new immediate-family-only event.

Booster shots and flu shots can add to everyone's health and safety this holiday season.

Communicate Your Decisions

Hosts: Include written requests on the invitation for holiday events and send them early.

Guests: Make sure that you RSVP or kindly decline their invitation early.

Have a healthy, happy holiday season!



The CDC discourages long distance travel to attend holiday events. Sources: [CDC](#), [CDC on celebrations](#), and [on holidays](#).