

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Celebrating Holidays

Recent Updates:

11/30/20: Gatherings of more than one household are prohibited between November 30, 2020 and December 20, 2020 in compliance with the **Temporary Targeted Safer at Home Health Officer Order for Control of COVID-19**. On-site dining at restaurants, whether indoors or outdoors, is also prohibited during this period.

11/19/20: Travel advisory against any non-essential travel.

11/9/20: Purchasing trees from holiday tree lots is permitted as long as the holiday tree lot complies with required retail protocol and no amusement park, gathering, or festival type activities occur at the holiday tree lot.

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)

- Private and public gatherings with individuals not in your household are prohibited with the sole exceptions of permitted religious or cultural services and ceremonies and protests.
- Carnivals, amusement parks or festivals.
- Santa/holiday displays or photo opportunities except when conducted outdoors with all participants wearing face coverings and maintaining a 6-foot physical distance.

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.

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- 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.
- Outdoor Santa/Holiday displays or photo opportunities with all participants wearing face coverings and maintaining a 6-foot physical distance.
- Buy and decorate a Christmas tree (tree lots must comply with the public health [retail establishment protocol](#) and may not have amusement park or carnival type activities such as rides, face painting, petting zoos, food service, bounce houses or visits with Santa that are closer than six feet.)

Travel

Rethink your plans! Since the holiday season is often a busy travel time, you might have been thinking of traveling to visit friends and family. Travel increases your chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, so staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick. The state of California has issued a travel advisory recommending that all non-essential travel be cancelled, including travel for vacation, tourism, or recreation. The state advisory also recommends that anyone entering or returning to California from other states or countries should self-quarantine at home for 14 days after travel.

Before you travel, you are urged to 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

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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.

- Do not travel if you are sick, or if you have been around someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- If you must travel, protect yourself and others by following the steps below in "Personal Protection Measures" and the tips for preparing for travel on the CDC [Travel](#) webpage.
- When returning after non-essential travel to another state or country you are asked to self-quarantine at home for 14 days and limit contact to only those in your household.

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 spread](#)¹ when outside your home and around others that are not part of your household.
2. Avoid confined spaces - Actively stay away from indoor and outdoor 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.
8. Get your flu immunization. Flu will be circulating at the same time as COVID-19 and it is important to protect yourself and those around you from becoming ill with flu. For information on where to get vaccinated for free or low cost, call 211 or visit ph.lacounty.gov/media/FluSeason.

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)

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- <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
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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.

¹¹Wear 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>.

