



YOLO COUNTY COVID-19 GATHERING GUIDANCE

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

As California continues to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, many residents are planning celebrations, gatherings and get-togethers. Yolo County offers the following recommendations on how to more safely protect the health of individuals, families, friends, and communities while reducing the risk of COVID-19.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

This document is meant to supplement the [State of California's guidance](#) on gatherings and provide residents information on how to more safely participate in informal gatherings such as parties and holiday get-togethers. To avoid moving the County back to the purple tier in the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and help keep confirmed cases low, **the State of California requires that gatherings be restricted to 3 households or less, 2 hours or less, and outdoors in the Purple tier. In addition, the Yolo County Health Officer is restricting gatherings to a maximum of 16 people. The 16-person capacity includes everyone present, including hosts and attendees.** [Click here for the updated amendment to the local health order.](#) Industries that manage gatherings as part of their operations, such as wedding venues, restaurants, and religious services should continue to follow [State](#) and [local guidance](#) for their specific industry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the more people interact and the longer they interact, the higher the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Lower confirmed case rates keep local businesses open and will allow schools to reopen more quickly. While gatherings pose an especially high danger of transmission and spread of COVID-19, this risk can be reduced, though not eliminated, by following certain practices. Due to the health risk, particularly for more vulnerable populations, the Yolo County Health Officer strongly discourages gatherings of any size. However, if residents still choose to gather, here are recommendations to reduce the transmission and spread of COVID-19.

GUIDE TO GATHERINGS

1. Organize Small Outdoor Gatherings When Possible

Gatherings are restricted to: 1) 3 households with a max of 16 people, including host and attendees 2) for 2 hours or less and 3) must be held outside in the purple tier. These restrictions also apply to business social gatherings, such as holiday parties. This is true even in a public space like a park or other outdoor space, even if unrelated gatherings of other groups are also occurring in the same park or other outdoor space. The smaller the number of attendees, the safer.

Indoor gatherings have the highest risk for COVID-19 transmission. The outdoor space should be large enough to allow attendees to remain at least 6 feet apart at all times from those not in their household. Sunshades, awnings, or similar outdoor structures can also be used but should be completely open on

three sides to provide maximum ventilation.

2. Designate an Organizer or Host

Designating someone to organize activities, attendees, and food and coordinate safety guidelines and practices will help ensure applicable State and local health orders are being followed as best as possible. This person should also collect names and contact information of attendees in case contact tracing is needed later.

3. Stay Home if You Have Symptoms of Illness or are High-Risk

Anyone who is sick or has COVID-like symptoms should stay home and should not attend any gathering. Additionally, people who are at high-risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 should stay home and not attend any gatherings. Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms within 48 hours after attending a gathering should notify the other attendees or host as soon as possible regarding the potential exposure.

COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild to severe and may include, but are not limited to:

- Fever or chills
- Cough or sore throat
- Fatigue or headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

4. Maintain Physical Distance

Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet or more from people you don't live with. Be particularly mindful in areas where it may be harder to keep this distance, such as restrooms and eating areas. Minimize gestures that promote close contact. For example, do not shake hands, elbow bump, or give hugs and instead wave and verbally greet others. Seating should also provide at least 6 feet of distance in all directions.

5. Wear Face Coverings

Everyone must wear a face covering at all times, except:

- When eating or drinking while still maintaining social distancing from those outside your household;
- If the person has a written medical exemption provided by a healthcare provider, though the person should consider alternative face coverings, such as a face shield;
- Children two years or younger; or
- To attend to urgent medical needs, such as to use an inhaler or to take oral medication.

6. Practice Healthy Hygiene Habits

Frequently wash hands with soap and water or sanitize with hand sanitizer. Ensure handwashing facilities or hand sanitizer is readily available for all attendees.

Don't share items with others from different households, including sports equipment, utensils, foods, reading materials, or religious or spiritual items. Any item that must be shared – such as a microphone or podium – must be sanitized between each use.

7. Be Strategic about Food

To minimize sharing, **food or beverages should be provided in single-serve disposable containers.**

If single-serve containers are not possible, **designate one person to serve food and drinks** who washes their hands frequently with soap and water and wears disposable gloves and a face covering.

Another option is to **order food from a restaurant** that is currently following local health orders and being regularly inspected by health inspectors to support local businesses in your community. Consider asking the restaurant if it's possible for food to be in single-serve containers ahead of time.

Ask attendees to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before eating or getting food.

8. The More Gatherings You Attend, the Higher the Risk for COVID-19 Exposure

To reduce the amount of exposure you experience, limit the number of gatherings you attend, especially gatherings from different households. The more people gather, the higher the risk for spreading and contracting COVID-19.

LOWER RISK ACTIVITIES

The following activities are considered lower risk and safer alternatives:

- Sharing traditional family recipes with family and neighbors and delivering them in a way that does not involve contact
- Scheduling a virtual dinner with friends and family
- Shopping online rather than in person in stores
- Hosting a holiday movie night at home with people you live with
- Organizing a virtual game night with friends and family

HIGHER RISK ACTIVITIES

The following activities are considered higher risk and strongly discouraged:

- Singing, chanting, shouting, or playing wind instruments.
 - If you are singing, chanting, or playing instruments, wear a face covering at all times to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets and stand beyond 6 feet to further reduce risk.
- Participating or being a spectator at a crowded event
- Attending parades or large indoor gatherings with people from outside your household

RESOURCES

YOLO COUNTY

www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap

<https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=66998>

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-10-09.aspx>

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>