

How to have safer in person gatherings during COVID

The act of planning for safer in person gatherings is one of solidarity, community care, and love. By implementing multiple layers of protection before, during, and after the gathering; we keep ourselves and our communities as protected as possible from the continued spread of COVID.

Before the gathering

- Testing:** If accessible to attendees, require same-day PCR testing. If attendees are using Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs), they should test the day prior to the event and the day of the event.
- Reduce high-risk activities:** Require attendees to avoid high-risk activities five days prior to the event, such as unmasked indoor activities.
- Symptom and exposure checklist:** Require attendees to complete a daily symptom and exposure checklist prior to the event. If they're showing symptoms of illness or have been exposed to COVID in the days leading up to the event, they should stay home.

During the gathering

- Proof of vaccination:** Require attendees to bring proof of vaccination, including boosters. They should have received their latest booster at least two weeks in advance of the event.
- Gather outdoors:** Hold gatherings outdoors whenever possible. Because transmission can still occur outdoors, especially when you're close together over a long period of time, we recommend masking if the outdoor space will be crowded.
- Universal masking:** Require attendees to wear the highest-quality masks available to them. We recommend NIOSH-certified N95/KN94 grade masks or better, whenever possible. Other masks may be used if N95/KN94 are not accessible, but will not be as protective.
- Ventilate, filter, and monitor air:** Improve ventilation by opening all doors and windows and ensuring HVAC systems are fully functional and serviced. Filter the air with purchased HEPA filters or DIY Corsi-Rosenthal boxes. Monitor the air quality by using a CO2 monitor, aiming for outdoor levels (usually around 400-800 ppm, depending on your location).
- Keep groups small and consistent:** Limit the number of people in attendance and, if necessary, divide attendees into smaller groups for the duration of the event. This helps to minimize spread and will make contact tracing easier.

After the gathering

- Testing:** Require attendees to test 5 full days after the gathering, reporting those results back to you.
- Contact tracing:** Keep a list of attendees so you can ensure all participants have tested and reported their results back to you. If anybody tests positive, inform attendees who may have been exposed.

Learn more:

For detailed information about safer in person gatherings, visit: <https://peoplescdc.org/2022/11/17/safer-in-person-gatherings/>