

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Small Private Gatherings

Recent Updates:

11/13/20: Updated reporting requirements.

In conformance with new guidance provided by the State Public Health Officer, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health now permits small private gatherings of persons from no more than three households to come together in outdoor spaces as long as everyone wears a face covering and maintains physical distancing from those who are not part of their same household. It is important to know that mixing with individuals from other households can increase your chance of exposure to COVID-19. In order to lower risk of exposure to COVID-19, persons participating in private gatherings must adhere to the guidelines that are outlined below.

Definitions:

- **Household:** A group of people who live together in a single dwelling unit like a house or apartment. These individuals usually share the use and responsibility for common living areas, and share household activities and responsibilities. Households do not refer to individuals who live together in an institutional group living situation such as in a dormitory, fraternity, sorority, monastery, convent, or residential care facility. This definition does not include commercial group living arrangements like boarding houses, hotels, or motels.
- **Private Gatherings:** Social situations that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place.

Attendance:

- Private gatherings that include persons from more than three households are not allowed. This includes everyone present, including hosts and guests. Please note that the smaller the number of people at a private gathering, the lower the risk of spread of COVID-19.
- Keep the households (max of 3) that choose to gather or interact together constant or stable over time. Participating in multiple gatherings with different households and communities poses a higher risk of transmission and spread of COVID-19 especially if one or more attendees is/are discovered to be infected with the virus.
- Individuals from the households who do choose to gather together should discuss and agree upon the specific group rules for reducing the risk of exposure among the attendees before coming together.
- The host household of the private gathering should collect names of all attendees and contact information in case contact tracing is needed later.

Location:

- All private gatherings must be held outside. These gatherings are permitted in a public park or other outdoor space. Unlike indoor spaces, outdoor spaces can help reduce the risk of spread of the virus from one person to another. Attendees may go inside to use restrooms as long as the restrooms are frequently sanitized.

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- Private gatherings may occur in outdoor spaces that are covered by umbrellas, canopies, awnings, roofs, and other shade structures provided that at least three sides of the space (or 75%) are open to the outdoors.
- Multiple gatherings of three households may not be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time since this would constitute a private gathering that exceeds the permitted size.
- Mixing between unrelated private gatherings in the same public space or other outdoor space at the same time is not allowed.

Duration:

- Keep it short. Private gatherings should be limited to two hours or less in duration. The longer the duration, the greater the risk of transmission.

Physical distancing and hand hygiene.

- The outdoor space must be large enough so that everyone at the private gathering can maintain at least a 6-foot physical distance from others (not including individuals that are part of their own household) at all times.
- A place to wash hands or hand sanitizer must be available for attendees to use.
- Shared items may not be used during a private gathering. As much as possible, any food or beverages at outdoor gatherings must be in single-serve disposable containers. If providing single-serve containers is not possible, food and beverages must be served by an attendee who washes or sanitizes their hands frequently and wears a face covering over their nose and mouth. Self-serve items from communal containers is not permitted.

Singing, Chanting, and Shouting at Outdoor Gatherings.

Singing, chanting, shouting, and physical exertion significantly increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission because these activities increase the release of respiratory droplets into the air. Because of this, singing, chanting, and shouting are strongly discouraged.

If these activities will occur the following guidelines must be adhered to.

- A face covering must be worn at all times while singing or chanting, including by anyone who is leading a song or chant, and everyone must maintain at least 8-10 feet of physical distance from others.
- Instrumental music is allowed as long as the musicians maintain at least 6-foot physical distancing. Musicians must be from only one of the three households. Playing of wind instruments (any instrument played by the mouth, such as a trumpet or clarinet) is strongly discouraged. If used though the individual should be at least 8-10 feet away from those who are not part of the performer's household.

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Reporting:

Anyone who develops COVID-19 within 48 hours after attending a private gathering should notify the other attendees as soon as possible regarding the potential exposure. If you have not been contacted by Public Health within a week of your diagnosis please call and report your case at 833-540-0473.

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.