Reducing Risk of Small Gatherings

If you must gather...

Small gatherings have recently been found to be the source of significant COVID spread. Gathering remotely in creative ways such as family ZOOM time for games and fun is best. However, if you do decide to gather, here are some tips for how to do it safely.

- **Keep Gatherings Small**
  It is best to keep gatherings to ten people at most. Avoid large groups.

- **Gather with Family or Local Guests Only**
  Avoid gathering with people from many different families or from many different locations.

- **Quarantine for Two Weeks Prior to the Gathering**
  It is best if everyone stays home and avoids social interactions before the gathering to minimize the chance that they have COVID.

- **Gather Outside**
  Plan your gatherings out of doors to avoid being inside where COVID spreads more easily.

- **Check Behavior of Attendees Before You Gather**
  Make sure everyone has been following safe guidelines up to the gathering—mask wearing, social distancing, and are not sick and have not been in contact with anyone who is sick.

- **Check Your Community’s Transmission Rates**
  If your community transmission rates are high, consider postponing or cancelling.

- **Get Tested Prior to Traveling to a Gathering**
  However, if you travel by air, bus or train, testing before travel may not be helpful because you could get COVID during travel.

- **Plan for Unexpected Issues**
  If a guest shows up sick or drunk/high, be prepared to send them home.
If you choose to gather...

**FOLLOW THE HOUSE RULES**

Before gathering, make sure everyone understands these house rules:

1. Wear masks until eating.
2. Seat families together and others as far apart as feasible.
3. Keep a few windows open to circulate fresh air.
4. DO NOT use fans.
5. If you serve alcohol, make sure it is in moderation so everyone is sober enough to follow the house rules.
6. Keep hand sanitizer available and designate a sink for handwashing that is NOT near food.
7. Use disposable napkins and bathroom hand towels.
8. Keep sanitizing wipes out for guests to clean handles and surfaces in the bathroom.
9. Keep the gathering short (1-2 hours maximum).
10. Don’t serve buffet or family style; instead designate one person to serve all the food from the kitchen and bring plates to guests.
11. If singing or drumming, do it outside, with hand-drums while staying 6 feet or more apart.

**KNOW THE RISK LEVEL OF YOUR BEHAVIOR**

**HIGH RISK**
- Gathering with more than 10 people, indoors, not wearing masks, not social distancing, guests from distant locations, serving lots of alcohol
- Gathering with 10 people, indoors, not wearing masks, not social distancing, local guests only, serving a moderate amount of alcohol
- Gathering with fewer than 10 people outdoors, wearing masks except when eating, social distancing, local guests only, serving small amounts of alcohol
- Gathering with fewer than 10 people indoors, wearing masks except when eating, social distancing, local guests only, serving small amounts of alcohol
- Gathering with 10 people indoors, not wearing masks, not social distancing, local guests only, serving a moderate amount of alcohol

**LOW RISK**
- Gathering with only family who live together, either indoors or outdoors, or gathering virtually with extended family and friends

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