

COVID-19

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

Recent Updates:

3/8/21: Includes reduced restrictions for individuals who are fully vaccinated.

2/8/21: Includes information to indicate that members of up to 3 households can participate in small gatherings that take place outside with precautions.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health warns that COVID-19 is widespread throughout the county and asks everyone to do their part to protect themselves and our community. Large gatherings are not permitted but small private gatherings including people from up to 3 households are currently allowed as long as:

- The gathering takes place outdoors.
- Everyone wears a mask, and
- Each person stays at least 6 feet from anyone is not part of their own household.

Mixing with people from other households can increase your chance of being exposed to COVID-19. People who take part in any private gathering must follow these rules as described below.

If **everyone** attending a small gathering is fully vaccinated, as defined below, requirements for masks and physical distancing do not apply and the gathering may be held indoors.

Definitions

- **Household:** A group of people who live together in a single dwelling like a house or apartment . A household does not include people who live together in an institutional group setting such as in a dormitory, fraternity, sorority, monastery, convent, or nursing home. It also does not include commercial group living settings like boarding houses, hotels, or motels.
- **Private Gatherings:** Social situations that bring together people from different households at the same time in one place.
- **Fully Vaccinated:** You are considered fully vaccinated if:
 - Two weeks or more have passed since you received the second vaccine shot in a 2-dose vaccine series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or
 - Two weeks or more have passed since you received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen)

Attendance

- Private gatherings are limited to people from **3 households or less**. Private gatherings with more than 3 households are not allowed. A maximum of 15 individuals may attend. This includes everyone present, including hosts and guests, children, and adults. Please note that the smaller the number of people at a private gathering, the lower the risk of spreading COVID-19.
 - Commit to holding all of your gatherings with the same 3 households. Gathering with different people and households creates a much higher risk of spreading COVID-19. This is because the cousin who comes to your house dinner could be bringing virus, he picked up watching TV at

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someone else's house the night before. If you do all your socializing with the same group, you reduce that risk. Be sure to talk about and agree on these rules before interacting together.

- The host of the gathering should write down the date and the names and addresses of all attendees in case someone at the gathering gets sick, and it becomes important to remember who had contact with them.

Location

- All private gatherings must be held outside. Indoor gatherings are not allowed except, as noted above, if everyone attending is fully vaccinated. Gatherings can be in a public park or other outdoor space. Outdoor spaces can help lower the risk of spread of the virus from one person to another because of the open ventilation. Attendees may go inside to use restrooms as long as they are sanitized regularly.
- Private gatherings may take place in outdoor spaces that are covered by umbrellas, canopies, awnings, roofs, and other shade structures as long as at least 3 sides of the space are open to the outdoors.
- Multiple groups of private gatherings that are planned at the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time are not allowed. This would create a private gathering that is larger than the allowed size of 3 households with no more than 15 people.
- Mixing between unrelated private gatherings at 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 2 hours or less. The longer the time spent together, the greater the risk of spread.

Physical distancing and hand hygiene

- The outdoor space must be large enough so that everyone can keep at least a 6-feet from others (unless they are part of the same household) at all times. People from the same household can be in groups together and don't need to be 6 feet apart but must be 6 feet away from other households. As noted previously, this does not apply if everyone present is fully vaccinated.
- A place to wash hands or use hand sanitizer must be available for all to use.
- Shared items may not be used during a private gathering. Any food or drinks must be in single-serve disposable containers. If this is not possible, select one person to serve all food and drinks. This person must wash or sanitize their hands often and wear a mask over their nose and mouth. Self-serve from shared containers is not allowed.

Singing, chanting, and shouting at outdoor gatherings

Singing, chanting, shouting, and physical activity increases the risk of COVID-19 spread because these activities cause more respiratory droplets to be released into the air. Because of this, singing, chanting, and shouting are strongly discouraged.

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If these activities will occur the rules below must be followed:

- A mask must be worn at all times while singing or chanting, including by anyone who is leading a song or chant. Everyone must stay at least 8-10 feet away from others.

Playing musical instruments is allowed as long as the musicians stay at least 6-feet away from others. Musicians must be from only one of the 3 households. Playing instruments by mouth, such as a trumpet or clarinet is strongly discouraged. If a wind instrument is used, the musician should be at least 8-10 feet away from other (unless they are part of the same household).

Reporting

Anyone who gets COVID-19 within 2 days after attending a private gathering should let the other attendees know of their potential exposure as soon as possible. If you are the one who is sick and you have not been contacted by Public Health within a week of your positive test, please call and report your case at 833-540-0473.

Know where to get reliable information

Beware of COVID-19 scams, false news, and hoaxes. Accurate information, including announcements of the number of new cases in LA County, will always be shared by Public Health through press releases, social media, and our website. The website has more information on COVID-19 including FAQs, infographics, vaccine availability and a guide to coping with stress:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
 - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
 - Social media: @lapublichealth

Other trusted sources of information 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. This number is available 24 hours a day.