

# TIPS FOR HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

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## General Holiday Tips

- If you feel unwell, stay home, whether it is with COVID-19 or other symptoms.
  - Seek COVID-19 testing as soon as possible if you have symptoms, no matter how mild they may be.
- Risks will be reduced if everyone who is eligible for vaccine is vaccinated with all doses they are eligible for. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.
  - Everyone 5+ can now get vaccinated; Albertans who are eligible for a booster vaccination are encouraged to get their booster.
  - If you have questions or concerns about vaccination, please talk to a doctor or registered nurse.
  - Remember that vaccinated individuals are at lower risk for severe disease, but can still be infected with COVID-19.
- [Free rapid test kits](#) will be available for asymptomatic testing as an additional assurance over the holidays to help identify infections early.
  - Tests are an additional precaution, not a replacement for other public health measures.
  - Please note that rapid tests are only for asymptomatic testing. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, you must isolate and seek testing through AHS.
- It is more important than ever to wear well-fitting, high quality face masks in all indoor public spaces – the most up to date information on masking is available on line.
- People who are more susceptible to the effects of COVID-19 (e.g., those older than age 65 or who are immunocompromised) should consider wearing a medical face mask while joining indoor gatherings.

## Safe Holiday Hosting

- Limit the number of gatherings you host and attend.
- If you attend multiple gatherings, plan to leave as many days between them as possible.
- Talk to your guests about options for gathering to ensure that everyone is comfortable.
- Encourage guests to receive all vaccine doses available to them
- Request guests wear masks when not eating or drinking
- Have fun with following public health measures, such as having themes for masks.
- Keep indoor social gatherings in private residences small – stay within the limit of 10 people who are 18 or older; whenever possible, have fewer than 10 people.
- Youth (under 18) who attend with their parent or guardian are not counted towards the 10-person limit; if a youth attends without their parent or guardian, they are included in the 10-person limit.
- Whenever possible, have a virtual option to keep in-person attendance low.
- If the weather permits, consider hosting gatherings or activities outdoors, even if you are vaccinated.
- Outdoor gatherings are limited to 20 people.
- Wherever possible, increase ventilation in your home, such as opening a window or turning on HVAC fans.
- Hosts should cancel gatherings and seek COVID-19 testing as soon as possible if they feel unwell.

If you're serving food or drinks, follow general public health practices:

- Wash hands before and after handling food
- Offer food in individual servings or limit the number of people touching the same serving utensils
- Avoid putting out communal self-serve containers (e.g. bowls of nuts or candy).
  - Arrange seating to ensure as much distance as possible between guests from different households.

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- Please refer to General Guidance for COVID-19 and [Tips for Holiday Work Celebrations](#) for further information.

## Holiday Outings

- Where possible, plan social gatherings or outings to businesses and venues that have implemented the [Restrictions Exemption Program](#) (REP).
- Remember that masking is required in all indoor public places, including venues that have implemented REP.
  - If you are hosting a gathering in a venue that has implemented REP, there is no limit on the number of people who can attend, so long as they are fully vaccinated or have a negative COVID-19 test from the past 72 hours, or a valid medical exception from vaccination.
- Consider keeping gatherings small, even if in REP; keep as much space between your group and other groups as possible.
- If you are in a venue that has not implemented REP, follow public health measures:
  - wear your face mask
  - stay 2m apart at all times from people who are not part of your household (or not one of your two close contacts, if you live alone)
  - be aware of capacity limits
- If taking your picture (or your child's picture) with Santa, remember to follow the rules for masking and distancing.
  - Please keep Santa safe. Don't pull on his mask!