Be Festive, Stay Safe!
Tips for a Safer Holiday Season

Get vaccinated against COVID-19 to enjoy a safer holiday season. For more information, visit **nyc.gov/covidvaccine**. Here are some other tips to keep you and your friends and family safe.

No matter how you celebrate, help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Stay home if sick: Celebrate at home if you or your family members are not feeling well or have recently tested positive for COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated and were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should also stay home.

Get vaccinated: It is the best way to protect yourself and those around you from COVID-19. Once fully vaccinated, all activities become safer. Get a booster dose if you are eligible, particularly if you are at higher risk.

Wear a face mask: You can have COVID-19 and not know it. Everyone should wear a face mask when in public indoor spaces or in crowded outdoor spaces.

Keep your hands clean: Wash your hands often or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands and cover your coughs and sneezes.

Safer holiday activities

- **Host a virtual party.** If you or your friends and family are not fully vaccinated, celebrate with a video dinner party. Ring in the new year at a virtual costume party.

- **Deck the halls.** Put up decorations to get in the holiday spirit. Walk around your neighborhood and enjoy the decorated homes and shops. Stop for a hot drink to stay warm.

- **Spread the holiday cheer.** Surprise your neighbor by dropping off some holiday cookies. Mail holiday cards to your co-workers or call a friend you have not spoken to in a while. Invite someone who may be alone to join your holiday dinner.

- **Let it snow.** Make a snowperson, go sledding or snow shoeing, or have a snowball fight.

- **Holiday shopping.** Shop online to avoid crowds or call for curbside pickup at your favorite local store. If you shop in person, wear a face mask even if vaccinated, use hand sanitizer and go during off-hours.

- **Have a feast.** Make your favorite holiday meal and share it with your loved ones — you've earned it!

Gatherings

Gathering with others increases the risk of COVID-19 especially if not everyone is vaccinated. Group settings make physical distancing difficult and it is not possible to wear a face mask when eating and drinking. If you meet up with others:

- **Consider risks:** If you or a loved one are an older adult or have a health condition that increases your risk of severe COVID-19, consider staying home and enjoying the holidays from afar, especially if you are not fully vaccinated.

- **Get tested.** Get a COVID-19 test **before** and **after** you attend a gathering or travel, especially if you will be with older adults or others at increased risk of severe COVID-19.

- **Keep it small:** The more people that gather close together, the higher the risk of COVID-19.

- **Celebrate outdoors:** COVID-19 spreads easier inside because there is less air circulation. This is especially true in winter when doors and windows are shut.

- **Keep your plate to yourself:** Do not share plates, glasses or utensils. Avoid communal foods.

Travel

Travel may involve crowds and going to places with high levels of COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated, avoid travel. Everyone who travels should follow these tips:

- **Cover up.** Masks are still required on planes, trains, and other transportation, and at airports and stations, even if you are vaccinated. Visit **nyc.gov/health** and search for **Commuting Safely During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency** for more safer commuting tips.

- **Play by the rules.** Check and follow State, local, and country COVID-19 guidance. If you leave the U.S., you will need to get tested before your flight home.

- **Stay at a hotel.** If you are visiting friends or family out-of-town, consider staying at a hotel if you or others are not fully vaccinated. If you have out-of-town visitors suggest they do the same.

- **Follow travel guidance.** This includes getting tested before and after travel, and quarantining as needed after your return. Everyone should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms after travel. Visit **cdc.gov/covidtravel** for more information.

**To find a vaccination site, visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder
or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).**

To find a testing site, visit nyc.gov/covidtest or call 311.

**For mental health support, call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355),
text "WELL" to 65173, or visit nyc.gov/nycwell.**

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