

County of San Diego

Guidance for Celebrating Thanksgiving during the COVID-19 Pandemic

To minimize the spread of COVID-19 and ensure families stay safe during the 2020 Thanksgiving holiday, the County of San Diego offers guidance for the most common activities:

Thanksgiving Activities

Recommended

- Remote events with family and friends, such as a virtual Thanksgiving dinner, sharing recipes, a virtual Turkey Trot, or online game.
- Televised or live streaming events at home with members of your own household.
- Outdoor orchards, food markets, and seasonal craft fairs where [state guidance](#) is followed and people use hand sanitizer, wear face coverings, and maintain a 6-foot distance from others.
- Get your flu vaccine to protect yourself and minimize complications from the flu or COVID-19 viruses.

Not Recommended

- Per [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) travel considerations](#), traveling increases the chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.
- Attending in-person sports events, parades, and movies where more than 3 households are present.
- In-person Black Friday or other shopping events where there may be large gatherings of individuals.

Not Allowed

- Per [California Department of Public Health guidance](#), in-person events or parties with more than 3 households are not permitted, even if they are conducted outdoors. Remember, the smaller the number of people, the safer.
- Carnivals, festivals, and live entertainment are not allowed because close interactions increase the risk of infection.
- In-person Turkey Trots or similar events are not allowed as they require participants to walk or run in close proximity, and it is difficult to maintain physical distancing.

Safer Alternatives

Many traditional Thanksgiving activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are safer, alternative ways to celebrate and include the following:

- Consider virtual connections through video calls or video-sharing, such as sending a pre-made Thanksgiving dinner or ingredients through online food delivery services and eat together virtually.
- Shop online rather than in person for Black Friday deals.
- Donate food to charities at drive-through mobile pantries, or through an online food bank fundraiser.
- Celebrate [Green Friday](#) by visiting a local park or preserve for family-friendly activities.
- Visit pick-your-own produce farms that follow [California Department of Food and Agriculture guidelines](#).

Personal Protection Measures

However you celebrate, please continue to follow the [County of San Diego Public Health Order](#), [California Department of Public Health Guidance](#), and the [CDC Thanksgiving guidelines](#). To stay safe during the 2020 Thanksgiving holiday season, please remember to:

- Wash or sanitize your hands often, and clean frequently touched items regularly.
- Avoid close contact – stay at least 6 feet away from people who are not part of your household.
- Avoid indoor spaces that don't allow for easy distancing of at least 6 feet between you and others and follow [state guidance](#) for private outdoor gatherings of up to 3 households.
- Correctly wear an [appropriate face covering](#) over your mouth and nose when outside your home and around others who are not part of your household.
- Stay home and away from others if you are sick, have a symptom of COVID-19, or have been in contact with someone who is sick with or has symptoms of COVID-19.
- Follow directions if you are advised to [isolate](#) or [quarantine](#).

For questions, please contact SafeReopeningComplianceTeam@sdcounty.ca.gov.



Updated 11-13-2020