

County of San Diego

Guidance for Celebrating Winter Holidays during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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

Winter Holiday Activities

Recommended

- Shopping online for holiday gifts or gift cards, and online activities.
- Drive-through events or reverse parades where the participants do not leave their car.
- Send a pre-made dinner or ingredients through online food delivery services and eat together virtually.
- Charity meal activities and donate food to drive-through pantries, local food drives, or online food bank fundraisers.
- Holiday- or Winter-themed movie nights and home decorating with your household.
- Get a flu shot 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.
- In-person, indoor celebratory activities, singing, or vocal performances are not recommended because of the difficulty in maintaining 6 feet of distance and these activities increase the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Not Allowed

- Per [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) guidance](#), in-person events or parties with more than 3 households are not permitted, even if they are conducted outdoors. Remember, smaller and shorter gatherings are safer.
- Carnivals, festivals, and live entertainment are not allowed because close interactions increase the risk of infection.
- Ice skating rinks are not allowed as they host many guests from different households where it is difficult to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet.

Safer Alternatives

Many winter holiday activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are safer, alternative ways to celebrate including:

- Remote games and activities to replace traditional in-person entertainment.
- Driving with members of your household in your car to view holiday lights and decorations.
- Participate in a winter- or holiday-themed virtual run, hike, or bike ride.
- A boat parade following [state guidance](#) and the [Safe Reopening Protocol for recreational boating](#).
- Visit Santa, or other holiday figures, at locations that offer a touchless experience only.
- Gift exchanges between 3 households or less, where participants can follow personal protection measures prior to giving and accepting gifts, while observing the state's private gathering guidance.

Personal Protection Measures

However you celebrate, please continue to follow the [County of San Diego Public Health Order](#), [CDPH Holiday Guidance](#), [California Department of Public Health Guidance](#), and the [CDC Holiday Guidelines](#). To stay safe during the 2020 winter 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 11-18-2020