STAYING SAFE AT EVENTS AND GATHERINGS COVID-19

Attending an Event or Gathering?

COVID-19 continues to circulate in our community and there is no way to ensure zero risk when attending events and gatherings. But there are three things to consider about the risk of getting COVID-19 at these events:

1 The more people you interact with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.

2 The closer you are to other people who may be infected, the greater your risk of getting sick. Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces where it might be harder to keep people apart and there is less ventilation.

3 The higher the level of community transmission in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 during a gathering.

If you are sick, were exposed to COVID-19, or had a positive COVID-19 test result within 14 days of the event or gathering, stay home and away from others.

Planning an Event or Gathering?

To help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread at gatherings and events, please follow the guidance below:

Staying Home when Appropriate

Staying home continues to be safest. However, if you decide to plan an event or gathering, take the following precautions:

- Designate someone to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.

- ➲ **Advise attendees prior to the event or gathering that they should not attend if they have symptoms of, a positive test for, or were recently exposed to (within 14 days) COVID-19.**

- Immediately separate attendees with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.). Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on how severe their symptoms.

- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.

- Advise those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home, self-monitor for symptoms, and follow public health guidance if symptoms develop.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Encourage attendees to wash hands often and cover coughs and sneezes. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol and rub hands until dry.

- Discourage attendees from exchanging handshakes, fist bumps, and high-fives.

Cloth Face Coverings

- Encourage attendees ahead of the event to bring and use cloth face coverings at the event. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Face coverings are strongly encouraged in settings where individuals might raise their voice (e.g., shouting, chanting, singing).

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus

Fairfax County Health Department
703-246-2411, TTY 711

Signs and Messages

- Notify attendees and the public of restrictions in place to limit people's exposure to COVID-19.

- Include messages about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 when communicating with attendees and vendors (such as on the event website and through event social media accounts).

- Prepare signs when possible that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to slow the spread of germs by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering.

- Find freely available print and digital resources about COVID-19 on Fairfax County Health Department's coronavirus resources page or the CDC's communications resources page.

Shared Objects

- Discourage people from sharing items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect.

- Limit any sharing of food, tools, equipment, or supplies by attendees.

- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible and clean and disinfect them between use.

Need a COVID-19 test? Visit:
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-testing

Find additional information and considerations for events and gatherings at:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html

Protections for Those at Higher Risk

- As feasible, offer options for attendees at higher risk for severe illness that limit their exposure risk (e.g., virtual attendance).

- Consider limiting event attendance to people who live in the local area (e.g., community, city, town, or county) to reduce risk of spreading the virus from areas with higher levels of COVID-19.

- Rotate or stagger shifts and arrival times to limit the number of attendees in a venue at the same time.

Travel and Transit

- Encourage attendees to use transportation options that minimize close contact with others (e.g., walking or biking, driving or riding by car – alone or with household members only).

The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events & gatherings increases as follows:

- **LOWEST RISK:** Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.

- **MORE RISK:** Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

- **HIGHER RISK:** Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.

- **HIGHEST RISK:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.