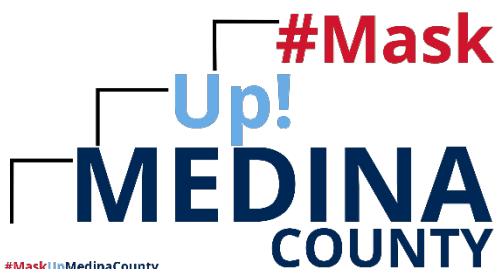


# Thanksgiving Safety Guide

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Thanksgiving is an important time of year to gather with loved ones and give thanks for all that we have. But with the widespread prevalence of coronavirus across the state, a traditional Thanksgiving holiday could put those loved ones at risk. In the spirit of giving, please use the following considerations as a guide to plan a safe and joyful holiday.



# Deciding to Go

The risk of an activity depends on many factors, such as:

- What is your county's risk level in the Ohio Public Health Advisory system?
- Will you have a potential close contact with someone who is sick or anyone who is not wearing a mask (and may be asymptomatic)?
- Are you at increased risk of severe illness?
- Do you take everyday actions to protect yourself from COVID-19?

In general, the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. So think about:

How many people will you interact with?

- Interacting with more people raises your risk.
- Being in a group with people who aren't social distancing or wearing masks increases your risk.
- Engaging with new people (e.g., those who don't live with you) also raises your risk.
- Some people have the virus and don't have any symptoms, and it is not yet known how often people without symptoms can transmit the virus to others.

Can you keep 6 feet of space between you and others? Will you be outdoors or indoors?

- The closer you are to other people who may be infected, the greater your risk of getting sick.
- Keeping distance from other people is especially important for people who are at higher risk for severe illness, such as older adults and those with underlying medical conditions.
- Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces where it might be harder to keep people apart and there's less ventilation.

# Deciding to Go

## What's the length of time that you will be interacting with people?

Spending more time with people who may be infected increases your risk of becoming infected. Spending more time with people increases their risk of becoming infected if there is any chance that you may already be infected.

## Activities are safer if:

You can maintain at least 6 feet of space between you and others. Activities are held in outdoor spaces. Indoor spaces with less ventilation where it might be harder to keep people apart are more risky. People are wearing masks. Interacting without wearing masks also increases your risk.

## Stay home if you are sick

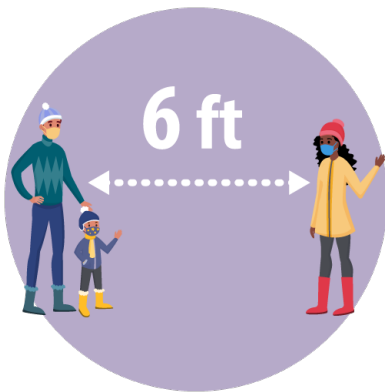
If you have COVID-19, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, it is important to stay home and away from other people.

# Everyone Can Make Thanksgiving Safer

The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is to celebrate with people in your household. If you do plan to spend Thanksgiving with people outside your household, take steps to make your celebration safer.



**Wear a mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin. Make sure it fits snugly against the sides of your face.**



**Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread COVID-19 or flu. Keeping 6 feet from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.**



**Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Keep hand sanitizer with you and use it when you are can't wash your hands. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.**

# Hosting a Thanksgiving Gathering

If having guests to your home, be sure that people follow the steps that everyone can take to make Thanksgiving safer.

## Other steps you can take:

- Have a small outdoor meal with family and friends who live in your community.
- Limit the number of guests to 10 people.
- Talk with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items between use.
- If celebrating indoors, open windows to improve ventilation.
- Limit the number of people in food preparation areas.
- Have guests bring their own food and drinks.
- If sharing food, have one person serve food and use single-use options, like plastic utensils.



# Thanksgiving Travel

Travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19.  
Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.

- Check the Ohio Department of Health's travel advisory:  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-andindividuals/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory>.
- Get your flu shot before you travel.
- Always wear a mask in public settings and on public transportation.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone who is not in your household.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose and mouth.
- Bring extra supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer.





# Consider Other Thanksgiving Activities

Host a virtual Thanksgiving with friends and family who don't live with you

- Schedule a time to share a meal together virtually.
- Have people share recipes and show their turkey, dressing or other dishes they prepared.



Watch television and play games with people in your household

- Watch Thanksgiving Day parades, sports and movies at home.
- Find a fun game to play.



Shopping

- Shop online sales the day after Thanksgiving and days leading up to the winter holidays.
- Use contactless services for like curbside pick-up.
- Shop in open air markets staying 6 feet away from others.

Other Activities

- Safely prepare traditional dishes and deliver them to family and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others (for example, leave them on the porch).
- Participate in a gratitude activity, like writing down things you are grateful for and sharing with your friends and family.