



# Interim Guidance for Spring-Related Events and Travel (March 26, 2021)

**Guidelines for Spring Events and Travel:** Any scenario in which people gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. This includes spring-related events and travel, such as festivals or spring break and holiday travel. Organizers of spring-related events should create and implement a plan to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission. The guidance below will help organizers reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their communities and those of people attending the event.

**This guidance covers the following topics:**

- Spring Events
- Spring Travel
- Holiday and Social Gatherings
- Additional Resources

## Spring-Related Events

**Spring event organizers are required to:**

- Limit occupancy as follows:
  - For street festivals, road races or other non-seated events, limit groups to no more than the indoor or outdoor mass gathering limits AND ensure sufficient social distancing with at least 6-foot separation between groups other than those in their household.
    - For example, if current outdoor mass gathering limits is 100, event organizers may have multiple groups of 100 individuals at the same event. However, the groups must be clearly separated and distanced apart and individuals/family units within each group must be social distanced.
  - For amusement rides- including devices like bounce house- limit occupancy on each vehicle or ride, by either:
    - Having all the Guests within a vehicle or car or other small enclosed ride space be only people who came into the ride loading area together as part of the same group of friends or family.
    - Ensuring six foot of social distancing between each group of friends or family within the vehicle, devices or car.
- Have all employees and patrons wear a face covering, unless an [exception applies](#).
- Post the reduced "Emergency Maximum Capacity" in a conspicuous place. [Sign templates](#) are available in English and Spanish on NC DHHS COVID-19 response site.
- Post signage at the main entrance that reminds people to stay 6 feet apart.

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- [NC DHHS Know Your Ws](#) provides [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Combined English and Spanish](#) versions of the “Wait” flyer.
- Arrange tents, attractions, retail spaces, food service, and other areas so that sufficient social distancing can be maintained while in check-out lines, demonstration areas, and other events.
- Clearly provide 6 feet floor markings in waiting areas, check-out lines, and other areas where people may congregate or wait.
- Follow the [DHHS Interim Guidance for Restaurants](#) for restaurants or concession stands.
- Follow the [DHHS Interim Guidance for Retail](#) for any retail stands or shops.
- Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer for staff and individuals. Require handwashing of staff immediately upon reporting to work, after contact with individuals, after performing cleaning and disinfecting activities, and frequently throughout the day.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance, and any other areas that have commonly touched surfaces, such as games and attractions.
- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails, lockers, dressing areas, front counter) with an [EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2](#) (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increase the number of times disinfection is performed during peak times or high customer density times.

### It is recommended that spring events:

- Utilize self-check-in or place barrier/partition between ticket/check-in areas and customers.
- Develop a layout of tents and vendors that help support social distancing.
- Clearly mark designated entry and exit points to the extent possible.
- Close all common seating areas, lounge areas, and other areas that promote individuals gathering in groups.
- Develop reservation times to the extent possible to help limit wait times and lines and ensure occupancy limits are not exceeded.
- Develop and use systems that allow for online, email, or phone transactions.
- Discontinue use of drinking directly from water fountains and provide disposable cups or labeled water bottles for individuals when using any water fountains. Touchless water filling stations may be used.
- Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) and assure soap and hand drying materials are available at all sinks.
- Remove soft surfaces and items difficult to disinfect in areas to the extent possible.
- Provide tissues for proper cough and sneeze hygiene, and lined waste baskets for disposal.

## Spring-Related Travel

To protect yourself and others, delay your travel plans and stay home, if possible.

- If you travel, follow CDC’s guidance for [travel during COVID-19](#).
- Keep practicing the [3 Ws \(Wear, Wait, Wash\)](#) to protect yourself and your family, friends and community.
- Get tested before returning to work, school or campus. Find your testing place at NCDHHS [Testing Website](#).
- Get your COVID-19 vaccine as soon as one is available. Find your spot to take your shot and vaccine providers at NCDHHS’s [Find Your Spot Website](#)

## Holiday and Social Gatherings

While our COVID-19 metrics are improving, we must continue to be careful. Attending gatherings, such as holiday celebrations or events, increases your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Your safest option continues to be attending events virtually or celebrating with members of your household.

If you do gather:

- Avoid high-risk settings; such as indoor settings, crowded areas and settings that involve increase respiratory effort (e.g., singing, yelling, laughing, or exercising vigorously).
- Stay outside and 6ft apart from others that are not members of your household.
- Always practice the 3 Ws (Wear, Wait, Wash) whenever you go out.
- If you leave home, bring extra [cloth face coverings](#) (do not share or swap with others), tissues and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol whenever possible.
- Get your COVID-19 vaccine as soon as available Find your spot to take your shot and vaccine providers at NCDHHS's [Find Your Spot Website](#)

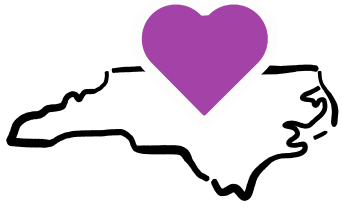
For safer holiday events, consider:

- Enjoying traditional meals with those in your household.
- Practicing religious holiday customs at home.
- Preparing and delivering a meal to a neighbor.
- Watching virtual religious and cultural performances.
- Attending religious ceremonies virtually.

For more information, please see the [NCDHHS Guidance for Private Social Gatherings](#) and CDC's [Holiday Tips](#).

## Additional Resources

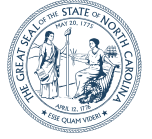
- NC DHHS: [North Carolina COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- CDC: [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- CDC: [Reopening Guidance](#)
- EPA: [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- FDA: [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- HHS/OSHA: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)



**#StayStrongNC**

**Staying apart brings us together.  
Protect your family and neighbors.**

**Learn more at [nc.gov/covid19](https://nc.gov/covid19).**



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