



Interim Guidance for Fall-Related Events, Holidays and Travel (September 28, 2021)

Guidelines for Fall Events, Holidays and Travel:

Any scenario in which people gather poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. This includes fall-related events and travel, such as festivals or fall break and holiday gatherings. Following the guidance below will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your community.

Before gathering, attending events, or traveling, NCDHHS strongly recommends that everyone go to [Find Your Spot, Take Your Shot](#) and get vaccinated. For guidance on vaccinations, please refer to our [Interim Guidance for Individuals Who Have Been Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#) and [Recommendations for Protecting Each Other](#).

This guidance covers the following topics:

- Fall Events
- Fall Travel
- Holiday and Social Gatherings

Fall-Related Events

Attending outdoor or virtual events presents a lower risk for the spread of COVID-19 than events that are in-person and indoors. If you are planning to attend an in-person fall-related event:

- Get your COVID-19 vaccine. Find your spot to take your shot from vaccine providers at NCDHHS's [Find Your Spot Website](#)
- If you are not fully vaccinated, do not gather with unvaccinated individuals who do not live with you. If you do gather, wear a mask in public indoor and outdoor settings, stay outside as much possible, and stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated should also wear a face covering in public indoor settings and crowded outdoor events if you are in a county with high or substantial levels of transmissions, as [defined by the CDC](#), consider wearing a mask.

Organizers of fall-related events should create and implement a plan to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission at their events. For specific action items and recommendations, please refer to our [Events and Festivals guidance](#).

Fall-Related Travel

To protect yourself and others, delay your travel plans and stay home until you are fully vaccinated.

- If you do travel and you are NOT fully vaccinated, get tested 1-3 days before and 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
- All individuals regardless of vaccine status should follow CDC's guidance for [travel during COVID-19](#) and NCDHHS's guidance for [public transportation](#).

Holiday and Social Gatherings

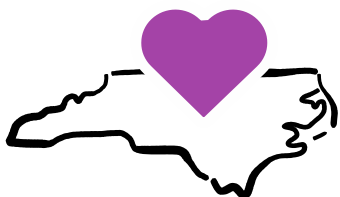
Attending gatherings, such as indoor holiday celebrations or events with large groups of people, increases your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Your safest option continues to be attending events virtually or celebrating outdoors or with small groups of people.

If you do gather:

- Get your COVID-19 vaccine and encourage everyone else to get vaccinated. NCDHHS strongly recommends that hosts direct their guests and family members to [Find Your Spot, Take Your Shot](#) and encourage them to get vaccinated before the event.
 - For guidance on vaccinations, please refer to our [Interim Guidance for Individuals Who Have Been Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#) and [Recommendations for Protecting Each Other](#).
- Have all guests who are not fully vaccinated wear a face covering and maintain physical distance from others, especially when they are indoors.
- If you are fully vaccinated, wear a mask in all indoor public spaces and crowded outdoor spaces if you live in area of high or substantial levels of transmission, as defined by the CDC, until more people are vaccinated and viral transmission decreases.
- Stay outdoors, if possible, for activities that involve increased respiratory effort (e.g., singing).

For safer holiday events in areas with high or substantial levels of transmissions, [defined by the CDC](#), consider:

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



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