



Guidelines for Mass Gatherings in the North Shore

A gathering refers to a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating or a large number of people in attendance such as a community event or gathering, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, sporting event, or block party. These guidelines are intended to provide North Shore residents with recommendations for the best practices to take when attending or hosting a mass gathering.

Under Phase C, gatherings of 50 individuals or less are now acceptable in the North Shore; however, the risk of spreading COVID-19 increases as the size of event increases. The health department still recommends that people limit the size of gatherings and to continue to take the necessary precautions when hosting or attending a gathering to keep yourself and others safe. North Shore Health Department Guidelines for attending any event include:

- Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between yourself and non-household members whenever possible.
- If the event involves sitting for an extended period of time, guests should sit at least 6 feet away from other attendees.
- Wear a face mask. Both hosts and attendees are strongly encouraged to do so, especially if the event involves frequent talking, yelling or singing.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water or utilize hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Consider only hosting and/or attending outdoor gatherings. Indoor gatherings are more susceptible to increased crowding, making it more challenging to keep 6 feet of space between yourself and others, and proper ventilation is not a guarantee.

Considerations from CDC:

- The **more people** an individual interacts 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. When people are in close contact (within 6 feet) for a prolonged period of time (10 minutes or longer), the risk of transmission is the highest.
- The higher the level of community transmission in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during a gathering.

Recommendations if you choose to:

Host a gathering at your house:

- Hold the gathering outdoors to avoid people crowding in confined indoor spaces.
- Individuals from different households should practice physical distancing by keeping 6 feet of distance between each other.
- Have everyone wear face coverings, especially if physical distancing is not always feasible.
- Provide hand sanitizer for guests.

- Clean and disinfect shared spaces frequently throughout the gathering.
- Consider only inviting guests that live in the local area.
- Encourage individuals that feel ill to stay home, as well as their household members.
- Consider having everyone bring their own food and drinks to avoid everyone touching serving utensils. If this is not feasible, have one person serve the food (while wearing a mask), or provide grab-and-go options so as to avoid the sharing of serving utensils.
- Discourage people from sharing items. If this is not feasible, encourage frequent disinfection of shared items.
- If others need to use your restroom, provide them with cleaning and disinfection supplies to wipe down all surfaces they came in contact with. Also ensure that door handles and other surfaces that were touched on the path to the bathroom are frequently disinfected.

Attend a gathering at someone else’s home or in an outdoor public space:

- Stay home if you or any of your family members are ill.
- Stay outside for the duration of the gathering to the extent possible.
- Keep a distance of 6 feet between yourself and other non-household members.
- Wear a face covering, especially when physical distancing is not always feasible.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer or find out ahead of time if there will be some available at the gathering.
- Bring your own chairs, food, drinks and other necessary supplies to avoid sharing items.
- Clean and disinfect any shared items or surfaces that you touch.

Attend an indoor mass gathering (wedding, funeral, conference, etc.):

- Stay home if you or any of your family members are ill.
- Keep a distance of 6 feet between yourself and other non-household members as much as possible throughout the event, especially when sitting or standing in shared spaces for prolonged periods of time.
- Wear a face covering, especially when physical distancing is not always feasible or if the gathering involves frequent talking, yelling or singing.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer or find out ahead of time if there will be some available at the gathering.
- If items and surfaces are being shared among guests, check to ensure they are being properly cleaned and disinfected and avoid utilizing or touching them more frequently than necessary.

Additional information is available on the CDC website “Considerations for Events and Gatherings.”

Link here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>