



## LIVINGSTON COUNTY Health Department

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **LCHD Reminds Residents of COVID-19 Guidance for Holiday Travel and Gatherings**

HOWELL, Michigan. - (November 24, 2020) As Michigan experiences a fall surge in COVID-19 cases, Livingston County is also seeing a marked increase in local cases. This widespread community transmission has placed tremendous strain on public health capacity throughout Michigan. Indoor gatherings pose a serious risk to increasing COVID-19 cases, as people are confined in smaller spaces and less able to physically distance. While many people begin to plan for fall and winter holiday celebrations, Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) reminds residents of the following considerations to help protect individuals and their families, friends, and communities from COVID-19.

Traveling and in-person gatherings greatly increase the chances of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. If you decide to travel for the holidays, follow these safety measures to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wear a mask and keep your nose and mouth covered when around people not from your household and in public places.
- Avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet apart from anyone who is not from your household.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Avoid attending or hosting in-person holiday celebrations with people who do not live in your household.

This is especially important for those who:

- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not met the [criteria for when it is safe to be around others](#).
- Have symptoms of COVID-19 or are waiting for COVID-19 viral test results.

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- May have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, or live or work with someone at increased risk of severe illness.

Consider hosting virtual festivities instead of in-person holiday gatherings. If an in-person gathering is hosted, it should be held outdoors if possible. Indoor festivities should avoid crowded, poorly ventilated or fully enclosed indoor spaces, and should be limited to no more than 10 persons from no more than two households per [MDHHS Nov. 18 Emergency Epidemic Order](#). In addition, attendees of indoor or outdoor festivities should:

- Social distance.
- Wear cloth masks.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Keep safe around food and drinks, including following good hygiene and limiting the amount of people in areas where food is prepared.
- Bring food and drinks for themselves and members of their household. Avoid potluck gatherings.
- Have one person serve all shareable food and avoid sharing utensils.

Although the holidays will look different this year, there is still hope. We have slowed the spread of COVID-19 in the past, and we can do it again. There will be a time when we can all safely gather again. Until then, please continue to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands. Read additional holiday guidance at <https://bit.ly/2U2RG5e>.

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