

# Thanksgiving Guidance



Thanksgiving is an important time for connecting with family and friends. Many people are used to hosting or attending large gatherings this time of year. As we approach the holidays, it's important to think about the best ways to keep our loved ones and our communities safe.

Colorado is currently seeing an alarming number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is encouraging alternatives to traditional celebrations to help limit the spread of COVID-19 this holiday season. Staying home and celebrating with your immediate household, or celebrating with friends and family virtually, is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones this year.

Keeping physical distance doesn't mean we have to be distant in other ways. There are many creative ways to make those closest to you feel loved this Thanksgiving, while also ensuring they stay healthy for many seasons to come.

It's up to you to stay safe, not only for yourself, but for your family, friends and community. Below are more ideas for enjoying a joyous, festive and safer Thanksgiving.

## Thanksgiving Celebration Ideas

As you're planning ways to celebrate Thanksgiving safely this year, think carefully about how you might lower the risk, not only for yourself and your family, but for your community. Consider celebrating in a way that keeps everyone safe:

- Cooking and eating a special meal with members of your immediate household.
- Video chatting or talking on the phone with friends and family who don't live with you.
- Sharing your favorite recipes and photos of the food you've cooked via text message or email.
- Watching the Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, a football game or other televised events at home.
- Simultaneously watching your favorite Thanksgiving movie with family and friends in other households over video chat.
- Cooking and baking treats for your neighbors, friends and family, then delivering them in a way that doesn't involve face-to-face contact. You can video chat with them later as they take their first bite.

## Black Friday and Holiday Shopping

When shopping for holiday gifts this year, consider taking advantage of online sales, home delivery and curbside pick-up rather than visiting crowded stores. [Shop at local Colorado businesses](#) to support the state's economy this holiday season. To support local businesses in El Paso County, visit the [Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center's Small Business Saturday page](#).

**Regardless of how you celebrate, keep the Big 3 in mind:**

1. Wear a mask in public.
2. Practice social distancing.
3. Wash your hands.

**Additional Resources**

- [CDC Holiday Guidance](#)
- [CDC Thanksgiving Guidance](#)
- [CDPHE Thanksgiving Guidance](#)