

*The information on this page has been aggregated from the CDC and other trusted medical resources and is not medical advice, and was **last updated 12/3/21. It may be out of date, so please check the factual accuracy of each post before sharing.** If you have additional questions we encourage you to speak to a medical provider and visit [COVID.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)*



How to Gather Safely this Holiday Season

The COVID-19 vaccines were made to save holidays. This year vaccinated family members, including children, can come together safely to celebrate and share our hope for a healthy and joyful new year. Together, we can encourage and support our unvaccinated loved ones to get the COVID-19 vaccine, keep new variants and surges at bay, and help us all stay safe this winter.

Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones

The best way to protect yourself, your family members, and friends, especially those who are more at risk is to have all eligible guests be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Individuals more at risk include:

- People 65 or over.
- People with chronic medical conditions that put them at higher risk.
- Children aged 0-5, who are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.
- Children aged 5-11 who may not be fully vaccinated in time for your event.

Consider requesting your guests to be fully vaccinated by the time of the gathering. Additionally, everyone who is 18 and older should get their booster shot 6 months after the second shot for people who got Pfizer or Moderna and 2 months after the single Johnson and Johnson shot. You will find tips for having vaccine conversations in our [conversation guide](#). Consider adding extra layers of protection for you, your family and your guests during the event: masking and gathering outdoors when possible. We'll discuss those in detail below.

Planning your vaccination

These are some **key dates**¹ to keep in mind so you, your family, and friends can be **fully vaccinated** by the holidays!

¹[Source: NBC 5 Chicago](#)

*The information on this page has been aggregated from the CDC and other trusted medical resources and is not medical advice, and was **last updated 12/3/21. It may be out of date, so please check the factual accuracy of each post before sharing.** If you have additional questions we encourage you to speak to a medical provider and visit [COVID.gov](https://www.covid.gov)*

Hanukkah (November 28)

- October 17: First dose of Moderna
- October 24: First dose of Pfizer
- November 14: Single dose of Johnson & Johnson

Christmas (December 25)

- November 13: First dose of Moderna
- November 20: First dose of Pfizer
- December 11: Single dose of Johnson & Johnson

Kwanzaa (December 26)

- November 14: First dose of Moderna
- November 21: First dose of Pfizer
- December 12: Single dose of Johnson & Johnson

New Year's Eve (December 31st)

- November 19: First dose of Moderna
- November 26: First dose of Pfizer
- December 17: Single dose of Johnson & Johnson

Find a vaccination site near you on [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) ([vacunas.gov](https://www.vacunass.gov)) or call 1-800-232-0233

Testing

Consider requesting a negative test taken a maximum of 72 hours prior to your event, or offer rapid tests for your guests at the door. Consider these measures, especially if you'll have partially vaccinated guests (people with one dose of the vaccine, like children 5-11 awaiting their second dose), or live in areas of [substantial or high transmission of COVID-19](#).

Gather outdoors when possible

Weather permitting, outdoor gatherings are the safest way to come together. If gathering outdoors is not an option, opt for highly ventilated spaces instead of crowded, poorly ventilated ones.

Masking

Everyone that is unvaccinated, and others at high risk over the age of 2 should wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth, especially in areas of high or substantial transmission. Wear a mask over your nose and mouth while using public transportation. This is required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transit.

*The information on this page has been aggregated from the CDC and other trusted medical resources and is not medical advice, and was **last updated 12/3/21. It may be out of date, so please check the factual accuracy of each post before sharing.** If you have additional questions we encourage you to speak to a medical provider and visit [COVID.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)*

Travel Tips

Do not travel and stay away from others if you or your travel companions:

- are sick with [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- have recently tested positive for COVID-19.
- have been exposed to a person with COVID-19.

If you must travel, consider safer traveling and lodging options below. If you are traveling with unvaccinated people, such as children who are not yet eligible for vaccination, choose the safer options below.

- **Safest Options**

- Short road trips with members of your household or fully vaccinated people
- If you must fly, flights with few stops or layovers.
- Staying in a house with people from your household or fully vaccinated people
- Visiting a fully vaccinated family member's or friend's home

- **Less Safe**

- Longer trips with many stops along the way.
- Trips by car or RV with people who are not vaccinated or not from your household.
- Flights with layovers.
- Hotels or multi-unit guest lodgings with common areas
- Visiting an unvaccinated family member's or friend's home
- Staying in a house with people that are not vaccinated or not in your household.

- **Try to Avoid**

- Long-distance train or bus trips.
- Traveling on a cruise ship or river boat
- Sharing spaces with many people or sharing bathroom

Keep in mind that travel recommendations vary whether you are fully vaccinated or not. Visit the [CDC's Travel page](#) to learn more about domestic and international travel recommendations to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

*The information on this page has been aggregated from the CDC and other trusted medical resources and is not medical advice, and was **last updated 12/3/21. It may be out of date, so please check the factual accuracy of each post before sharing.** If you have additional questions we encourage you to speak to a medical provider and visit [COVID.gov](https://www.covid.gov)*

As you make your decisions on whether and how to travel for the holidays, weigh in your and your travel companions' risk factors, travel needs and options. Remember that **the best way to prepare for any holiday travel is by getting fully vaccinated against COVID-19.**

**This document was last updated on 12/2/2021. Due to rapidly changing conditions, these guidelines may change.*