



JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Guidance for Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings during the COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19, also called coronavirus, continues to spread throughout Jefferson County and the State of Alabama. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is highly contagious through droplets exhaled or coughed from a person's respiratory (breathing) tract, and causes a high rate of hospitalization and death in persons with chronic medical conditions or who are older. SARS-CoV-2 can be spread by persons who have no symptoms of the virus. While vaccines for COVID-19 are on the horizon, they will not be widely available until later in 2021. Until the vaccine is widely available and a large portion of our population has been vaccinated, these measures will be our best tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While risk-reducing actions can decrease the chance of spreading COVID-19, measures such as those outlined in this document will not fully remove the possibility of infection with COVID-19 while the virus remains in the community.

Indoor and Outdoor Gathering Recommendations

- Social distancing must be observed and promoted to patrons and staff to encourage safety.
 - This means six (6) feet of distance should be maintained between each participant and each staff member.
 - A limitation in operating capacity should be enacted to allow for 6 feet of distance.
 - All groups are strongly encouraged to self-limit the size of gatherings to less than 25 people to reduce the risk of a mass outbreak of COVID-19.
- Persons with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, conditions which weaken the immune system, cancer, or other chronic diseases should not attend large gatherings as this may pose a very significant risk to the person's health.
- Persons who are ill should not attend an event.
- Cloth face coverings, at a minimum, are recommended for all persons age two years and older.
- Adequate supplies of soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be available for people attending a gathering.
- Objects that may be touched by multiple people should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
 - This may include games such as corn hole, Frisbees, or horseshoes, and sports equipment such as volleyballs or croquet sets.
 - Food serving utensils
 - Kitchen fixtures and appliances
 - Bathroom/Restroom fixtures
 - Notification devices that vibrate for seating should be disinfected frequently or discontinued (mobile text or calls are preferred)
- Access to restrooms and bathrooms should be controlled to allow for appropriate social distancing of six (6) feet.

For additional information on protecting yourself and others from COVID-19, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or the Alabama Department of Health website at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/index.html>.