

Social Gathering Guidance

At this time, it is strongly advised that you only have close contact with the people you live with, even when celebrating or recognizing occasions when you would normally gather with others. While provincial gathering guidelines allow up to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors, in-person gatherings of any size should be limited. Reducing our close contacts, or the number of people who we have close interactions with, will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Provincial gathering limits apply to social gatherings in private residences, backyards, parks, and other recreational areas. These limits do not apply to events or gatherings in staffed businesses and facilities as enhanced public health measures are required in these settings.

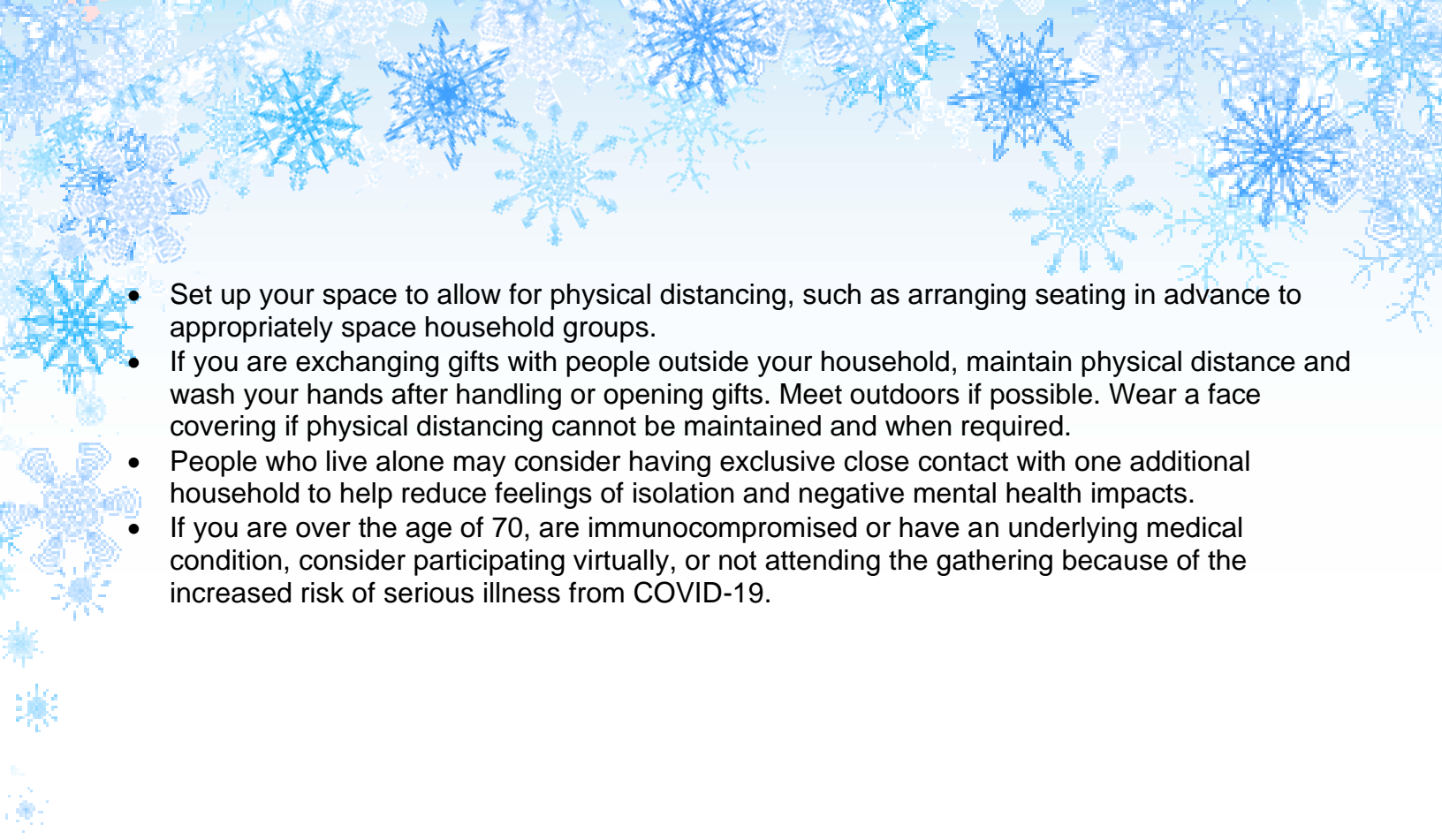
Virtual gatherings and virtual events are the safest way to visit or celebrate occasions with people outside your household.

Ideas for a virtual party:

- Include a virtual gift exchange
- Ugly holiday sweater contest
- Holiday mask decorating competition
- Host a catered lunch, or meal delivery
- Incorporate a holiday-themed games to keep it interactive online
- Host a charity drive or volunteer at local organizations (make sure to follow public health measures)

If you are choosing to spend time with people you do not live with:

- Complete the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#) prior to attending or hosting any gathering.
- Stay home if you have symptoms, even if they are mild.
- Maintain physical distance of at least two metres, whether the gathering is indoor or outdoors.
- Face masks are required in indoor public spaces.
- Wear a mask indoors and outdoors if you are unable to maintain physical distance, or if you are in an unpredictable situation.
- Gatherings should be kept as small as possible and use outdoor spaces when permitted.
- Follow provincial gathering guidelines, and only attend activities where the space is large enough to accommodate physical distancing:
 - Indoors – limit of 10 people
 - Outdoors – limit of 25 people

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- Set up your space to allow for physical distancing, such as arranging seating in advance to appropriately space household groups.
 - If you are exchanging gifts with people outside your household, maintain physical distance and wash your hands after handling or opening gifts. Meet outdoors if possible. Wear a face covering if physical distancing cannot be maintained and when required.
 - People who live alone may consider having exclusive close contact with one additional household to help reduce feelings of isolation and negative mental health impacts.
 - If you are over the age of 70, are immunocompromised or have an underlying medical condition, consider participating virtually, or not attending the gathering because of the increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19.