
Howard County COVID-19

Public Guidance:

FAQ: What is the guidance for public travel?

- We encourage the public to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) [guidance](#) on avoiding unnecessary travel.

FAQ: What is the current guidance on holding private gatherings or events in the County?

- Gatherings, meetings, or events that are targeted or likely to attract one of the at-risk/vulnerable populations, [per the CDC](#): older adults, those with serious chronic medical conditions, or communities/groups that commonly travel, **should be cancelled immediately**.
- The public should consider all measures to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 when hosting gatherings, meetings, or events including but not limited to:
 - The ratio of space to attendees to allow for social distancing when determining whether to hold large events;
 - [Per the CDC](#), COVID-19 is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, which means to become infected, people generally must be within six feet of someone who is contagious and come into contact with these droplets. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Symptoms of COVID-19 appear within two to 14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, runny nose and difficulty breathing.
 - Whether the event is likely to attract people from areas where there have been cases of COVID-19;
 - The availability of appropriate hygiene products such as soap and water, hand washing stations, hand sanitizer, tissues, etc.;
 - The ability to meet all current Howard County Health Department and/or CDC standards related to sanitization and food handling practices; and
 - Whether the event can be rescheduled or held virtually.
- If you are an older adult or have a preexisting medical condition, and are planning to attend a large gathering, event or meeting, consider not attending or seeing if there is option to attend remotely.

For more information on preventing transmission, please reference the CDC's guidance on [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#).