



NEVADA RECOMMENDATIONS & GUIDANCE **FOR CELEBRATING: Día de los Muertos**

Updated October 14, 2020

El Día de los Muertos is a cherished cultural tradition celebrated in the fall by many Nevadans, but in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it remains critical that we do all we can to minimize the risk of catching or spreading the COVID-19 virus while having fun on these special days.

Many traditional holiday activities may appear low risk because they take place outdoors or the interactions may be short. However, when a lot of people participate in lower-risk activities at the same time, it raises the potential for disease spread across the state. As Nevadans plan their Día de los Muertos activities, they are urged to consider and follow the guidelines and best practices below.

GUIDELINES & BEST PRACTICES

- Outdoor gatherings are generally safer than indoor gatherings.
- Smaller groups are generally safer than larger groups. Avoid crowds.
- Shorter gatherings are generally safer than longer gatherings.
- It's safer to gather with people who consistently wear face coverings/masks (non-costume), keep physical distance, and follow other prevention recommendations.
- Participating in virtual activities is the safest option.
- [Wear a face covering/mask](#) that fully covers your nose and mouth, wash your hands frequently, and keep your distance whenever you are out in public or around people who are not a part of your household.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance from people outside your household.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid touching your face, nose, mouth or eyes with unwashed or just sanitized hands
- Be mindful that using alcohol and drugs can cloud judgement and increase riskier behaviors.
- Stay home & avoid contact with others if:
 - Have recently tested positive for COVID-19 and are currently in the isolation period.
 - Are currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test.
 - You are sick, have any respiratory infection symptoms, or any [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
 - Any household member has COVID-19, is exhibiting respiratory infection symptoms, or any [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
 - You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are currently in the quarantine period.
 - You believe to have been recently exposed or come into contact with a COVID-19 case.



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All Nevadans must play their part by considering how to help lower the risk of infection, not only for yourself and your family, but for your community. Here are more ideas about how to celebrate more safely.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: *In general, the more people you interact with, the more closely you interact with them, and the longer that interaction, the higher your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces because indoors, it can be harder to keep people at least 6 feet apart and the ventilation is not as good as it is outdoors.*

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is general guidance and recommendations for celebrating Día de los Muertos, consistent with [CDC guidance](#).

Follow Local Guidance

As Nevadans prepare for Día de los Muertos, residents and visitors should look to the appropriate local health authority for the most current and up-to-date guidance and recommendation on activities. Each county should assess their current situation and make a determination on how to safely celebrate Día de los Muertos.

Protect yourself and others in your community

Regardless of where you live in Nevada, in order to protect yourself, your family and others in your community, do not participate in any in-person activities, including handing out candy, if you:

- Have recently tested positive for COVID-19 and are currently in the isolation period.
- Are currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test.
- You are sick, have any respiratory infection symptoms, or any [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Any household member has COVID-19, is exhibiting respiratory infection symptoms, or any [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are currently in the quarantine period.
- You believe to have been recently exposed or come into contact with a COVID-19 case.

If you or someone in your household has an [increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#), you should strongly consider the risks and benefits of activities they are considering.

ACTIVITIES BY RISK LEVEL: Día de los Muertos

In addition, the following guidelines below have been issued by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

NOTE: *If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.*

Lower Risk Activities

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives and are the most highly recommended by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services:



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- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others.
- Playing music in your home that your deceased loved ones enjoyed.
- Making and decorating skulls or making an altar for the deceased.
- Setting out pillows and blankets in your home for the deceased.
- Joining a virtual get-together celebration.

Moderate Risk Activities

- Organize a **small group, open-air neighborhood costume parade** with predetermined routes marked to maintain safe distances of at least 6 feet between participants.
- **Visiting and decorating graves of loved ones** with household members only and keeping more than 6 feet away from others who may be in the area.
- Hosting or attending a small dinner with local family and friends outdoors where people are distanced more than 6 feet part
 - Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on [hosting gatherings or cook-outs](#).

For those looking to host a larger gathering, all requirements outlined in the [Nevada Guidance for Safe Gatherings guidance](#) must be followed, in accordance with Directive 033. See "Guidance for event planners" below in this guidance document.

Higher Risk Activities

The **CDC recommends avoiding** the following higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Attending large indoor celebrations with singing or chanting
- Participating in crowded indoor gatherings or events
- Having a large dinner party with people from different households coming from different geographic locations
- Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors

GUIDANCE FOR EVENT PLANNERS

- Adhere to state and local orders and restrictions.
- Require timed reservations to limit occupants, lines, and areas of congestion.
- Create a one-direction flow of participants with signs, directional arrows, and spacing indicators.
- Remind participants before arrival and onsite to stay home if sick, exposed, positive for COVID-19, or quarantined.
- Use signs to remind participants to use masks, maintain distance, and wash hands.
- Set up handwashing stations.
- Eliminate common-touch items and props.
- Consider exclusively outdoor spaces.



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- Require COVID-19 face coverings/masks at all times, except when actively eating or drinking.
- For a full list of guidance and requirements, please review the [Nevada Guidance for Safe Gatherings](#).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL SICK OR MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED

If you participated in a Día de los Muertos celebration and begin to feel sick or think you may have become exposed:

1. Take extra precautions for 14 days including staying home as much as possible.
2. Limit interactions with those with an increased risk of severe illness.
3. Take a COVID-19 test. [Click here](#) to locate a testing site near you.

If you become symptomatic or if you test positive for COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider and follow CDC guidance on what to do if you become sick:

- If you have been identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 patient, quarantine for a minimum of 14 days, even if you show no symptoms.
- If you are waiting on COVID-19 test results, quarantine at home as you wait for the results.
- If your result is positive, you will be contacted by the Department of Health or the local health authority within the jurisdiction where you live.
 - You will be asked about your health and who you have been in close contact with, and where you have visited to identify other persons who may need to quarantine. Your information is confidential.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [State of Nevada Guidance for Safe Gatherings](#)
- [State of Nevada Guidance for Private Residential Gatherings](#)
- [State of Nevada Face Covering Guidance](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [COVID-19 Holiday Celebrations](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Hosting gatherings or cookouts](#)