



GIVE THANKS.

NOT COVID-19.

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GIVE THANKS, NOT COVID-19

Limiting gatherings to only your household members is the best way to keep everyone safe this Thanksgiving.

Dover, Del - Most of you are aware that COVID-19 cases and deaths are on the rise in Delaware and nationwide. But one of the main reasons is something you may find surprising: People are letting their guard down when it comes to safety during gatherings with people who do not live in the same household, like parties and dinners.

The positive news is that we all have the power to do more to slow the spread of COVID-19 — starting in our own homes, among our own family and friends, at our own Thanksgiving tables. **The best way to keep yourself and your loved ones safe from COVID-19 this Thanksgiving is to limit gatherings to members of your household — people you've been living with during the pandemic — only.**

Rest assured, you can still keep it small, keep it safe, and make it great this Thanksgiving. We get it, though. This is going to be challenging. Telling someone “I love you but cannot be with you this holiday” is a tough discussion to have. So is declining an invitation from a friend or loved one. But **it will be harder to tell someone you love that they were exposed to COVID-19 at your gathering, or that you tested positive.**

This is why Kent County Levy Court has teamed up with the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) to help. Here are tips for having the challenging conversations that will ultimately keep everyone safer.

Telling someone your event is household members only

- Make it personal. Inform people by phone and avoid individual or group texts, emails, and social media.
- Assure them that your decision is for their safety and is done out of love.
- Explain that your guest list is strictly household members; you are not singling anyone out.
- Ask how they feel and allow them to share disappointment and other emotions.
- End on a high note! Share some ways you plan to safely continue holiday traditions and connect with family and friends. Ask them to share their ideas too.

Declining an invitation

- Make it personal. Inform your host by a phone call, not text, email, or social media.
- Thank the host for thinking of you and for respecting your decision.
- Keep your reason free of excuses. It's OK to express disappointment, but make it clear that your decision is for your safety as well as the safety of the host and other guests.
- Assure the host that you are not singling out this one event — declining invitations is your rule, not exception, this holiday season.

Lastly, don't forget some of the **golden rules for gatherings**: the best way to remain safe with anyone — whether they have tested positive for COVID-19 or not — is to wear a mask and maintain a safe social distance of at least 6 feet. Plus, wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

Thank you for joining Kent County Levy Court and DPH in taking the lead to keep people, families, and communities throughout Delaware safe this holiday.