

Requirement for Celebrations and Significant Life Events

This document applies to the private celebrations, receptions, parties, or similar private events discussed in the following section because COVID-19 spreads more when people who are familiar with one another gather together to socialize or to celebrate special occasions. It is easy for us to “let our guard down” in these situations and to forget the steps needed to keep ourselves and others safe. When food and beverage are involved, the risk is even higher because people must remove their masks to eat and drink. Alcohol also creates its own special risks by lowering inhibitions, and we know that these risks increase in the later hours of the night. In balancing the importance of milestone occasions with the risks of COVID19 transmission, these private celebrations and parties are limited further if they involve food and beverage.

1. For private celebrations, receptions, or parties with food or beverages, capacity must be limited to allow for 6 feet of social distancing, and may not exceed 25%, up to a maximum of 50 people. In addition, these events must not occur between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.
2. For private celebrations, receptions, parties, or other similar private events without food or beverages, capacity must be limited to allow for 6 feet of social distancing. Capacity may not exceed 25%, up to a maximum of 250 people.

This document does not apply to wedding, funeral, or religious services or ceremonies at a place of worship, event center, or other venue that comply with the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Requirements for Faith-based Communities, Places of Worship, Weddings, and Funerals. This guidance increases allowance for capacity, but generally requires seating and strict controls on movement.

Celebrations, receptions, private parties, and other similar gatherings

This document applies to private celebrations, receptions, parties, or other similar gatherings held in a venue or business. Venues that host these events must develop and comply with an event-specific COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that incorporates the requirements in this document.

- This includes receptions, parties, and gatherings connected to weddings (e.g., wedding receptions), funerals (e.g., celebrations before or after a funeral service), life milestones (e.g., birthday parties, retirement parties, graduation parties, and parties for other similar milestones), family reunions, and other similar occasions.

- This also includes receptions, parties, and gatherings connected to planned religious services (e.g., receptions before or after a religious service), and other private social events (e.g., cocktail parties, dances, work parties, professional networking events, and other similar events).

Requirements for venues that host private parties and also remain open to the public

If a venue hosts an event that falls within this guidance and also remains open to other members of the public (e.g., a private party in a section of a restaurant or bowling alley), the venue must comply with the following:

- It must designate an exclusive and separate event space within the establishment (e.g., a ballroom, private room, or other separated space) to ensure persons attending the event remain separated from other patrons who are not attending the event, and areas or activities not associated with the event.
- Workers hired specifically for the event, such as an outside caterer or entertainer, must also be separated from other workers, patrons, or activities not associated with, staffing, or attending the event.
- The attendees of the event must be included in calculating the overall capacity of the venue, restaurant, bar, or other event space.

Events with food and beverage

- Events that involve food or beverage may not take place between the hours of 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.
- Events must be limited to a maximum of 50 people (counting those indoors and outdoors) where 6 feet of social distancing can be maintained between members of different households, or 25% capacity.

Events without food and beverage

- Events, whether indoors or outdoors, must be limited to ensure that social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained between members of different households at all times. Capacity must be further limited to the lesser of 25% capacity, or 250 patrons total.
- Face coverings must be worn by all people in accordance with Executive Order 20-81 and the policies of the venue hosting the event.

Follow the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

All businesses, organizations, venues, and event organizers hosting celebrations and events governed by this guidance are required to develop and implement an event-specific COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that incorporates the requirements in this guidance and other applicable guidance on StaySafe MN. This plan must be available so people on the premises can easily see this document. Vendors servicing one event may collectively agree to one comprehensive plan, if they so choose.

Prior to the event, plan how to address a situation where people are not following the face covering and social distancing requirements throughout the entire event. If attendees are not complying with applicable requirements, stop the event.

Requirements

- Health Screening
- Maintain Physical Distance of at least 6 feet
- Use of face coverings
- Hand Hygiene practice
 - Provide hand sanitizer at entrances and exits and other strategic locations.