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To: recipients@lists.johnshopkins.edu
Subject: Guidance for Gatherings



To the Johns Hopkins Medicine community

Dear Colleagues,

You recently received a communication announcing [reinstatement of the mask requirement](#) in all Johns Hopkins Medicine buildings. Many people have asked questions about the status of other COVID-19 restrictions, including those pertaining to travel, gatherings and end-of-the-year celebrations. Although the number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations continues to rise, there are currently no plans to change other requirements.

Gatherings are allowed both indoors and outdoors. The limit for indoor and outdoor gatherings remains at 50 people. Approval for gatherings of more than 50 people can be requested using the [JHM event gathering approval and attestation form](#).

Although gathering guidance is not currently changing, given the rising infection rates, we ask event organizers and attendees to carefully assess and take steps to mitigate the risk of viral transmission.

Here are steps you can consider implementing to reduce risk:

- Hold events outside, if possible. (Note: An enclosed tent is not considered an outside event.)
- For indoor events, choose venues that have good ventilation.
- For indoor events, consider decreasing the size of the event and/or having fewer people at each table. Pay attention to spacing — especially for seated events where food is served.
- For events that include a program (e.g., speeches and awards) and a meal, consider holding the program portion of the event prior to serving the meal so those who are concerned or at higher risk of severe disease can attend the program and then leave if they choose to do so.
- Facilitate an environment that allows those who wish to wear a mask to feel comfortable doing so.
- Advise attendees to self-test for COVID-19 within 24 hours of attending an event.
- Advise people with COVID-19, cold, or flu-like symptoms to stay home regardless of home test results.

- Advise attendees to get vaccinated and, if eligible, get a booster (third or fourth shot).

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, and will make adjustments as needed. Thank you for doing your part to create a safer environment for our patients, our visitors and one another.

Sincerely,

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