



Holiday Gatherings Advisory

The Campus Health Response Committee is issuing an advisory regarding social gatherings on campus as the community approaches the holidays. While U-M is a highly vaccinated community, case investigation has shown that breakthrough infections can occur. Specifically, social gatherings are higher in risk when masking is not in place. Areas with less robust ventilation such as restaurants, bars and private homes are also a risk factor.

The state of Michigan is still operating under high case levels and the transmission level for Washtenaw County remains high. At this time, units are encouraged to consider the guidance below if considering gatherings associated with the end of semester or upcoming holidays. Events where all individuals remain masked are strongly recommended - masking is a requirement for indoor spaces in U-M facilities - and hosts and guests are encouraged to minimize unmasked interactions at events, including eating and drinking unless it can be done in a socially distanced manner.

While we encourage units to think of alternative ways to celebrate or recognize individuals, we do recognize that some events may be tied to an academic, business or other purpose and those events can continue, but we ask that you plan to minimize risk of spread to the extent possible. Please refer to the [UM Covid-19 Guidelines for Campus Facilities](#) for ideas of levels of risk associated with gathering options.

Additional recommendations for units:

- Gatherings should be held in open, well-ventilated spaces
- Gatherings should be restricted to U-M Community only, when possible
- Everyone must strictly adhere to the [U-M Face covering policy](#), requiring masking in all indoor UM facilities
- ResponsiBLUE should be checked for all attendees.
- Spaces should be structured to allow for distancing of attendees if eating/drinking is expected.

We continue to recommend that individuals that are not vaccinated, immunocompromised or have susceptible family members, avoid large gatherings.