Guidance from the Danish Health Authority

Private events, parties and celebrations during the COVID-19 pandemic

4 June 2021

In this pamphlet, you can find guidance on how to comply with the infection prevention recommendations if you are holding a large event.
Private events during COVID-19

When many people gather for private events, there is an increased risk of spreading infection. The more people who are gathered, the bigger the risk that someone at the event is infected. At the same time, it can be difficult to keep our distance when we gather inside.

When you are planning and holding a private event, for example a birthday, dinner party, picnic, or religious celebrations such as a confirmation, christening or funeral, follow this guidance:

- **Don’t invite too many people.** Don’t invite more than your home can accommodate. You can gather more people if you meet outdoors than if you gather somewhere like in a small apartment.

- **Healthy participants.** Everyone must be in good health, i.e. everyone with symptoms of COVID-19, as well as people who have tested positive, or have been in close contact with an infected person, must stay at home.

- **Keep your hands clean.** Make it easy to keep your hands clean, both on arrival and during the event. Place hand sanitiser at the entrance, where many people pass by, and near objects that are touched by many people.

- **Keep your distance.** Everyone must be able to keep a distance of least 1 metre from each other, and preferably 2 metres. You must be able to keep a distance of 2 metres from people at a higher risk and who are not fully vaccinated.

- **Take contact details from all your guests.** Make a list of those present. This way, you can easily contact your guests if someone turns out to have been infected with novel coronavirus.

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**If you or your guests take a test prior to a social event**

Remember that a test result only provides a snapshot, which is why it is important that you continue to comply with the infection prevention recommendations – even if the test is negative.

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You can read more about day-to-day socialising in our pamphlet: Socialising during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Events and gatherings

A private event can take place in a completely private setting, such as your own home or garden, or in a rented location such as a community centre. If you hold the event in a function room of a restaurant, hotel, conference centre, etc., please be aware that different rules apply. Read more at en/coronasmitte.dk

Events in private homes and gardens
When holding events in your own home or garden, you can prevent the spread of infection by following the guidance in this publication and the Danish Health Authority’s general infection prevention recommendations. We recommend that you do not invite more people than you have room for if holding the event inside. The ban on gatherings does not apply in private homes or gardens, but we recommend that you follow the applicable rules on how many people are allowed to gather. Read more at en/coronasmitte.dk.

Events in public spaces, e.g. parks, shared courtyards, forests
The ban on gatherings applies to events in public places such as a park, forest or a shared courtyard. You should also prevent the spread of infection by following the guidance in this publication and the Danish Health Authority’s general infection prevention recommendations.

Events in rented spaces without professional staff
The ban on gatherings applies to events in rented spaces where there are no permanent staff, e.g. a common room, community centre or reception room. You should also prevent the spread of infection by following the guidance in this publication and the Danish Health Authority’s general infection prevention recommendations.

Events in restaurants, hotels, conference centres, etc.
If you hold an event in a restaurant, café, hotel, conference centre, etc., with professional staff, this is subject to the ban on gatherings and the applicable guidelines from the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs. If there is live music, performances, etc., the applicable guidelines from the Ministry of Culture also apply. You should therefore familiarise yourself with these. You should also look to this publication and the Danish Health Authority’s general infection prevention recommendations for guidance on reducing the risk of infection.
Following the guidance in practice

Guests should stay at home if they are ill

- Tell your guests to stay at home if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive or are a close contact to someone who is infected.
- Please write this in the invitation.

Planning the event

- Hold all or part of the event outdoors. Have a Plan B that ensures your guests can keep their distance if the weather does not allow you to hold the event outdoors and you have to move inside.
- Avoid inviting so many that the place will get crowded
- If you want more guests, hold the event in a place where there is plenty of space, e.g. in a reception room or a marquee in the garden.

Keep your distance and avoid close contact

- Make it easy to keep a distance by, for example, line markings on the floor, especially in areas where queues can form such as next to the buffet or by the toilets.
- Ensure that there is at least 1 metre between place settings, both to the side and opposite.
- Place people who are in close daily contact at the same table, and limit the guests from moving around too much.
- Avoid handshakes, hugs and kisses on the cheek when greeting each other, and remind your guests about this.
- Make sure that it is possible to keep a distance of 2 metres from people at a higher risk and who are not fully vaccinated.

If you and your guests are fully vaccinated, you can:

- Be together with other fully vaccinated people without keeping your distance or wearing a face mask.
- Be together with family or close friends who are not vaccinated without keeping your distance or wearing a face mask. This does not apply if someone you are together with is at a higher risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19 and they are not yet fully vaccinated.
Open windows and doors and ventilate regularly

- Ventilate well before, during and after your event.
- Note the objects that are touched by many, such as door handles, handrails and light switches.
- Put small signs on doors and light switches to remind people to use elbows instead of fingers.
- Clean before, during and after the event.
- Frequently clean surfaces that are touched by many, e.g. door handles, handrails, light switches, armrests, table edges, toys, beer pumps, bottle openers, tablets controlling the music, etc.

Easy access to handwashing facilities and hand sanitiser

- Make sure that everyone has easy access to wash their hands and hand sanitiser.
- Place hand sanitiser at the entrance, where many people pass by, and near objects that are touched by many people.
- Use disposable towels or paper napkins instead of shared hand towels.
- Have liquid soap by hand basins rather than a shared bar of soap.
- Remember to refill the hand sanitiser and disposable towels during the event.

Increased attention when serving food

When taking food from, for example, a buffet or shared plate, there may be an increased risk of infection if people stand close together or touch the same utensils.

- Pay extra attention to hygiene and distancing when serving.
- Provide easy access to handwashing or hand sanitiser in places where people eat or take food from.
- If you are planning a buffet, you can serve the food in portions. Make sure that only a few people are at the buffet at the same time, and make it easy for people to keep their distance, for example by marking distance with tape on the floor.
- Use disposable utensils or let a few people serve the food.
- Avoid sharing bowls of snacks. You can serve these in smaller bowls, so the guests can have their own portion.
- Maintain good hygiene when preparing and serving food.
Party activities

Many activities normally associated with parties are also activities that have been shown to increase the risk of infection, such as singing, raising one’s voice, and activities with high levels of movement and exhalation, such as dancing and party games.

- Avoid singing together and speaking loudly when you are standing close together. Keep a distance of at least 2 metres between you, and consider whether you can go outdoors to a place where you do not disturb others.
- People giving a speech should stand at least 2 metres away from the rest of the guests.
- Avoid dancing and party games with a high level of activity, or plan the activity outdoors instead.
- Avoid loud music as it can make people speak louder or move closer to be able to hear.

Remind your guests of the recommendations

- Mention in the invitation that you must prevent infection at the event together, and that people who may be infected must stay at home.
- Start the event by reminding the guests of the recommendations and mention if special consideration should be given to those at a higher risk.
- Put the Danish Health Authority’s posters with guidance on infection prevention in visible places at major events. The posters are available in a number of languages at sst.dk/en.

You can find further information and materials at sst.dk/en and at en/coronasmitte.dk.

Want to know more?

Please go to our website to see a list of all current publications in English – such as pamphlets, posters and films.