Guidance for Private Gatherings

Anyone planning to host or attend a private gathering, such as backyard barbecues, birthday parties, and other celebrations, must follow these precautions:

**Keep It Small**
Limit gatherings to three households or less. The smaller the gathering, the lower the risk.

**Keep It Short**
Gatherings should be two hours or less. The shorter the duration, the lower the risk.

**Gather Outdoors**
- Guests may go inside to use the restroom. Make sure restrooms are frequently sanitized.
- Shade structures may be used as long as at least three sides are open to the outdoors.
- Multiple gatherings cannot be jointly organized to occur at the same time.

**Spend Time With The Same Group of People**
- Keeping the people you interact with stable over time reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- The host should collect contact information of all attendees in case contact tracing is needed later.

**Stay Home If You Feel Sick**
If you have symptoms similar to COVID-19*, stay home and avoid contact with anyone outside your household.

**Take Steps To Slow The Spread**

- **Wear a face covering**
  Face coverings may be removed briefly to eat or drink. Put your face covering back on as soon as you are done.
- **Stay 6 feet apart**
  All seating must provide at least 6 feet of distance in all directions (front-to-back and side-to-side).
- **Shared items should not be used**
  Food and beverages should be in single-serve disposable containers, or served by a person who wears a face covering and washes their hands often.
- **Wash or sanitize your hands often**
  Make sure guests have a place to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.

People in a high-risk group, such as older adults and people with chronic medical conditions, are strongly urged not to attend gatherings.

Anyone who develops COVID-19 within 48 hours after attending a gathering should notify the other attendees as soon as possible about the potential exposure.

*Symptoms of COVID-19 include, fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, night sweats, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, muscle or body aches, headaches, confusion, or loss of sense of taste/smell.

For more information visit www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus