

WEDDING DURING COVID-19

Checklist

Guide to reduce the spread of COVID-19

Stay informed

- Ask questions of the service providers you hire (e.g. ceremony and reception venues, florists and food service vendors).
- Review your venue/vendor contracts and insurance policy.
- Check your city's website for current information and guidance about COVID-19.

Communicate with vendors

- Maintain open communication with your partner and wedding planning services.
- Support each other and be flexible. Many businesses are impacted by the pandemic.
- Create a backup plan with a few alternative dates.
- Consider a virtual ceremony, outdoor ceremony, tented reception, a smaller indoor wedding, or delaying the event until public health measures are less restrictive.
- Make adjustments to your wedding checklist to accommodate public health measures.
- Shop online or by phone for venues, flowers, and other wedding necessities.

Limit the guest number

- Limit in-person attendance. Larger events can be scheduled after the pandemic.
- Consider adding a virtual component to allow additional friends and family to participate. This may also benefit guests who cannot be there in person due to distance/travel restrictions or are at higher risk for illness due to age and health conditions.

Communicate with guests

- Use technology to keep guests informed, such as a wedding website or social media.
- Inform your guests about the precautions you are taking to keep everyone safe. Ask attendees to bring their own mask and have extras if people forget to bring one.
- Encourage guests to stay home if they are feeling unwell.
- If hosting a virtual service, post instructions on how to access it online.
- Ask guests to greet each other from a distance with a smile, wave, or send virtual hugs/wishes in lieu of physical hugs, kisses and handshakes.

Encourage physical distancing

- Space seating two metres apart and arrange by household.
- Post signs to remind guests to stay two metres/six feet from others they don't live with.
- Use floor markings to let guests know where to stand in the reception line to stay safe.
- Remind guests to refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands.

- Wash your hands often and have hand sanitizer available.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows.

Modify the wedding reception

- Arrange furniture away from air vents and high airflow areas; direct fans upwards, away from people.
- Where appropriate, consider using outdoor spaces.
- Avoid close contact or sharing of ceremonial objects or personal items.
- Create an online registration book for guests.
- Consider individual hand sanitizer and personalized masks as party favours or gift bags.
- Limit close group photos to people in the same household or have guests wear a mask, even when outdoors.
- Avoid activities that allow guests to congregate or share items (e.g. photo booths).

Food and drink at the reception

- Ensure that receptions at a restaurant or banquet hall must comply with food premise regulations and COVID-19 guidelines.
- Potluck, buffets, and self-serve food stations are not permitted. Family-style meals are not recommended.
- Assign seating by family households.
- Guests are to stay seated except to leave or use the washroom.

Singing, music and entertainment

- Limit the number of singers/vocalists and wind/brass musicians. Consider safer alternatives like playing recorded music, virtual performances, or string, keyboard and percussion instruments.
- Congregational singing is strongly discouraged, even with masks on.
- In-person vocalist or musicians need to physical distancing from each other and guests and wear a mask between performances. Musicians who sing or play brass/wind instruments should perform behind a barrier such as plexiglass.
- Performers and officiant should have their own microphone. Do not share microphones.
- Keep music volume low, so the officiants, guests and staff do not need to speak loudly or lean closer to communicate.

Attendance list for contact tracing

- Encourage your guests to download the official COVID-19 tracing app of your state.
- If a guest becomes ill during the service/reception, ask them to go home and self-isolate.
- Keep an electronic list of your guests and staff in attendance. Information collected is voluntary, and can only be used by public health for COVID-19 contact tracing.

