

Montgomery County COVID-19 Guidance for Prom



COVID-19 Mitigation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings and events with more than 25 people indoors/250 outdoors: Complete the COVID-19 Mitigation Form for review and approval by Montgomery County OPH Office of Public Health (MCOPH).
COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly recommend screening of all attendees 24-48 hrs prior to attendance to identify cases and prevent transmission. MCOPH provides free COVID -19 testing throughout the county. For access to testing site throughout Montgomery County go to www.montcopa.org/covid-19
Size/ Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host separate junior and senior proms. Dividing the guests into groups, and stagger students' arrival and drop-off times by group. *9
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who feel ill; have symptoms, a positive test, or were recently exposed to COVID are not allowed at the event and are recommend to return home and isolate. *4 *10 All attendees are recommended to be screened for COVID 19 symptoms upon arrival. CDC Facilities COVID-19 Screening form is a tool on site.
Face Covering/ Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All individuals must wear face coverings in accordance order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings and CDC Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask Reduce the Spread of COVID-19.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger students' arrival and pick-up times by group. *9 For arrival use single transportation, driving or riding alone or with household members only. *10 The use of carpooling, limousines and buses should be discouraged due to potential exposure by having close contact with passengers.
Pictures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking individual photos. *8 Using an open air photobooth/stand with an attendant/photographer to take the pictures. Group photos should be taken outside and individuals can remove their face covering for a brief period no longer than 3 minutes with an attendant/photographer to take the pictures.

<p>Food/ Dining</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly recommend only providing light refreshments as part of the event. This includes finger foods and beverages consumed with straws to minimize the need to remove an individual’s face covering. *1 • Light refreshments should be “grab and go”. If items need to be served an attendant should be used to help serve items so that only one person is handling serving ware. • Table if used, should be spaced 6 feet apart from each other, limiting the amount of chairs at each table (for example if it is a traditional round table that venues usually have only putting 6 chairs at each table instead of 10-12 chairs as used to be the standard) and masks can be removed while seated to eat. • Tables should not be shared, individuals should have assigned seating.
<p>Dancing/ Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide alternative activities or games that can support adhere social distancing. *3 • Limit the number of people on the dance floor at one time; consider dividing the attendees into groups for dancing; repeat or split popular songs if necessary so everyone can enjoy the music in succession. *8 • Encourage social distancing through line dancing or forward facing dances.*8 • Eliminate or limit the amount of slow dancing songs to limit close physical distance.

* References

1 Zoppo, A. (2021, February 09). Outdoors, no food or dates. What N.J. proms could look like this year - if they happen. NJ.com. <https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2021/02/outdoors-no-food-or-dates-what-nj-proms-could-look-like-this-year-if-they-happen.html>

2 Pennsylvania Department of Health. (2021). Frequently asked questions for the governor's and secretary of health's mitigation, enforcement and immunity orders and limited time targeted mitigation orders. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Targeted-Mitigation-FAQ.aspx>

3 Khmara, D. (2020, June 01). Tucson teens celebrate prom, coronavirus style. Tuscon.com. https://tucson.com/news/local/tucson-teens-celebrate-prom-coronavirus-style/article_3e0c24ea-780f-5c99-8b9c-0c47efadb5c0.html

4 World Health Organization. (2020). Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331004/WHO-2019-nCoV-POEmassgathering-2020.1-eng.pdf>

5 City of Philadelphia. (2021). Wedding guidance. <https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/guidance/guidance-documents/wedding-guidance/>

6 Fridmann, A. (2021, February 03). Wedding venues requesting guidance from health department. News 10 ABC. <https://www.news10.com/news/wedding-venues-requesting-guidance-from-health-department/>

7 COVID-19 guidance and isolation information specific to Suffolk County. (n.d.). Suffolk County Government. <https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Health-Services/Health-Bulletins/Novel-Coronavirus/SCDHS-COVID19-Guidance-and-Services>

8 Requirements for celebrations and significant life events. (2021, February 12). Minnesota Department of Health. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safeevents.pdf>

9 Operating schools during COVID-19: CDC's considerations. (2021, February 11). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

10 Considerations for events and gatherings. (2021, January 8). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>

11 Event planning and COVID-19: Questions and answers. (2021, January 5). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/event-planners-and-attendees-faq.html>