



**Tip Sheet: Safer Día de los Muertos**

**October 27, 2020**

This document was updated from October 2, 2020, to clarify prohibited activities and reflect changes to allowed outdoor gatherings:

- **Prohibited:**
  - **Indoor private gatherings with different households.**
  - **Organizing or coordinating groupings of gatherings at indoor or outdoor spaces at the same time is also prohibited (“simultaneous gatherings”).**
  - **Unauthorized street fairs or festivals such as those that might take advantage of streets that have been closed to support economic activity (such as outdoor dining, outdoor personal services, etc.).**
  
- **Clarifications to allowed outdoor gatherings:**
  - **As of 10/20/20, all outdoor gatherings are limited to up to 3 households, up to a maximum of 25 people.**
  - **For an outdoor meal gathering, the number of people allowed is stricter - 6 people. Sharing a meal with different households is higher risk, since masks cannot be worn while eating.**
  - **All gatherings should be two hours or less. The longer the duration, the greater the risk of COVID-19 transmission.**

The following tip sheet was developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and will be posted at <http://www.sfdcp.org>. This tip sheet may change as information is updated.

**AUDIENCE:** General public who celebrate Día de los Muertos

**BACKGROUND:** Día de los Muertos is a beloved holiday with its own important and unique social and community roles. The City of San Francisco wishes to support our residents in celebrating a [safer Día de los Muertos](#) in order to [reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19](#) [see more at [sfdcp.org/safersocial](http://sfdcp.org/safersocial)]. This Tip Sheet will provide guidance on activities that are safer, those activities that are not permitted, and personal protective measure that everyone can take.

## Safer Día de los Muertos Activities

Individuals, families and communities have long-standing and honored traditions for this holiday. These traditions are very personal and sacred. DPH cares about the health of our communities and wishes to respect those traditions in its recommendations. The following information is offered to help inform those who are looking for more information, and for those who may be new to celebrating this holiday.

- The safest way to celebrate Día de los Muertos is to **spend time with people in the same household** or to celebrate virtually.



- You can continue to observe your cultural traditions, ensuring that you share them with your immediate household members and **no more than twelve people** in your home.
- For those who have never celebrated this holiday, and wish to participate, check out a list of suggested safer activities at [sf.gov/celebrate-safer-dia-de-los-muertos-during-pandemic](https://sf.gov/celebrate-safer-dia-de-los-muertos-during-pandemic) or at [sf.gov/saferdiadelosmuertos](https://sf.gov/saferdiadelosmuertos).
- Outdoors is MUCH safer than indoors. Outdoor gatherings are now allowed, up to a maximum of three households, and up to a maximum of 25 people. The stricter limit applies.
- For an outdoor meal gathering, the number of people allowed is stricter - 6 people. Sharing a meal with different households is higher risk, since masks cannot be worn while eating.
- All gatherings should be two hours or less. The longer the duration, the greater the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

### Día de los Muertos Activities Not Permitted During COVID-19

Do not participate in the following activities, which **are prohibited** by local or state public health orders:

- **Indoor private gatherings among different households.** This includes celebrations, events or parties.
- Outdoor gatherings, at which a **meal and/or drinks are served**, with **more than 6 attendees or more than 3 households**.
- Outdoor gatherings with no food/drink, that include **more than 3 households or more than 25 attendees**. This includes everyone present, including hosts and guests. Remember, the smaller number of people you gather with, the lower your risk of infection.
- Organizing or coordinating groupings of gatherings at indoor or outdoor spaces at the same time ("**simultaneous gatherings**").
- **Unauthorized street fairs or festivals** such as those that might take advantage of streets that have been closed to support economic activity (such as outdoor dining, outdoor personal services, etc.).

### Always Take Personal Protective Measures

[As you honor Día de los Muertos, it is important to keep the following recommendations in mind to prevent COVID-19 spread, in order to protect yourself, your family, and your community:](#)

1. **Face Coverings:** Wear a cloth face covering that securely covers nose and mouth to prevent disease spread when outside your home and around others that are not part of your household.
2. **Practice Physical Distancing:** Stay at least 6 feet away (three or more adult steps) from all other people who are not part of your own household, especially when talking, eating, or drinking.
3. **Outdoors is much safer:** Avoid confined spaces, especially indoors.
4. **Good Hygiene:** [Wash](#) or sanitize your hands often. Clean high touch items regularly.
5. **Minimize Mixing:** Plan activities to limit mixing between different households. Currently, social gatherings of more than 12 people are prohibited. That means that on Día de los Muertos, if you are spending time with others, you must stick with a maximum of 12 people and not mingle with others. Keep in mind, however, you are permitted to gather with more than 12 people if all those individuals live with you.
6. **Stay Home If You Are Sick or You are in a High-Risk Group:** If you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 please [get tested](#)



and stay home and away from others. [People at higher risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) (such as older adults, people with chronic medical conditions) are strongly urged to stay home.

## Resources

- San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH)
  - [sfcdcp.org/covid19](https://sfcdcp.org/covid19)
- City & County of San Francisco (SFGOV)
  - Staying safer and united during the pandemic (Spanish language)  
<https://sf.gov/es/unidosCOVID19>
  - Guidance on safer social interactions during the pandemic  
[sfcdcp.org/safersocial](https://sfcdcp.org/safersocial)
  - Social Distancing  
<https://sf.gov/stay-6-feet-apart-social-distancing>
  - Stay Home. Save Lives  
<https://sf.gov/stay-home-except-essential-needs>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Fall Holiday celebrations  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>
  - Hosting Gatherings or cook-outs  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html#gatherings>
  - When and how to wash your hands  
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- Other Bay Area counties
  - **Joint Statement by the Association of Bay Area Health Officers** (posted by Alameda County)
    - Local County Health Officials Offer Guidance on How to Celebrate Halloween and Día de Los Muertos Safely and Prevent Spreading COVID-19 Among Friends and Neighbors  
<https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/press/joint-statement-2020.09.28.pdf>
  - Marin County
    - Guidance for Safer Halloween and Día de los Muertos Celebrations during COVID-19  
<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/guidance-safer-halloween-and-dia-de-los-muertos-celebrations-during-covid-19-pandemic>