

Mission:  
To protect, promote & improve the health  
of all people in Florida through integrated  
state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD  
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Public Health Guidance for Mass Gatherings

LAKE CITY – The Florida Department of Health in Columbia County is strongly urging all citizens planning to attend large community events and mass gatherings to not attend if they:

- are a contact to a known or suspected case of COVID-19
- are over the age of 65 with underlying health conditions
- are immune compromised
- are ill
- have been exposed to someone with a respiratory illness in the last 14 days
- have chronic health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes or lung disease
- have traveled internationally within the last 14 days, especially to destinations under a level 3 travel advisory
- have traveled to or from a geographic area with widespread community transmission of COVID-19

“These warnings are consistent with CDC and Florida Department of Health Guidelines and as recommended by Governor DeSantis” stated Tom Moffses, Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Columbia County. “We all have a role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases, which includes modifying our personal behaviors in the interest of protecting the health of our community.”

While large-scale gatherings of more than 1,000 people are discouraged, event planners may choose to proceed based on the lack of community transmission or other relevant information. These events should incorporate a screening tool to assist with the assessment of attendees to determine recent travel history, potential/past exposure to COVID-19 and current health status.

Additionally, everyone is encouraged to:

- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.

For more information on mass gatherings, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

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For more information, visit <http://columbia.floridahealth.gov>

If you have any questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department of Health's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling 866-779-6121. **The Call Center is available 24-hours a day.** Inquiries may also be e-mailed to [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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