HOLIDAY TESTING

Can I celebrate holidays with others who have a negative COVID-19 test?

The CDC recommends celebrating holidays with only your household members is the safest option this year. A negative COVID-19 test result does not mean "all clear."

- A person may not have enough of the virus in their body to produce a positive result. Results may come back negative if the testing happens too early.

- Before the actual gathering day, a person can become infected between the time of their negative test results and the gathering. The infected person may unknowingly spread COVID-19 during the gathering because they had a "negative result" at the time of their last test.

When should I take a COVID-19 test if I have exposure during a holiday gathering?

If you find out that you have been around someone with COVID-19 over the holidays, it is best to get tested no sooner than four or five days after your last contact with the person. This window allows enough of the virus to build up in your body so you can know if you are indeed infected or not. Stay home and quarantine until you receive your test results. If your results are positive, separate yourself from others in your home. Let your close contacts know they should quarantine and get tested.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you decide to gather with others outside of your household for the holidays, you should still wear a mask, keep your distance, a minimum of 6 feet or 2 meters, and wash your hands often, negative test or not.

- There is no foolproof method to keep the virus from spreading, so don't let your guard down, even with negative tests.

- If you may have COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, it is recommended to not participate in in-person festivities.

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