

Safely celebrating upcoming spring holidays in LTC facilities

With the “spring holidays” upon us, EOHHS encourages facilities, families, residents and staff to engage in low-risk celebrations to mitigate risk of getting or spreading COVID-19 to those in the community, fellow residents and staff.

Families are encouraged to communicate with the facility or residence before making plans to bring their loved one home to understand their policies and make sure their celebration is as safe as possible. This includes limiting interaction to the fewest number of people and households as possible while the resident is on their planned leave.

- Residents who are fully vaccinated and their loved ones should continue to follow all the [current guidance](#) to protect each other from the spread of COVID-19. This includes wearing a face covering or facemask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, and cleaning hands often.
- Residents who are not fully vaccinated must adhere to quarantine requirements upon return from leave; residents who have recovered within the last six months and those that are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine upon return.

Some facilities may choose to offer religious services on facility grounds. Facilities planning to do so must adhere to COVID-19 safety standards and protocols in alignment with [current state guidance](#). Additional considerations include:

- Consider holding services outdoors
- In alignment with guidance for places of worship, consider modifying communal rituals, like taking communion or passing of the peace, to limit contact with others. Consider distributing, where applicable, prepackaged communion or sacraments
- Utilize BinaxNOW tests for clergy upon entry
- Maintain physical distancing requirements during the services and awareness of capacity constrictions