



NEVADA COUNTY
Public Health

FAQ ON STATEWIDE ORDER AND NEVADA COUNTY RE-OPENING

UPDATED OCTOBER 20, 2020

MOST RECENT UPDATES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

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WHAT IS THE STATEWIDE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER?

On Thursday, March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an Executive Order requiring Californians to stay home in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. The statewide Order still applies to Nevada County.

DOES THIS MEAN BUSINESS AS USUAL?

COVID-19 is still actively circulating and is serious and deadly. It is still very important for everyone to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from non-household members, to wash your hands frequently and for 20 seconds, to sanitize high-touch surfaces frequently, and the state says we all must wear face coverings when in public indoor

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spaces and when outdoors where we can't maintain social distance. There are important health and safety exceptions, [check the state's website for detail](#). It is very important to stay home if you are sick, even just a little bit sick. Remember, COVID-19 can be transmitted by people who have no or few symptoms.

SHOULD I WEAR A MASK?

California's public health officials released guidance on April 1 on the use of cloth face coverings to protect against COVID-19 for Californians who must leave their homes to conduct essential activities. On June 18, [updated guidance](#) was released requiring the use of face coverings in California when in public or common spaces.

This is not a substitute for the state's current guidance regarding social distancing and hand washing. A growing body of scientific research has shown that people with no or few symptoms of COVID-19 can still spread the disease and that the use of face coverings, combined with physical distancing and frequent hand washing, will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

WHAT ABOUT OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE IMMUNO-COMPROMISED?

The state recommends that higher risk individuals (over 65 years old or with serious medical conditions) should continue to stay home until Stage 4. Minimize errands by getting groceries delivered or asking for help from friends or family.

IS THE STATE ORDER MANDATORY OR JUST GUIDANCE?

It is mandatory.

SO CAN THE COUNTY "REOPEN"?

The Governor has announced four tiers, with different things allowed in each tier. To find our county's current tier status, as well as what is allowed in our current tier, check the state's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy website](#).

WHERE CAN I FIND THE STATE GUIDANCE RELATED TO RE-OPENING SPECIFIC BUSINESSES AND ACTIVITIES?

Businesses must follow the tier restrictions provided by the state for that type of business. There are two places to look on the state's website to find the guidance you need:

1. If an activity or business is allowed in our tier, you can find guidance on the state's [Statewide Industry page](#).
2. The state also has a [General FAQ](#) to help answer general questions.

WHAT CAN BE OPEN?

The current tier our county is in determines what can be open and in what capacity. The state's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy website](#) tells our current tier and what limitations go along with that tier, by business sector.

See our county's [Reopening Plan](#) for more detail on what's allowed in Nevada County.

WHAT CAN'T OPEN YET?

Sectors that are **not currently permitted** include public events and gatherings like live theater, festivals, wedding parties or receptions, and theme parks. In addition, public saunas and steam rooms; hot tubs at short term rentals/hotel/gyms, etc.; concert venues; nightclubs; indoor playgrounds (laser tag, bounce centers, and the like); adult recreational team sports and contact sports; concerts; and other large gatherings are not permitted. We will continue to amend our county's [Reopening Plan](#) as the state allows for additional sectors to reopen.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "STAYING AT HOME" AND "SOCIAL DISTANCING"?

Staying home is a rigorous form of social distancing. Staying at home means:

- Only going out for "essential activities," to work for an "essential business," or for "essential travel" as those terms are defined in the Order. This includes travel for retail activities.
- Stay 6 feet or more away from others (physical distancing).
- No formal gathering except for the few exceptions currently allowed, including those that follow the state's [gathering guidance](#), worship services and political protests.

The other principles of social distancing and hygiene should continue to be practiced whenever you can. These help to reduce your risk and the risk for those around you. These

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include washing your hands, using hand sanitizer, disinfecting high-touch surfaces, and not going out if sick.

We continue to encourage people at higher risk for severe COVID-19 infection, including older adults and people with compromised immune systems, to stay home as much as possible.

AM I ALLOWED TO LEAVE MY HOME AT THIS TIME?

Yes. Individuals may leave their place of residence to get necessities such as food, prescriptions, and health care, and for exercise, to pick up retail products, and to engage in allowable activities.

ARE GATHERINGS WITH OTHER HOUSEHOLDS ALLOWED?

Gatherings of no more than 3 households are allowed outside. These gatherings should follow the state's [gathering guidance](#). Gatherings, regardless of size, are a high-risk activity. Keep the households that you interact with stable over time. By spending time with the same people, risk of transmission is reduced. Participating in multiple gatherings with different households or groups is strongly discouraged.

WHAT ABOUT PREVENTIVE AND OTHER DEFERRED HEALTH CARE SERVICES?

[Per the state](#), preventive care services and other deferred services can now take place if hospitals and medical offices have enough capacity and protective equipment to do so safely. Dental care can take place, including preventive care, if the providers follows [the guidelines provided by CDPH](#).

CAN I ATTEND A POLITICAL PROTEST?

The state has provided guidance related to political protest gatherings and that guidance applies to Nevada County. That guidance, as of 6/1, is reproduced below. However, we encourage you to check the [state's FAQ](#) to find the most up-to-date guidance on political protest gatherings and other COVID-19-related questions.

Can I engage in political protest gatherings?

Yes, as explained below, although in-person protests present special public health concerns.

Even with adherence to physical distancing, bringing members of different households together to engage in in-person protest carries a higher risk of widespread transmission of COVID-19. Such gatherings may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. In particular, activities like chanting, shouting, singing, and group recitation negate the risk-reduction achieved through six feet of physical distancing. For this reason, people engaging in these activities should wear face coverings at all times.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that those exercising their right to engage in political expression (including, for example, their right to petition the government) should utilize alternative channels, such as the many online and broadcasting platforms available in the digital age, in place of in-person gatherings.

However, state public health directives do not prohibit in-person protests as long as (1) attendance is limited to 25% of the relevant area's maximum occupancy, as defined by the relevant local permitting authority or other relevant authority, or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower, and (2) physical distancing of six feet between persons or groups of persons from different households is maintained at all times. Failure to maintain adequate physical distancing may result in an order to disperse or other enforcement action. Face coverings are required in indoor, public spaces.

Participants must maintain a physical distance of six feet from any uniformed peace officers and other public safety personnel present, unless otherwise directed, and follow all other requirements and directives imposed by local health officers and law enforcement, or other applicable authorities.

This limitation on attendance will be reviewed at least once every 21 days, beginning May 25, 2020. This review will assess the impacts of these imposed limits on public health and provide further direction as part of a phased-in restoration of gatherings that implicate the First Amendment.

THE STATE SAYS MY BUSINESS NEEDS A COVID PREVENTION PLAN TO REOPEN. IS THAT REQUIRED?

Yes, most business are required to prepare a COVID prevention plan prior to re-opening. It must be posted on site and available to customers. The state's guidance outlines what

businesses need such plan and what should be in the plan. The plan does not need individual approval from local officials.

I'VE READ ALL THE RELEVANT GUIDANCE FOR MY TYPE OF BUSINESS BUT I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO DO THIS RIGHT. WHO CAN I ASK?

- If you have general questions about COVID-19, testing, or other general questions, you can call 211 (or 1-833-DIAL211) to talk to a local call agent who can help.
- If you have specific questions related to your business and the state guidance, and how to re-open a particular kind of business safely, you can email COVID19recovery@co.nevada.ca.us for assistance.
- If you need to lodge a complaint about a business that is not following the guidance or is open when it should not be, there is information [here](#) about how to submit a compliant.

ANSWERS TO COMMUNITY QUESTIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC SECTORS AND ACTIVITIES

GENERAL RECREATION

WHAT AM I ALLOWED TO DO?

It's okay to go outside to go for a walk, to exercise, and participate in healthy activities as long as you maintain a safe physical distance of six feet and, if sharing equipment, doing so with only with members of your household. Any activities in groups that are allowed, such as yoga classes, must follow [current tier restrictions](#) and the [Gyms/Fitness Studio guidance](#). No recreational team sports are permitted at this time, either for youth or for adults.

The key is they are individual or household activities only and that social distancing can be maintained. Below is a list of some outdoor recreational activities.

- Throwing a baseball/softball (with household members)
- BMX biking
- Canoeing (singles)
- Cycling
- Gardening (not in groups)
- Golfing (doubles, only if cart has protective partition)
- Hiking (trails/paths allowing distancing)

- Horse riding (singles)
- Jogging and running
- Kite boarding and kitesurfing
- Meditation
- Miniature golfing, outdoor (household members only, following the applicable restrictions in the [Limited Services guidance](#) from the state)
- Outdoor photography
- Picnics (with your household members only)
- Quad biking
- Rock climbing
- Roller skating and rollerblading
- Rowing (singles)
- Scootering (not in groups)
- Skateboarding (not in groups)
- Soft martial arts – tai chi, chi kung
- Surfing
- Tennis, pickleball and table tennis (singles)
- Throwing a football, kicking a soccer ball (not in groups)
- Trail running
- Tree climbing
- Volleyball (singles)
- Walk the dog
- Wash the car
- Watch the sunrise or sunset
- Yoga

CAN DAY-USE RECREATIONAL AREAS BE USED?

Yes. Day-use recreational areas are allowed to be open for local residents to recreate alone or with their household members.

CAN I RENT RECREATION EQUIPMENT?

Residents are encouraged to recreate with their own equipment when possible, however outdoor recreation equipment rentals is allowed with proper sanitation between uses.

WILL SUMMER CAMPS BE OPEN?

Summer day camps are allowed in Nevada County. The [guidance for day camps](#) provides guidelines to create a plan for safe re-opening. Implementation of these guidelines should be tailored for each setting. Implementation requires training and support for staff and adequate consideration of camper and family needs. This includes theme day camps, such as theater camps, as long as the camp is able to follow the [Day Camp guidance](#).

Sports camps doing drills are only permitted so long as they can do the drills within the [Gyms/Fitness Studio guidance](#), as well as the Day Camp guidance. Scrimmages or games are not permitted at this time. However, outside of day sports camps, no recreational team sports are permitted at this time.

WHEN CAN YOUTH SPORTS BEGIN AGAIN?

As of August 3, 2020, some youth sports activities and physical education activities are allowed, only if they can be performed with the required modifications. This applies to all youth sports and activities, including school-based, club and recreational sports. Adult non-professional team sports are not permitted at this time. Those modifications are outlined in California's [Youth Sport's Guidance](#) and in the California Department of Public Health in their [Youth Sports Questions and Answers document](#). **The [Youth Cohort guidance](#) must also be followed. Please see those documents for additional detail.**

Excerpt from the CDPH document:

Youth sports and physical education are permitted only when the following can be maintained: (1) physical distancing of at least six feet between participants; and (2) a stable cohort, such as a class, that limits the risks of transmission (see [CDC Guidance on Schools and Cohorting](#)). Activities should take place outside to the maximum extent practicable.

For sports that cannot be conducted with sufficient distancing or cohorting, only physical conditioning and training is permitted and ONLY where physical distancing can be maintained. Conditioning and training should focus on individual skill-building (e.g., running drills and body weight resistance training) and should take place outside, where practicable. Indoor physical conditioning and training is allowed only in counties where gyms and fitness centers are allowed to operate indoors.

Sports that cannot be played with sufficient distancing and cohorting are not permitted. In addition, outdoor and indoor sporting events, assemblies, and other activities that require close contact or that would promote congregating are not permitted at this time. For example, tournaments, events, or competitions, regardless of whether teams are from the same school or from different schools, counties, or states are not permitted at this time.

WE KNOW THAT SWIMMING POOLS ASSOCIATED WITH CAMPGROUNDS, HOTELS AND GYMS/FITNESS CENTERS CAN OPEN. CAN OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE (E.G., WITHIN AN HOA) BE OPENED AS WELL?

Outdoor pools and indoor pools can be open, however their ability to remain open depends on [our current tier](#). To open, HOA pools and other pools used by more than a single household need to follow the guidance outlined in the [Gyms and Fitness Center](#) guidance from the state, as well as the guidance from Nevada County Environmental Health that they have shared with all pool operators. However, steam rooms, saunas, and hot tubs must remain closed. Team sports in the pool, including drills, are not permitted at this time.

CAN SWIM TEAMS OR SWIM PRACTICES RESUME?

Youth recreational sports and team sports can resume practices, if they can meet guidance in California's [Youth Sport's Guidance](#) and the California Department of Public Health's [Youth Sports Questions and Answers document](#). [The Youth Cohort guidance](#) must also be followed. [Please see those documents for additional detail.](#)

Adult non-professional sports are not permitted at this time.

CAN MY BASKETBALL/SOCCER/BASEBALL TEAM PRACTICE?

Youth recreational sports and team sports can resume practices, if they can meet guidance in California's [Youth Sport's Guidance](#) and the California Department of Public Health's [Youth Sports Questions and Answers document](#). [The Youth Cohort guidance](#) must also be followed. [Please see those documents for additional detail.](#)

Adult non-professional sports are not permitted at this time.

CAN BOAT LAUNCHES BE OPEN TO NON-LOCALS?

Yes. However, cross-county travel is still strongly discouraged.

ARE GUIDED RIVER TRIPS ALLOWED?

Yes, guided rafting trips are allowed in Nevada County. Rafting in general is permitted within the [Campgrounds, RV, and Outdoor Recreation guidance](#) in a number of areas (p. 11 onwards), but most specifically: "Limit the capacity on small group guided fishing, hunting, or chartered boat trips or reconfigure seating on boats or other vehicles."

FITNESS/GYMS

CAN MY GYM BE OPEN?

Gyms can only open [if allowed by our current tier](#) and the percentage capacity allowed by our current tier, as well as if they are able to follow the [Gym/Fitness Center guidance](#).

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DO I NEED TO WEAR A MASK/FACE COVERING WHILE TEACHING A GYM CLASS?

Yes. Wearing a mask/face covering is required by the state in any indoor public space and while outdoors, if you can't maintain 6 feet of social distance. If you can maintain 6 feet, face coverings are still strongly recommended. If your students cannot hear you, using a mic headset is also a great alternative to make sure you are heard while maintaining proper distancing.

MAY I RESUME FITNESS/DANCE CLASSES AS NORMAL?

Fitness and dance classes may resume with modifications, **if allowed in our current tier**, and as described in the [Gym/Fitness Center guidance](#). Everyone must remain at least 6 feet apart; the further the better from an infection control standpoint, so consider 10 feet if your space can accommodate that. Being outside is recommended when possible. Classes may be required to downsize in order to maintain appropriate distancing. Remember to update attendance limits if using an online registration system for classes.

HOTELS, LODGING, AND OTHER SHORT-TERM RENTALS (STR'S)

IS LEISURE TRAVEL ALLOWED?

Cross-county travel (i.e., travel across county borders) is strongly discouraged at this time. But hotels, RV parks and vacation rentals and other types of short-term rentals can resume operations. Our local Short-Term Rental Order was rescinded on June 12.

WHAT ABOUT THE LOCAL MORATORIUM ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS (STR)?

The Nevada County Short-Term Rental Order was rescinded as of June 12, 2020. That means that short-term rentals, including hotel rooms, vacation rentals, RV parks, campgrounds, etc., can rent out their lodging as long as they follow the [state guidelines provided for their particular type of business](#) (for instance, campgrounds need to follow different guidance than hotels).

WHAT DO I DO IF IT IS DETERMINED A GUEST IS SYMPTOMATIC?

The facility has the right to cancel reservations for symptomatic visitors. Please make sure guests are fully aware of new policies or procedures. In the event of a presumptive case of COVID-19, the guest's room should be removed from service and quarantined. The guest room should not be returned to service until the case has been confirmed or cleared. In the event of a positive

case, the room should only be returned to service after undergoing an enhance sanitization protocol in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#).

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING ROOMS AND OTHER RENTAL SPACES?

Vacuum cleaners must be equipped with HEPA filters. Dirty linens should be removed and transported from guest rooms in single use sealed bags and gloves should be used. Consider leaving rooms vacant for 24-72 hours after guests have departed. Please see the state guidance for your type of facility for further detail.

CAN AQUATIC AMENITIES BE USED?

Outdoor pools and indoor pools can be open, however their ability to stay open depends on [our current tier](#) and if the facility can meet the relevant state [guidance](#) for pools. Hot tubs, saunas, and steam rooms are to remain closed, even in vacation rentals.

CAMPING AND RV PARKS

CAN CAMPGROUNDS AND RV PARKS BE OPEN?

Yes, if the site can meet the guidelines the state has set for their type of facility.

OUR CAMPGROUND HAS A PLAYGROUND, CAN WE OPEN IT TO GUESTS?

Not at this time. Only playgrounds run by cities, counties, the state or federal government can currently open if they can follow [the playground guidance](#). Facilities with playgrounds, conference spaces or meeting rooms should keep those areas closed until each of those types of establishments are allowed to resume modified or full operations.

COULD CAMPERS HAVE VISITORS TO THEIR CAMPSITES?

Campers should follow the state's [gathering guidance](#), which allows for gatherings of a maximum of 3 households outdoors. Gatherings, regardless of size, are a high-risk activity and all precautions should be taken, including wearing masks and 6 ft. of physical distancing.

CAN COMMUNAL RESTROOMS AND SHOWER FACILITIES BE OPEN?

Yes, they can be open but restrooms should be cleaned regularly. Guidelines for restrooms are in the state guidance specific to that type of business. For example, doors to multi-stall restrooms should be able to be opened and closed without touching handles. If the door cannot be opened without touching the handle, consider propping the door open or placing a trash

receptacle by the door for paper towel disposal after using the door handle. Only allow shower room use if partitions are in place or signs about physical distancing have been posted.

RESTURANTS, BARS AND WINERIES

We know that bars, restaurants, and wineries in Nevada County are working hard to come up with creative solutions to continue to provide services to our community within the modifications required by the COVID-19 guidances. This FAQ does not supersede guidance from the state's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) website or the applicable sector guidance (e.g. guidance for [restaurants, bars, and wineries](#), for [restaurants providing takeout, drive through and delivery](#), and for [dine-in restaurants](#)). Please review those guidance for updated information.

WHAT CAN BE OPEN?

What can be open, and at what capacity, is determined by [our county's current tier status](#).

ARE MASKS REQUIRED?

Masks are required for all front-line employees at restaurants or bars, as well as patrons when they are not eating or drinking.

ARE PARTIES ALLOWED?

Gatherings of no more than 3 households are allowed outdoors. These gatherings should follow the state's [gathering guidance](#). Gatherings, regardless of size, are a high-risk activity.

IS LIVE MUSIC ALLOWED INDOORS AT A RESTAURANT?

Singing, chanting, wind instruments, and spoken word, are not allowed indoors at this time in restaurants/bars or other venues. These are considered especially high-risk activities due to the projection and exhalation of aerosolized particles. Music indoors at a restaurant or bar is only allowed if the musicians are masked at all times with at least 6' between band members and from any patrons/staff. The state's [guidance on gatherings](#) limits the number of musicians to musicians from no more than 3 households. Piano, guitar, and violin are examples of instruments that would be allowed if the above modifications are made.

IS LIVE MUSIC ALLOWED OUTDOORS AT A RESTAURANT OR FARMERS MARKET?

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Yes, but only in a very limited way and with robust modifications. Any singers must wear a mask and be 10' from any other band members and at least 10' from any patrons/staff. Wind instruments are strongly discouraged. All other band members must wear a mask and must remain 6' away from others. The [state's guidance on gatherings](#) limits the number of musicians to musicians from no more than 3 households. Equipment, such as mics, cannot be shared. Karaoke and other activities that require shared equipment are not allowed. Concerts are not allowed, as those would be considered a gathering. This allowance is not intended for concert, performance, or entertainment venues. Those types of establishments should remain closed until they are allowed to resume through a specific reopening order or guidance.

OTHER MUSIC CONSIDERATIONS

The guidance requires that the volume of music be reduced so that patrons can speak quietly without projecting, as projecting results in increased dispersal of aerosols, which are a documented vector for disease transmission. We encourage venues to turn down music or discontinue music, to consider unamplified music outdoors, and other individual modifications to reduce the overall noise level.

TENTS FOR OUTDOOR SEATING

State guidance allows for a maximum of one side (or 25%) of an outdoor tent to be closed for outdoor seating.

OTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

CAN I ATTEND AN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS OR OTHER SIMILAR MEETING?

12-Step program meetings are considered essential medical services. Virtual meetings and supports are still encouraged. However, we know that these meetings are extremely important to maintain many people's sobriety, and since these meetings are considered essential medical services, we have developed [Updated Guidance for Treatment Groups](#) that allow for these meetings to take place in person, if needed. 12-Step meetings must follow the local guidelines if they decide to meet in person.

CAN ART CLASSES BE HELD?

Yes, if the [Limited Services](#) guidance can be followed. Otherwise, no.

CAN IN-PERSON TUTORING HAPPEN?

Updated 10/20/2020

Yes, if the [Limited Services](#) guidance can be followed. Otherwise, no. This only applies to one-on-one tutoring. [Tutoring classes for youth should follow the Limited Services and youth cohort guidance.](#)

CAN MUSIC CLASSES OR CHOIR PRACTICE BE HELD?

[Singing and wind instrument classes or practice are not allowed. Wind instruments can have music classes under the Limited Services guidance and youth music classes should also follow the youth cohort guidance.](#)

CAN MEDICAL SPA SERVICES BE OFFERED?

Medical spa services or cosmetic procedures are permitted to the extent they are done by or under the supervision of a licensed physician following healthcare protocols. Other medical spa services are included as an expanded personal service such as waxing, facials, and electrologists following the [Expanded Personal Care Services guidance](#).

ARE WEDDINGS ALLOWED?

The only part of a wedding that is currently allowed is the wedding ceremony itself. Wedding ceremonies can be held in a church or in a non-religious venue, however the number of people who can attend is limited. [Attendance are defined by our current tier.](#) In addition, the space must accommodate social distancing of at least 6 feet for all attendees who are not part of the same household. No wedding receptions, wedding parties, or other wedding events are allowed at this time. Wedding ceremonies, whether in a church or non-religious venue, must follow the applicable guidance in the state's [Places of Worship guidance](#). If you decide to hold a wedding ceremony, we encourage you to do so outside.

IS BIBLE STUDY ALLOWED?

[Yes, bible study is now allowed if the state's Places of Worship guidance is followed. In particular, no food, social distancing, face coverings, and frequent hand washing and sanitizing are part of the required modifications. Please see the guidance for additional detail.](#)

CAN I HOLD A YARD SALE?

Yard sales, estate sales, and garage sales are permitted, but only if the sellers are able to follow the state's [Retail guidance](#). We encourage you to hold sales outside.

CAN I GET A FACIAL, MASSAGE OR TATTOO?

Yes, starting June 19, facials, tattoos, waxing, skin care, massages, nail salons, piercings, cosmetology, electrolysis and esthetician services can be offered if they are able to follow the [Expanded Personal Services guidance](#).

CAN INDOOR DOG-TRAINING CLASSES BE HELD?

Yes, if you can meet the requirements in the applicable sections of the Limited Services guidance.

I BELONG TO A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. CAN WE HAVE IN-PERSON MEETINGS OF OUR MEMBERS OR BOARD MEMBERS?

Meetings are limited to a maximum of 3 households, per the state's [guidance gathering](#). Any meeting involving people from more than 3 households is not allowed. The state defines a gathering as "... meetings or other events that bring together persons from multiple households at the same time for a shared or group experience in a single room, space, or place such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, or other indoor or outdoor space. They pose an especially high danger of transmission and spread of COVID-19." Meetings with people from more than 3 households should continue to take place virtually.

CAN YOU GET THE FLU AND COVID-19 AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes, there have been reported cases of people infected by both the flu and COVID-19 at the same time. This is just another reason we recommend getting your annual [flu shot](#).