

Gathering Game Plan

2020

Establish a “socially-distant” game plan:

In order to pull off a safe TABLE gathering, it's key to put a few social distancing guidelines in place before you invite others. Giving your guests all the information up front will let them know what to expect and make the TABLE gathering that much more stress-free for everyone involved.

Before gathering:

- Ask guests to stay home if they are sick. While you'd love to have everyone RSVP “yes,” don't pressure any guests to come that aren't feeling well or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days. If any of your guests are showing COVID-19 symptoms, it's best to have them play it safe and stay home.
- Whenever possible, host outdoors.
- Limit the number of guests to easily and comfortably adhere to social-distancing guidelines.
- Ask guests to bring their own food and/or drinks. If you choose to provide drinks, use individual and disposable water bottles, tea, lemonade, or soda cans.
- Wear face masks when not eating. Even if you can keep a safe distance of six feet, face masks can help guests feel more comfortable socializing. Encourage guests to bring their masks. Masks are especially helpful if the weather changes and forces you to move indoors.
- Set up seating six feet apart. Whether it's tables in the yard, picnic blankets in the park, or lawn chairs in the driveway, make sure you space out seating beforehand so it's easier for everyone to follow the rules as they arrive.

As your guests arrive:

- Skip the welcome hug and give a welcome wave. While your gut reaction might be to hug, resist the temptation! Minimize close contact with a wave or verbal greeting.
- Let them know where they can wash their hands. Direct guests on arrival to a designated hand washing area, whether it's a nearby bathroom or station set up outdoors. If soap and water aren't available where you're hosting, provide hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Ask guests to wash their hands when they arrive and before eating food. Swap hand towels for single-use paper towels so guests don't have to share.
- Limit contact with frequently touched surfaces. Take the lid off of trash cans, so there's no touching involved. Wipe down tables, surfaces, or shared items if possible, between use.

Creative Ideas for TABLE Invites:

[Picnic in the Park](#)

[Driveway Dining](#)

[Porch Potluck](#)

[Backyard BYO Chair](#)

[Frontyard BBQ](#)