



Tip Sheet: Safer Día de los Muertos

October 2, 2020

The following tip sheet was developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and will be posted at <http://www.sfcddp.org>. This tip sheet may change as information is updated.

AUDIENCE: General public who celebrate Día de los Muertos

BACKGROUND: Día de los Muertos is a beloved holiday with its own important and unique social and community roles. The City of San Francisco wishes to support our residents in celebrating a [safer Día de los Muertos](#) in order to [reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19](#) [see more at sfcddp.org/safersocial]. This Tip Sheet will provide guidance on which activities are not permitted, as well as offering suggestions on many safer ways to celebrate.

Día de los Muertos Activities Not Permitted During COVID-19

Do not participate in the following activities, which are prohibited by local or state public health orders:

- Gatherings of more than 12 persons, indoor or outdoor
- Indoor Día de los Muertos gatherings, celebrations, events or parties with non-household members

Safer Día de los Muertos Activities

The safest way to celebrate Día de los Muertos is to **spend time with people in the same household** or to celebrate virtually. Some specific alternatives that are **low risk** but still capture the significance of the holiday include:

- Continuing to **observe your cultural traditions**, ensuring that you share them with your immediate household members and no more than twelve people in your home.
- **Preparing traditional family recipes** with members of your household
- **Playing music** in your home that your deceased loved ones enjoyed
- **Making and decorating masks or making an altar** for the deceased
- **Setting out pillows and blankets** in your home for the deceased
- Joining a **virtual get-together celebration**
- **Visiting and decorating graves of loved ones** with household members only and keeping at least 6 feet away from others who may be in the area

Always Take Personal Protective Measures

[As you honor Día de los Muertos, it is important to keep the following recommendations in mind to prevent COVID-19 spread, in order to protect yourself, your family, and your community:](#)

1. **Face Coverings:** Wear a cloth face covering that securely covers nose and mouth to prevent disease spread when outside your home and around others that are not part of your household.
2. **Practice Physical Distancing:** Stay at least 6 feet away (three or more adult steps) from all other people who are not part of your own household, especially when talking, eating, or drinking.



3. **Outdoors is much safer:** Avoid confined spaces, especially indoors.
4. **Good Hygiene:** [Wash](#) or sanitize your hands often. Clean high touch items regularly.
5. **Minimize Mixing:** Plan activities to limit mixing between different households. Currently, social gatherings of more than 12 people are prohibited. That means that on Día de los Muertos, if you are spending time with others, you must stick with a maximum of 12 people and not mingle with others. Keep in mind, however, you are permitted to gather with more than 12 people if all those individuals live with you.
6. **Stay Home If You Are Sick or You are in a High-Risk Group:** If you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 please [get tested](#) and stay home and away from others. [People at higher risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) (such as older adults, people with chronic medical conditions) are strongly urged to stay home.

Resources

- San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)
 - sfcdcp.org/covid19
- City & County of San Francisco (SFGOV)
 - Guidance on safer social interactions during the pandemic
sfcdcp.org/safersocial
 - Social Distancing
<https://sf.gov/stay-6-feet-apart-social-distancing>
 - Stay Home. Save Lives
<https://sf.gov/stay-home-except-essential-needs>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Fall Holiday celebrations
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>
 - Hosting Gatherings or cook-outs
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html#gatherings>
 - When and how to wash your hands
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- Other Bay Area counties
 - **Joint Statement by the Association of Bay Area Health Officers** (posted by Alameda County)
 - Local County Health Officials Offer Guidance on How to Celebrate Halloween and Día de Los Muertos Safely and Prevent Spreading COVID-19 Among Friends and Neighbors
<https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/press/joint-statement-2020.09.28.pdf>
 - Marin County
 - Guidance for Safer Halloween and Día de los Muertos Celebrations during COVID-19
<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/guidance-safer-halloween-and-dia-de-los-muertos-celebrations-during-covid-19-pandemic>