

Guidance on Special Events

Issued: May 6, 2020

Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) understands that the Safer-At-Home restrictions and prohibitions on public gatherings can frustrate our desires to stay connected and celebrate special occasions.

Under Safer-At-Home in effect across Boulder County between May 9, 2020 and May 26, 2020, both public and private gatherings of more than 10 individuals are prohibited. Nothing in this order should be construed as permitting a gathering of more than 10 individuals.

BCPH strongly encourages organizers to use virtual, electronic platforms and alternative activities less conducive to public gathering.

Please note that events must otherwise comply with all applicable laws, local codes, ordinances, permitting requirements, and public health orders. BCPH recommends that you check with the local jurisdictions for any applicable restrictions or requirements.

Alternative Virtual Event Formats. *In an effort to support local organizations in planning safe and compliant events, BCPH suggests the following alternative event formats:*

- Virtual Run/Bike Ride: Participants complete a specified distance and share their times and photos online. Afterwards, have a virtual ceremony recognizing participants and awarding prizes.
- Window Scavenger Hunt: Encourage members of the community to put specific items in their windows, visible from the street. Have participants bike or drive around at separate times and always in a socially distanced manner in groups of ten or less to find the items. Share photos and stories online.
- Virtual Volunteer Event: Participate in a volunteer event virtually, such as creating care packages or making masks for community members.
- Virtual Movie Night/Art/Games/Crafts: Pick an activity and invite others to join virtually. Watch a movie together-apart using Netflix's Party Feature. Be creative!

In-Person Events. *To help community members come up with safe and legal ways to celebrate, connect with others, and support their communities, BCPH issues the following guidance for in-person events under Safer-At-Home:*

- BCPH strongly discourages any organized activities that are likely to cause people to gather. Gatherings of more than 10 people are strictly prohibited under Safer at Home. This includes a prohibition on public and private gatherings of more than ten people.

- If you do have an in-person event, the event must be limited to ten people or fewer people. Both the organizer and each person individually is responsible for the following:
 - Strictly follow all social distancing requirements.
 - Frequently cleaning and disinfecting any items that will be touched by more than one person.
 - If restrooms are available, they must be cleaned and have signage posted that they should be used by only one person at a time.
 - Do not have shared food or beverage or other shared services or goods on site.

Motor-Based Events. *Although BCPH discourages large vehicle-based events such as motorcades and drive-ins, such events must comply with the following:*

- Do not create opportunities for in-person interaction.
 - Do not distribute any items to participants during the motor-cade
 - Participants should understand that they are expected to remain inside their vehicle at all times
- Coordination with local law enforcement is strongly recommended
- All participants must obey rules of the road
- Routes are encouraged to be a loop instead of point to point to discourage congregating
- Routes should be distributed in a digital form to participants. The use of GPS/navigation devices is encouraged
- Any signage should be approved by local law enforcement, not block or affixed to traffic control devices (i.e. stop signs, speed limit signs), and removed promptly after conclusion
- Avoid areas where people are likely to exit their cars and gather.
- Contact BCPH prior to planning any motor-based event for further guidance at se@bouldercounty.org

BCPH can assist organizations in identifying options and planning logistics for safe and legally compliant events during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BCPH understands this is a challenging time and wants to help people connect. We're here to help! Please email us at se@bouldercounty.org to discuss your special event.