

Survey: Nearly 2 in 5 Americans will Likely Attend Risky Holiday Gatherings

Experts say virtual gatherings are safest, but if you plan to gather in person, precautions are critical to preventing the spread of COVID-19

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	A NEW SURVEY FINDS MANY AMERICANS MAY PUT THEMSELVES AT RISK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. COMING UP, HOW YOU CAN STILL CELEBRATE WHILE PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.
ANCHOR LEAD	THIS HOLIDAY SEASON COMES WITH A LOT OF WORRY AND STRESS AS FAMILIES TRY TO BALANCE THE DESIRE TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER WITH THE RISK OF SPREADING COVID-19. NOT ONLY DO CASES REMAIN HIGH ACROSS THE COUNTRY, BUT COLD WEATHER IS FORCING MANY AMERICANS INDOORS, WHERE THE VIRUS CAN MORE EASILY SPREAD AND GATHERINGS POSE HIGHER RISKS. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON A NEW SURVEY THAT FINDS SOME AMERICANS MAY BE PUTTING THEMSELVES AT RISK FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND SOME EXPERT ADVICE ON HOW TO SAFELY CELEBRATE THIS SEASON.
(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center :00 - :03 Shots of virtual dinner	(Nats - Sound) :02
CG: Emily West Mom of three	AS MUCH AS EMILY WEST WANTS HER KIDS TO BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS, SHE KNOWS IT MAY NOT BE SAFE. :06 <i>"Family is important. It just is. And I think the best way we can say, 'I love you,' to our families this year is to keep our distance." :12</i>
Shots of virtual gift opening	IT'S SOMETHING FAMILIES ACROSS THE NATION ARE STRUGGLING WITH. BUT AS COVID-19 CASES REMAIN HIGH, DOCTOR IAHN GONSENHAUSER (EE-in GAHN-sen-how-zer) SAYS IT'S NO TIME TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. :08
CG: Dr. Iahn Gonsenhauser	<i>"We're going to look back at what happened during</i>

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<p>Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>Shots of family gathering</p> <p>Graphic: Holiday Survey 1/3 will not ask guest to wear masks Nearly 2 in 5 will likely attend a large gathering</p> <p>Dr. Gonsenhauser (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of families sitting at separate tables</p> <p>Shots of Emily checking COVID data</p> <p>Dr. Gonsenhauser (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of virtual gift opening</p> <p>Dr. Gonsenhauser (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Emily West (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of family meal</p> <p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p>	<p><i>these holiday seasons and we're going to ask ourselves, 'Were we part of the solution or were we part of the problem?'" :08</i></p> <p>A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY BY THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER FINDS THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS PLAN TO HAVE PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE AT HOLIDAY GATHERINGS LIKE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND ASKING THOSE WITH SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 NOT TO ATTEND.</p> <p>HOWEVER, ABOUT A THIRD SAY THEY WON'T ASK GUESTS TO WEAR MASKS AND NEARLY TWO IN FIVE EXPECT TO GATHER WITH NON-HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS OR MORE THAN TEN PEOPLE. :21</p> <p><i>"When you're gathered together, even in a small group, around a table at maybe less than the six feet that we'd like to see with those masks down engaged in conversation, that's when the spread of this virus can really happen." :13</i></p> <p>IF YOU PLAN TO HAVE A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION IN-PERSON, TRY TO KEEP THE GUEST LIST SMALL AND CONSIDER ORGANIZING SEATING ARRANGEMENTS BY HOUSEHOLD.</p> <p>IF YOU HAVE OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS OR PLAN TO TRAVEL, PAY ATTENTION TO COVID RATES AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS IN BOTH LOCATIONS. :11</p> <p><i>"If you have somebody in your household who's high risk and you're in a low incidence area, you're going to want to think twice about having a celebration where people are coming from an area where there's a lot of virus in the community." :10</i></p> <p>AND THOUGH CELEBRATIONS WILL LIKELY LOOK DIFFERENT THIS YEAR, IT'S ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LASTING MEMORIES. :05</p> <p><i>"We'll be able to get back to the traditions that we're used to, that we know and love, but this is necessary sacrifice. This is necessary compromise." :09</i></p> <p><i>"We're trying to look at this holiday season as not so much what we're going to be missing out on, but maybe new traditions that we're going to be putting in place." :08</i></p> <p>AT THE OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03</p> <hr/> <p>WHILE OUTDOOR GATHERINGS ARE SAFER,</p>
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ANCHOR TAG	<p>EXPERTS WARN THAT CONGREGATING IN TENTS OR OTHER ENCLOSED SPACES THAT ARE TECHNICALLY OUTDOORS IS NOT SAFER THAN INDOOR GATHERINGS AND MAY GIVE PEOPLE A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.</p> <p>IT'S IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE ALL PLANS AND PRECAUTIONS TO GUESTS EARLY TO AVOID CONFLICT ON THE DAY OF THE GATHERING.</p> <p>ALSO, ENSURING THAT EVERYONE HAS THEIR FLU SHOTS IS AN EASY WAY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OURSELVES AND OUR LOVED ONES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>A national survey by @OSUWexMed finds nearly 2 in 5 Americans will likely attend a large gathering this holiday season. Experts say careful precautions are imperative to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and can help you celebrate safely this year. https://bit.ly/35bhn9V</p> <hr/> <p>A new national survey by The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center finds many Americans may be putting themselves at risk at holiday gatherings this year. Experts say carefully planned precautions are imperative to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and there are ways to make the holidays special while keeping loved ones safe. https://bit.ly/35bhn9V</p>
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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Dr. Iahn Gonsenhauser Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p>	<p>Gonsenhauser says outdoor venues are safer than indoor: <i>“If you can organize a venue that's outdoors in open air and you're using tower heaters or fire pits or something of that nature to stay warm and keep yourselves comfortable, that's truly an outdoor environment. That's going to be one of the safer ways that you can bring people together.” :16</i></p> <p>Gonsenhauser says expanding your social circle increases risk: <i>“The minute we move to expand those circles, invite people in either from other cities, other communities, family from far away, even if they're nearby, but we haven't seen them in a while, we're extending that list of contacts. There are more people now that we are either directly or indirectly in contact with. And that increases our risk of spreading COVID within that circle.” :20</i></p> <p>Gonsenhauser says discuss precautions with guests ahead of time: <i>“Make sure that you have that conversation ahead of</i></p>
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CG: Dr. Iahn Gonsenhauser
Ohio State Wexner Medical Center

time, that your guests are aware of your requirements and precautions, and that they've accepted them and are willing to adhere to them. And if they're not, respectfully exclude them from the celebration.” :15

Gonsenhauser says taking precautions will help make the next holiday season better:

“There are a lot of people this holiday season who are not going to be celebrating with somebody who they loved and expected to have around their table because of COVID-19. And so let's limit that. Let's do what we can to try and make fewer people experience that in the future than have to today.” :17

Emily says as much as we want normalcy, that won't happen for a while:

“Everyone's sick of following the rules. Everyone just wants normal life back. But I think the problem is, regardless of how much we want normal life back, it's not going to happen for a while.” :12

Emily says it can be uncomfortable to ask guests to wear masks:

“Somehow it seems disrespectful to ask them to continue to wear a mask or follow social distancing or not hug people. And I think that's really where we're running into problems, and that's why all of the hotspots seem to be coming from close family gatherings.” :15

CG: Emily West
Mom of three

Emily says her family is taking the time to make a good plan:

“We've thought a lot about this. We're talking about a lot as a family. We may all do our best to quarantine ahead of time just to really limit who we're interacting with before the holidays so that we can safely get together with our more immediate family.” :14

Emily says it's important that everyone agrees to the plan ahead of time:

“I think it's important that everyone discusses and agrees to this plan ahead of time just so you don't start the holidays with disagreements or anyone leaving. I mean, there's just no need to cause more problems than we already have.” :13

For viewer information on this story contact:

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