

Vehicle Gatherings/Parades Guidance

While COVID-19 is being spread in the community, the safest way to prevent illness is to stay home. Though we need to recognize milestones and important life events, the safety and well-being of all Minnesotans is our top priority.

Gathering in vehicles is one way to socialize or celebrate more safely as we aim to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This guidance document outlines recommendations that organizers of vehicle gatherings should consider when planning a vehicle event.

Organizers of vehicle events should keep in mind that COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease that is sometimes fatal, especially for older adults and those with underlying health conditions. It is crucial we continue to take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to collectively protect our community.

Vehicle events and in-person social gatherings with people from multiple households, even in situations where ample space between attendees could be accommodated, does not always promote social distancing practices. These events can introduce a great deal of contact unpredictability, such as impromptu hugging and embracing, and increase the potential for disease transmission.

Outlined below are parameters for organizing a vehicle parade or parking lot gathering (e.g., car parade, parking lot ceremony) outside the home. Following this guidance will increase the level of predictability and decrease risk of disease transmission.

Considerations for a car parade, parking lot ceremony

- Remember the safest option right now is for everyone to stay home. Participating in a vehicle event could put people at risk of interacting with others if they experience car trouble, flat tires, etc.
- Consider whether having an event encourages people in high-risk groups (particularly older adults and people with underlying health conditions) or ill people to come out rather than stay at home. People may come out because of their desire to celebrate this significant milestone and not wanting to be “left out.”
- Consider what accommodations need to be made to ensure equitable participation (e.g., people without access to a vehicle; ridesharing should not be permitted).
- Determine if your event will require communication with open vehicle windows (such as a presenter using a microphone) before the gathering to optimize planning for parking and social distance between vehicles.

If your organization decides to host a car parade, parking lot ceremony

- Each household should be in a separate car; carpooling does not comply with social distancing.
- Make it clear that people with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.) should not attend – no matter what.

VEHICLE GATHERINGS/PARADES GUIDANCE

- Attendees must remain in the vehicles they arrived in.
 - If attendees are in cars with the windows up for the entirety of the ceremony, cars may park immediately adjacent to one another.
 - If attendees are in cars with windows down, cars should park 6 feet apart.
 - Provide clear messaging that people may not walk to the ceremony or participate outside of vehicles.
 - Create a traffic flow plan for how vehicles enter and exit the event.
- Make the event brief.
- Do not serve food or beverages at the event.
- There should not be passing of objects or physical contact between vehicles.
- If objects are passed from event organizers to car attendees, utilize a long arm claw or other mechanism to maintain adequate distance between organizers and attendees.
- Do not provide public or portable bathrooms; this creates a risk of transmission.
- Limit the number of speakers to the smallest number possible and ensure they avoid close contact (e.g., within 6 feet) with others. Speakers should not congregate, and should return to their vehicles following presentations.
 - Whenever possible, use individual microphones if multiple speakers will participate. If a microphone must be shared, consider cleaning between speakers or leaving it untouched on a stand.
- Partner with local public safety officials so they are aware of your event.

Minnesota Department of Health
625 Robert Street North
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5414
www.health.state.mn.us

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For more information, visit [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html\)](https://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html), or call the COVID-19 hotline at 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903.

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-5414.