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SCPH Media Contact Phone Number: (330) 812-3700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reminders for Safely Celebrating Thanksgiving

[Akron, OH] – Summit County residents are encouraged to exercise caution when deciding to participate in Thanksgiving Holiday traditions, celebrations and gatherings that put them in close contact with people outside their households. Summit County Public Health would like to provide residents with some best practices for celebrating Thanksgiving and Black Friday Shopping amid the increased cases we are currently experiencing across the State.

Tips for safely celebrating Thanksgiving traditions:

- Schedule a time to share a meal together virtually.
- Have people share recipes and show their turkey, dressing, or other dishes they prepared.
- Safely prepare traditional dishes and deliver them to family and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others (for example, leave them on the porch).
- Participate in a gratitude activity, like writing down things you are grateful for and sharing with your friends and family.
- Watch Thanksgiving Day parades, sports, and movies at home.
- Find a fun game to play.
- Shop online sales the day after Thanksgiving and days leading up to the winter holidays.
- Use contactless services for purchased items, like curbside pick-up.
- Shop in open air markets staying 6 feet away from others and wear a mask.

If having guests to your home, be sure that people follow the steps that everyone can take to make Thanksgiving safer. These steps include:

- Have a small [outdoor meal](#) with family and friends who live in your community.
- Limit the number of guests to adhere to mass gathering guidelines.
- Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together.
- [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces and items between use.
- If celebrating indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible. You can use a window fan in one of the open windows to blow air out of the window. This will pull fresh air in through the other open windows.
- Limit the number of people in food preparation areas.
- Have guests bring their own food and drink.
 - If sharing food, have one person serve food and use single-use options, like plastic utensils.





- Always wear a face covering and stay 6 feet away from people who are not from your household.
 - NOTE: Face coverings should never be placed on children younger than 2 or anyone who cannot easily remove them.
- Sanitize hands frequently.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Consider those in your household who may be at greater risk for Covid-19 complications.

If you are having COVID-19 symptoms and are unable to be tested right away or are waiting for your results please stay home and do not go in public or expose your family members who are at higher risk for adverse complications of COVID-19. Isolate yourself even in your own household until you are able to be tested or receive your results. Protecting those who are at greater risk of COVID-19 complications should be the main consideration while celebrating any holiday tradition.

Additional guidance and suggestions can be found on the Ohio Department of Health website at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/resources-for-parents-and-families/holiday-celebrations>

If you have questions, call the COVID-19 Call Line (330) 926-5795. The call line is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F.

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