

Fact sheet for Planning a Wedding during COVID-19

May 3, 2022

Congratulations on your upcoming nuptials! This fact sheet is designed to help with wedding planning during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended to supplement the [Guidance for indoor public settings during COVID-19, including churches, meeting and event spaces, retail, personal service settings, and taxis](#), which you should read for additional safety information that is not included here.

A challenge of planning a wedding during the COVID-19 pandemic is that restrictions and case counts can change quickly, so it is important to be flexible. Family or cultural expectations may need to be adjusted to protect the safety of participants.

Public health measures must include staying home if you are sick, handwashing, and covering coughs and sneezes. They may also include physical distancing, wearing a mask or face covering, and showing proof of vaccination.

Keep in mind that:

- Restrictions can change with short notice.
- Outdoor gatherings provide greater opportunity for physical distancing and provide the safest means of socializing. Plan events outdoors whenever possible, but be aware of the potential for inclement weather and have a back-up plan.

Working with vendors

- Work with your vendors to make informed decisions and avoid risks. Businesses should be familiar with the Timiskaming Health Unit's [webpage for workplaces and businesses](#), the Health Unit's [email communications to businesses](#), and the current [government of Ontario restrictions and guidance](#) and [Timiskaming Health Unit restrictions](#) that apply to their business sector.
- **Review your vendor contracts and wedding insurance policy.** These documents may include information about additional COVID-19 risk management requirements and your rights and responsibilities in the events of cancellation, postponement, or illness.
- Be kind and flexible when working with vendors. Businesses, including the wedding industry, have been impacted by the pandemic. Provincial and local restrictions can change quickly, and this is out of your vendors' control.

Masking

Masks are required for some people and may not be removed in indoor public settings, including for eating and drinking at weddings (unless held at a private home). For these people, masks may not be removed (even during meals) at churches, restaurants, and meeting and event spaces, which are considered public settings even when they are booked for a private function.

- For people whose [symptoms](#) have started or who have tested positive for [COVID-19](#) in the past 10 days.
- For people who are [close contacts](#) of someone with COVID-19 or who live with someone who is ill.

Travel

People traveling to a wedding should be aware of travel restrictions in the districts that they are travelling to and from. When booking travel, consider that restrictions can change with short notice. During your trip, follow public health guidelines. Consult [THU's travel recommendations webpage](#) for resources about international travel and testing requirements, as well as for local resources about where to get a test.

Safety plans

- Ask your vendors about the COVID-19 precautions they are taking and whether they have a COVID-19 safety plan. If they do, request that they share it with you. Safety plans are no longer mandatory for businesses in Ontario.
- Consider creating a safety plan for your wedding, using the safety plan resources available [here](#).

Communicate with guests before the event

- Use technology, such as a wedding website or social media, to inform your guests about the precautions you are taking to keep everyone safe.
- Inform attendees whether masks are required. Provide extras in case guests forget, lose, or soil their masks.
- Require guests to stay home if they are feeling unwell. **If anyone who plans to attend your wedding, including the couple, develops symptoms of COVID-19, the ill person must stay home and self-isolate, even if they are fully vaccinated. The people they live with may also be required to self-isolate. Click [here](#) for more information.**

Modify your wedding plans

- Create a safe space for any family and friends who are immunocompromised or have different comfort levels. In particular, consider congregational singing, eating and drinking, and group photos, since these are higher-risk situations or times when masks might not be worn.
- The safest option is to get ready with members of your household only. If you get ready with people outside your household, do not share personal items like makeup brushes.
- Consider limiting alcohol service to prevent guests from relaxing physical distancing measures.

Make a backup plan

Create a backup plan, which may include a smaller or virtual ceremony or a backup date in case a person who must be at your wedding (such as a member of the couple or your officiant) becomes ill.