



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2020

OCCHD shares guidance to safely celebrate this Thanksgiving

(Oklahoma City, OK) The Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) would like to encourage the residents in our community to take precautions and safely celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Because of the unprecedented rise in COVID-19 cases being seen across the nation, including in Oklahoma, celebrating virtually or with the people you live with is the safest choice this Thanksgiving.

By considering the following risk levels, residents can make every possible attempt to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

Lower risk activities

Celebrate virtually or with members of your own household - try outdoor drive-by visits.
Shop online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the next Monday.
Watch sports events, parades, and movies from home.

Moderate risk activities

Host a small outdoor gathering with non-household members. Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing. Minimize hugging and hand shaking.

Higher risk activities

Shopping in crowded stores just before, on, or after Thanksgiving.
Attending large indoor gatherings with people from outside of your household.
Using alcohol or drugs that may alter judgment and make it more difficult to follow COVID-19 safety precautions.

Travel and Gathering

Traveling during this holiday season will increase your chances of being exposed to, contracting, and spreading COVID-19. Postponing travel and staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others this year. If you should decide to travel, consider having a screening test for COVID-19 the day prior to travel or attending family gatherings.

If you do have a screening test, consider the following important information:

A negative test only gives you information for that point in time! It does not mean you will remain negative after that test. It should be noted that it is highly possible that a person who has been exposed will not test positive and/or show symptoms until the latter half of COVID-19's incubation period, which could be several days after exposure. Therefore, testing only gives you a snapshot of whether you are negative at the time of testing.

Screening tests may miss some infections, particularly if done using rapid or “point of care” tests.

For additional information, please visit the CDC’s holiday guidance page.

For testing locations and results turnaround time over the Thanksgiving holiday, please see below.

Perry Klaassen

Normally tests on Thursday. Moved testing this week to Tuesday. No delays, normal test result turn around is 3-5 days.

Guiding Right – New Hope Wellness

Continues to only schedule Monday and Tuesday. Few scheduled for this Tuesday. Possible delays, normal test turn around is 2-3 days.

Variety Care

Closed this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. No delays, normal turn around is 3-4 days.

OU Health

Closed Thursday and Friday. Open for testing on Saturday and Sunday. No delays. Normal turn around 24-48 hours.

Walmart

Closed Thursday (also closed Christmas Day and New Year’s Day). No delays. Normal turn around is next day.

CVS

Closed Thursday.

Free COVID-19 testing at select OCCHD sites is available but will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after. Daily testing will resume Monday, November 30th. Please visit testokc.com to schedule an appointment.

To stay updated, please continue to check occhd.org.

About Oklahoma City-County Health Department

Established in 1910, Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to protecting health, promoting wellness, and preventing disease to ensure a healthy future for the Oklahoma County-area community. OCCHD was one of the first public health departments in the nation to receive accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information, please visit www.occhd.org.