

For COVID-19 Information:

(831) 755-4521 / (831) 769-8700 / covid-19@co.monterey.ca.us / www.mtyhd.org/covid19

Monterey County Health Department

Social Circle Guidance

Developed: June 18, 2020

People may establish and interact socially through Social Circles, effective June 19, 2020, subject to the requirements set forth in Monterey County Health Officer Orders, and subject to any additional requirements set forth in guidance by the County Health Officer, the Governor of California, and State Health Officer.

This guidance allows and describes Social Circles in Monterey County, whereby groups involving up to 12 people may participate together in outdoor social gatherings. Social Circles are small, stable groups of 12 or fewer people that are part of either a Household and Friends Support Unit or a Children's Extracurricular Activity Unit as defined below. Individuals may only participate in one Social Circle for a four-week period, except as defined below.

The expansion of social activities in Monterey County is based on public health considerations, including the number of additional people that will leave their homes to interact with others, the type and duration of contact between individuals, the number of people interacting with one another, and the degree to which mitigation measures can decrease the risk of transmission.

Social gatherings of small, stable groups of people who engage in support and recreational activities typically done within households, present a low risk for transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 if the gatherings take place outdoors.

Description and Conditions: Social gatherings of persons in a Social Circle, as defined below, may take place if the following conditions are met.

1. The gathering takes place outside only, and
2. The participants comply with all applicable requirements in this guidance document, in County and State Health Officer Orders, and in State and County Industry Sector Guidance.

People in Social Circles are not required to strictly adhere to Social Distancing Requirements while participating in social gatherings authorized in this guidance. However, all persons in Social Circles are strongly encouraged to:

1. Maintain six-foot social/physical distancing from each other;
2. If 13 years and older, wear face coverings; and
3. Wash or sanitize hands frequently.

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Definitions

1. “Social Circle” means a Stable Group of 12 individuals that forms either a Household and Friends Support Unit or a Children’s Extracurricular Activity Unit for the purpose of engaging in support and activities typically done within households (recreational, educational, arts and crafts, etc.) Each type of Social Circle is counted separately. By way of example, a child may be part of a Children’s Extracurricular Activity Unit and Household and Friends Social Unit but may not participate in two different Children’s Extracurricular Activity Units.
2. “Stable Group of 12” means a group of not more than 12 individuals that forms a Household and Friends Support Unit or a Children’s Extracurricular Activity Unit and stays together over a four-week time period.
3. “Household and Friends Support Unit” means a Stable Group of 12 (adults and children or only adults) that is formed for the purpose of engaging in the sort of support and recreational activities that are typical of members of the same household (e.g., childcare, family recreation, etc.), regardless of whether they physically occupy the same dwelling. Each person may be part of only one Household and Friends Support Unit, and every resident of a single dwelling unit must be part of the same Household and Friends Support Unit, except that a child who resides in more than one dwelling unit as part of a court-ordered shared custody arrangement may be part of the Household Support Unit of each of the child’s custodians.
4. “Children’s Extracurricular Activity Unit” means a Stable Group of 12 (typically 10 children and 1-2 adults) that is formed for the purpose of organized recreation. Each person (adult or child) may be part of only one Children’s Extracurricular Activity Unit, but children in the same household may be part of separate, age-appropriate Extracurricular Activity Units. If more than one Children’s Extracurricular Activity Unit of children or youth is at one facility, each unit must maintain physical distance from other units and units shall not mix with each other.