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Public Health Department Urges Safe New Year Celebrations

Adhering to Expert Guidelines Will Return Us to Normal More Quickly

Forest Park, IL—The Cook County Department of Public Health strongly recommends making safe decisions as you plan your new year celebration. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the safest ways to celebrate are at home with the people who live with you, or virtually. Because travel may increase your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19, you should consider postponing travel and stay home to protect yourself and others this year.

“To ensure a healthy and safe start to 2021, the best thing you can do on New Year’s Eve is stay home and celebrate with the people who live with you,” said Israel Rocha, Jr., Cook County Health Chief Executive Officer.

This New Year’s Eve, keep unnecessary guests from your home, think about others who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, and avoid direct contact, including handshakes and hugs, and continue to:

- Wear a mask indoors and outdoors;
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you;
- Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated indoor spaces; and
- Wash your hands often.

“We are all eager to turn the page on 2020 and head toward the light at the end of the tunnel, but the truth is, if we don’t continue to follow the expert guidelines, the tunnel will only get longer,” said Dr. Kiran Joshi, Senior Medical Officer and Co-Lead, Cook County Department of Public Health. “Celebrate safely – for yourself, for your family, for your friends and for those you do not know. We’re all in this together and if we do it right, we can return to normal much more quickly.”

You should cancel your new year celebration plans if you, or someone who lives with you is sick, or has been near someone who thinks they have or has COVID-19.

For the latest COVID-19 information, visit: www.cookcountyhealth.org.

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