



Things to Consider When Planning a Wedding

The following information is provided by the Humboldt County Emergency Operations Center to supplement and clarify state COVID-19 regulations regarding wedding ceremonies in Humboldt County. For more information regarding California's response to COVID-19, please visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/>.

Gathering with those outside of your household continues to be a high-risk activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best way to celebrate safely with friends and family is to postpone until more progress has been made in containing the virus. If you plan to continue with your ceremony, follow the guidance for [Places of Worship and Cultural Ceremonies](#) and please keep these things in mind:

- Wedding receptions are not allowed by the state.
- Smaller is safer than bigger; outdoors is safer than indoors.
- Shorter events reduce exposure potential.
- All wedding ceremonies must follow state-mandated capacity limits.
 - **Minimal/Yellow tier:** May be held indoors, but with max capacity of 50%
 - **Moderate/Orange tier:** May be held indoors, but with max capacity of 50% or 200 people, whichever is fewer
 - **Substantial/Red tier:** May be held indoors, but with max capacity of 25% or 100 people, whichever is fewer
 - **Widespread/Purple tier:** Outdoors only
 - For the most updated information about the status of weddings in our county, please go to <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/> and enter "Humboldt" into the county field and press enter. Then scroll down to "Weddings" to find the relevant tier status.
- Facial coverings are required in all areas at all times, even outdoors. Give reminders about this requirement as often as necessary. Consider using signage to remind guests politely.
- Physical distancing from those outside one's household unit must be maintained at all times. Visual markers can be helpful in making physical distancing successful.

Things to consider:

- Offer a livestream or other ways to attend, and make it clear to invitees that they can participate virtually to prevent exposure to COVID-19.
- Encourage those in at-risk groups, such as those who are immune compromised, older adults and those with underlying medical conditions to attend virtually.
- Consider having a sign-in book with contact information for each attendee to enable more effective contact tracing if a guest later tests positive.
- Physical distancing may impact guests' ability to see or hear the ceremony, so livestreaming may serve guests better.
- Make a plan for wedding photographs that maintains physical distancing.
- Receptions/parties are not allowed, but if food and drinks will be provided during the ceremony, they should not be shared and should not be self-serve. Consider serving individually packaged snacks and drinks.
- Bringing guests in from higher risk areas increases the chance that someone attending will have a COVID-19 infection, even if they have no symptoms.
- Have extra facial coverings on hand for guests. Those traveling from outside the area may not be aware of local and state orders requiring masking when outside your home.

For questions, call the Humboldt County Joint Information Center at 707-441-5000 or email covidinfo@co.humboldt.ca.us.