



LAYER UP for the winter!

Just like wearing more warm layers protects you from the cold, you can layer up your COVID-19 protections.

As New Englanders, we know that to protect ourselves from winter weather, wearing a jacket helps - but adding a scarf, hat, and gloves is better. **Every added layer gives more protection**, and safer COVID-19 practices work the same way for winter gatherings!

Protect yourself and loved ones: Add layers of protection by choosing practices on the safer side of the chart below.

	SAFEST	MODERATE	RISKIEST
Vaccination	Everyone vaccinated; eligible adults boosted; children 5-11 partially or fully vaccinated	Mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people	Many or most people at the event are unvaccinated or particularly vulnerable
Attending	Household members only	Local, vaccinated guests from an area of low COVID transmission	Travel to or from an area of high or substantial COVID transmission
Location	Outdoors/open air or virtual gatherings	Indoors with doors and windows open or cracked with fan running	Indoors with no fresh air circulating
Distance	Virtual gathering or single household only	People 6 feet apart, multiple tables	No distancing
Masking	Using masks regularly indoors when not home	Using masks regularly in higher risk locations	No masks used in public indoor spaces
Testing	PCR test done 48 to 72 hours ahead of event	Rapid antigen test before event	No testing

Here's the bonus: These layers help protect against colds and flu as well!

5-11 year olds are now eligible for vaccination!

Find a location by scanning the QR code on the right, or visit <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>.

Vaccination remains the strongest protection against COVID-19. Unvaccinated people are most likely to spread and get COVID-19.

