



Interim Guidance for Black Friday Shopping (November 23, 2020)

Any scenario in which many people gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. This guidance below will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 during Black Friday.

As retailers prepare for the holiday season, it is important that customers also take the necessary precautions to shop safely and avoid crowded shopping opportunities that can arise on Black Friday. It is **strongly recommended** that individuals do not participate in any traditional Black Friday shopping where customers gather in large groups waiting for the store to open or are in crowded stores for extended times. It is also recommended that people who are at [high risk](#) for COVID-19 complications (e.g., people over 65 years of age or with underlying chronic conditions) limit in-person shopping if possible. If you have been recently diagnosed with COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been around a person with COVID-19, do not conduct in-person shopping until you complete your isolation or quarantine period.

NCDHHS encourages individuals to follow the recommended actions below and to begin shopping earlier in the season:

Before You Go Shopping:

- Check to see if the store offers online shopping or curbside pick-up that can be used instead of in-person shopping
- Check to see the store hours and consider going at off-times, so there are fewer people in the store
- Check to see if the stores offer special hours for people with high risk for severe illness
- Wear a cloth face mask and bring hand sanitizer with you to the store

When You Are Out Shopping:

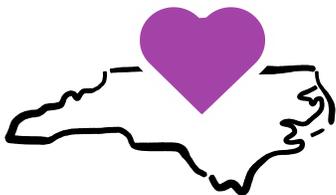
- [Follow the Three W's](#): Wear a face covering, Wait Six Feet from other people, and Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer
 - Remember that face coverings are required inside all retail establishments. Face coverings must also be worn outside if you cannot consistently maintain 6ft of distance from non-household members.

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- Remember that all retail establishments in North Carolina are required to limit customer occupancy to no more than 50% and have all employees and customers wear face masks
- Use hand sanitizer before you enter the store and after you exit. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when you return home.
- Have a list of items to buy to limit browsing and do not unnecessarily touch multiple items
- Shop only in stores that have implemented proper safety protocols. Examples include but are not limited to stores that:
 - Sanitize shopping carts between uses
 - Use touchless payment methods
 - Limit occupancy
 - Have social-distancing reminders in-place
- Avoid shopping in stores that attract crowds and make social-distancing difficult. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Stores with in-person, limited supply sales
 - Stores with in-person events such as tree lightings, Santa Claus visits, etc.
- Avoid shopping with a non-household member
 - If you do shop with a non-household member, remember that face coverings are required around them at all times indoors, including in a vehicle. Face coverings must also be worn outside if you cannot consistently maintain 6ft of distance apart from non-household members.

Additional Resources

- NC DHHS: [North Carolina COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- CDC: [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- CDC: [Reopening Guidance](#)
- EPA: [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- FDA: [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- HHS/OSHA: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)



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