KENT COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Large Gatherings and COVID-19 Exposure

October 9, 2020- Recently, the Kent County Health Department (the Health Department) has been investigating several COVID-19 exposures related to large gatherings of friends and family. This in turn has potentially affected multiple local businesses that were required to close temporarily for disinfecting procedures.

The Health Department reminds the public that the more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading. It is critical that everyone follow the common-sense guidelines of the CDC which include: maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet between you and others, wearing a mask around anyone who is not in your household, and frequently washing your hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer.

The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

Lowest risk: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.

More risk: Smaller outdoor in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

Higher risk: Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.

Highest risk: Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, attendees don't wear masks, and travel from outside the local area.

For more information on how to keep you and others safe from COVID-19, visit:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

CDC video showing community spread of COVID-19 related to gatherings
https://www.cdc.gov/video/socialmedia/316524_MMWRArticleAnimated-Low-res.wmv

The Health Department offers free COVID-19 testing Mondays and Thursdays by appointment only. Call 410-778-1350 if you have symptoms or may have been exposed.

The University of Maryland offers free COVID-19 testings Mondays and Wednesdays by appointment only. Visit UMM to register.