

# Tips for Safe Spring Celebrations

With the arrival of spring comes Easter weekend and other special festivities. TBDHU encourages everyone to celebrate safely. It is important for our mental and social well-being to enjoy these events, while also taking precautions to do so without increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19.

This general guidance document can be used to help plan low-risk activities for school and child care settings.

All planned activities must adhere to existing guidelines in place at schools and child care centres regarding physical distancing, masks/ face coverings, and other infection prevention and control measures. Activities must be monitored by a staff member who is actively ensuring public health guidelines are being followed.

**At this time, some high-risk activities that should be avoided are:**

- Large assemblies and school-wide holiday parties, as they are currently prohibited.
- Group baking activities, which are not recommended as physical distancing cannot be maintained and would involve many high-touch surfaces.

**Some low-risk activity ideas include:**

- Spring scavenger hunts, ensuring that children maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from others when participating.
- Doing outdoor activities where a minimum 2 metre distance can be maintained or masks are worn among participants.
- Creating spring or Easter poems.
- Reading spring or Easter books.
- Making individual spring or Easter crafts or cards for family members.
- Playing a game with a spring or Easter-themed twist (ensuring physical distancing).
- Inviting children to wear spring pastel coloured or themed clothing.
- Having a classroom cohort dance in the gym where everyone can physically distance.
- Watching a spring or Easter-themed video.



When planning an activity or event, ask the following questions:

1. **Will the event be indoors, outdoors, or both?**
  - Host activities outdoors as much as possible. Outdoor activities in open-air environments are safer than indoor activities.
  - Indoor events where physical distancing is possible are permissible as long as masks/face coverings are worn.
2. **Is there a potential of crowding? Consider the following:**
  - Will there be a maximum number of people for the event/activity?
  - Does this number allow for physical distancing within the space where the event/activity is being held?
3. **Can the event take place in staggered groups?**
  - Ensure planned activities/celebrations involve the current classroom cohort only.
4. **Will planned activities increase the potential for droplet spread, such as singing, cheering, or playing instruments?**
  - Do not plan activities that involve singing, cheering, or playing instruments. Minimize activities that promote close contact.
5. **Do any planned activities involve sharing of food, drinks or objects?**
  - For all activities, ensure appropriate hand hygiene is performed before and after initiation. Hand sanitizers must contain at least 60% alcohol and be accessible to all participants.
  - Avoid physical contact, including passing items like communal bins, taking group photos, etc.
  - Avoid all sharing of food, especially self-serve food or drink options such as buffets, potlucks, drink stations, etc. In school settings, encourage students to bring their own snacks/meals and drinks. Distribution of snacks among classmates is up to the discretion of the school, but is not recommended.
6. **Will participants have frequent contact with surfaces that may also be frequently touched by others?**
  - Frequently clean and disinfect any high touch surfaces. Disinfect any shared items between users.
  - Disinfect high-touch surfaces as per school board or child care centre protocol. Commonly used cleaners (which remove grease/dirt) and disinfectants (which are chemicals that kill germs) are effective against COVID-19. A list of disinfectants approved by Health Canada is available at [www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html)

