

Things to do to Get You In the Holiday Spirit.

by [NAKIYA GORHAM](#) posted on [NOVEMBER 24, 2020](#)



There's nothing that screams the holidays are approaching like finals ending, colder weather, and twinkling lights around.

Unfortunately, this year the holidays are going to be a little (a lot) different.

Currently, the pandemic is now ingrained into our everyday lives, meaning that regular things like knocking on a bunch of strangers' doors and singing carols or simply gathering together in large groups may not be possible. (At best, it's encouraged.)

However, don't fret the holidays don't need to be canceled — unless you are trying to use the virus as an excuse to get out of seeing some family members then by all means do you if that's the case.

If you're still feeling the holiday spirit, you can make this time of year just as special even while safely distanced. Here's how.

Make the most out of what you can do

Right now it seems a little too easy to pay attention to what we can't do right now. However, many elements of the holidays, are still planned to continue as planned but, will have to become COVID-19 friendly.

For Thanksgiving, you can still decorate your home and carve pumpkins. For Christmas, you can still make your famous macaroni and cheese or even start to build gingerbread houses with your little cousins. (A perfect way to use the rest of the candy from Halloween?)

You can still dust off the menorah and begin to unpack all your favorite Christmas ornaments, and start decorating the tree. And thankfully, you can still drive around your city and check out everyone else's holiday decor! (Don't forget to bring the hot apple cider and hot cocoa!)

It's important to stay positive by getting excited about all the things you are blessed that you can still do and really put your energy into.

We want to highlight that the holiday season is a rough time for a lot of people. Some people this year are missing someone dearly because of coronavirus, depression, suicide, and more. So be sure to hug your loved ones tight and make sure you spread some holiday cheer to those who may really need it.



Check out Pandemic-Holiday Events

While I can't wait for the day when this whole pandemic is over and we can go "back to normal", I'm extremely looking forward to the end of social distancing. However, I have to admit I'm impressed by the amount of creativity and effort so many people and organizations have put in, to help ease the stress of being in a pandemic and making it as fun as possible.

The holidays are no exception: Some cities (like Atlanta) have put together drive-through ["Winter Wonderlands"](#) and currently are reopening drive-in movie theaters to showcase holiday movies, among other COVID-friendly events.

Also, for those with kids who will miss the opportunity to see Santa and sit on his lap this year, check out [JingleRing](#). Their services allow you as the parent to schedule a live or prerecorded virtual call with Mr. Clause himself.

In my personal opinion even though nobody asked, I think it's definitely better than waiting in a ridiculously long line for two hours for your kid to sit on a random guy's lap anyway.

Zoom your new traditions

Now one thing I'm really grateful for during this pandemic is how normal it's becoming to virtually come together with family members and friends from all over.

Before the pandemic, it would be normal just to miss out on family and friends. However, now my friends and family will hop onto Zoom just to sing happy birthday to everyone and host weekly catchups.

Getting to "see" everyone when you can't be together in person is one aspect of the pandemic I hope we keep for years to come.

We knew once this pandemic lasted over a course of a few months we were going to have no other choice but to adapt our everyday living. Well clearly with the help of Zoom, drive-in holiday celebrations, and more we're adapting more and more each day. So maybe the traditions of gathering at your cousin's house are canceled physically but it doesn't mean you can't celebrate the holidays together virtually. Times are changing and so is the rest of the world.

Who knows maybe this year you can try [virtual family game night](#) on Christmas Eve, or [Zoom Christmas Movie Night](#) using Netflix as your streaming services, maybe your family can sing Christmas carols together, you guys could share what you're grateful for on Thanksgiving while everyone prepares their plates, or light the candles on your kinara.



Trick or Treat?

Is it just me or have you been doing a lot of cooking, trying new recipes, and eating?

Thankfully, the holidays are here because now I have a legit excuse to be fat and tryout new cheesecake, pie, and other sweet tooth recipes without feeling guilty, and you know what that means “cheat days” from the gym!

You don't have to be a Gordon Ramsey in the kitchen, you just have to find a recipe you know you would enjoy. Me personally, I highly recommend checking out this list of holiday recipes I found on [Pinterest](#). My personal favorite is definitely the spiked egg nog.

Also, if you really have a ‘burnt’ thumb in the kitchen then I highly recommend checking out looking into meal subscription services like [Hello Fresh](#), [Freshly](#), and [Daily Harvest](#). They send you your meals premeasured, instructions, and even tell you what type of wine to pair your meal with. If you find yourself busy this holiday season or just want to try new recipes to help your kitchen skills look no more.

Celebrate anything – whenever you can

It's important to have something to look forward to during these times. Everyday can start to feel pretty redundant if you don't have something new that can keep your spirits high. I know that this pandemic can be draining, and life can get stressful and equally just as boring.

When I'm bored I search for fun ideas to occupy myself and my family – and raise all our spirits – I check out this handy [list of quirky holidays](#) to inspire me.

Coming up is December 7, it's national letter-writing day. I plan on writing a letter to all my family members to wish them a happy holiday and that I'm thinking of them during this time.

However you celebrate, remember that it's OK to feel bummed about the holidays not being the same as the previous years. Life is rough right now for a lot of people but I encourage you to keep your head up. Hopefully, you and your family will make memories that can last a lifetime and spend less time wishing what this year could have been.

Who knows? Maybe you'll discover a new way of celebrating and maybe you'll find a new tradition post-virus.