



SO YOU'RE ENTERTAINING FAMILY IN DALLAS DURING THE PANDEMIC: 5 DELICIOUS AND FUN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
BY SARAH BLASKOVICH



So Grandma's coming to town. And Great Uncle Jerry. And Aunt Stephanie. (She's not technically family, but she comes to all the birthday parties.) As Dallas gradually starts to wake up after a long coronavirus slumber, you might need a plan for how to entertain out-of-towners in Dallas if you've deemed it safe for family to visit.

The first step is to set some boundaries, based on your level of comfort during the COVID-19 crisis. Plan in advance whether you're allowing your guests to stay in your home or if you'd prefer they get a hotel. And explain the rules here in Dallas County: Masks are required at indoor establishments, with a few exceptions. Read up on what doctors are saying about hanging out in bars and restaurants and getting your flu shot on time. Public health officials say spending time outdoors is safer than being indoors for long periods of time.

So pray for good weather and repeat after me: It's picnic season!

Here are 5 ideas — tested by my own family — for how to entertain guests safely during the pandemic in Dallas. I'm the food reporter, so: You'll be eating or drinking almost every step of the way.

#5 Sunday picnic with the pumpkins: The theme is picnics, remember? Finish your weekend at Autumn at the Arboretum, the annual pumpkin festival in East Dallas. It's one of the few high-traffic events the pandemic didn't cancel, though you need to reserve a time slot in advance so they can keep numbers lower. (Still: On opening weekend, there were hundreds of people on the grounds. Pick a quieter time, like a weekday morning, if that's more comfortable for your crew.) The Arboretum allows you to bring your own food and drink, and you should. We made a stop at Eatzi's on the way, loaded up on build-your-own sandwiches and salads, and enjoyed Sunday afternoon lunch behind the Camp House at the Arboretum, on the grassy hill with gorgeous views of White Rock Lake. The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas. Autumn at the Arboretum runs Sept. 19 through Nov. 1 and tickets cost \$12-\$17.