

With attached photo: Steven F. Mosher, M.D., board-certified internal medicine physician, infectious disease specialist  
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## Play It Safe When Gathering, Even After Your Vaccine

BRUNSWICK, Georgia: April 5, 2021 – Seeing family and friends face-to-face again may be one of the biggest perks of getting your COVID-19 vaccine. For starters, a few hugs likely are in order.

“The virus is still spreading,” warns Steven F. Mosher, M.D., a board-certified internal medicine physician specializing in infectious disease and member of the Southeast Georgia Health System medical staff. “Remember, you’re not fully vaccinated until it’s been at least two weeks since your second dose of a two-dose vaccine. So it’s important to gather safely.”



Mosher recommends fully vaccinated individuals follow the gathering advice offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### What can you do now?

According to the CDC, people who have been fully vaccinated can gather indoors with other people who are also fully vaccinated. And you don’t have to wear a mask or stay six feet apart.

You can also visit unvaccinated people. But you should wear masks and keep your distance if the person you visit or anyone they live with is at high risk for getting sick from COVID-19.

In other good news, CDC also says it’s OK to travel within the U.S. once you’re fully vaccinated. However, you should still wear a mask, keep six feet from others, avoid crowds and wash your hands often.

### What shouldn’t you do?

You should still take care not to mix too freely with more than one household at a time. For example, you could stop in to see your unvaccinated relatives who all live together. But if their neighbors drop by, everyone should wear masks, keep their distance and take the gathering outside.

It’s still best to avoid crowds. Medium- or large-size gatherings aren’t safe yet, even after you’ve been vaccinated.

Why isn’t a vaccine a free pass? It may be possible to get and spread the virus after you’re vaccinated, even if you don’t have symptoms. “We are still learning how well the vaccines guard against new and more infectious virus variants,” explains Mosher. “Until we know more about these things, it’s best to play it safe.”

### **ABOUT SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM**

Southeast Georgia Health System is a not-for-profit health system comprised of two acute care hospitals, two long term care facilities, three immediate care centers, five family medicine centers and numerous employed physician practices. The Health System has multiple outpatient specialty care centers, including the only CyberKnife® M6 Program in Georgia, and a Cancer Care Center accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. For more information, visit [sghs.org](http://sghs.org).