

Block Parties and COVID-19



We are living in unprecedented times and the need for neighbour connections is more important now than ever! The way we build connections may look different for the foreseeable future, but this allows us to become more creative in our thinking, and look at different ways to plan block parties. Until we are able to share food without risk of transmission, BBQs, traditional potlucks and other communal food activities are not possible. However, we know that sharing a meal is a great way to bring people together and there are other creative ways to do this while staying safe:

Out with the Old and In With the New Block Party Ideas:

- 1) Host a virtual murder mystery party! You can find several different scenarios and characters at <https://www.nightofmystery.com/> and use zoom, Webex or any other virtual meeting platform to start sleuthing!
- 2) Host a virtual Karaoke Night: <https://www.karafun.com/>
- 3) Start a block wide scavenger hunt! Put together a list of 10-20 challenges or ask your neighbours to post photos of themselves as they complete each task. You can use your Block Party Registration Gift Card from the City to purchase small prizes for the winners.
- 4) Organize a Chalk your Block party. Purchase chalk for all your neighbour with your Block Party Registration Gift Card.
- 5) Arrange a Block Parade - have kids show off their skills of bike riding, skateboarding or skipping, etc.
- 6) Host Driveway Dinner party - Invite your neighbours to set up a picnic on their front lawn or driveway and eat meals outside with other families on their street.
- 7) Host a pot luck but have neighbours bring their own food and share conversation rather than meals, while practicing physical distancing. To add a fun element, ask neighbours to share their favourite recipe with the block, or challenge each person to try a new recipe!

Now is the perfect time to get creative! Organize one of the fun events listed above and register it as a 'Block Party' <https://www.leduc.ca/organize-block-party/block-party-registration-form>. Once registered you will receive a \$50 gift card to Walmart to purchase the supplies you may need. We can also provide you with door hangers to let neighbours know what you have planned.

IN PERSON NEIGHBOURHOOD EVENTS

If your neighbourhood would like to host an in-person event there are several public health guidelines that need to be followed to ensure the health and safety of your neighbours. As the person organizing the event, you will be ultimately responsible for ensuring that the public health orders issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) are followed at all times. FCSS and the City of Leduc have developed the following guidelines to help ensure the health and safety of residents during any neighbourhood events.

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GENERAL GUIDELINES

1) Stay home if you're feeling ill or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, such as:

- Fever*
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)*
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)*
- Runny nose*
- Sore throat*
- Stuffy nose
- Painful swallowing
- Headache
- Chills
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell in general, or new fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)

Public Health Orders in effect at the time of publication stipulate individuals having a fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat are legally required to isolate for 10 days from the onset of those symptoms, or until the symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. Persons with any of the other listed symptoms should stay home and minimize their contact with others until their symptoms resolve

- 2) Keep 2m physical distance when door knocking or interacting with people outside of your household. The City of Leduc can also provide you with 'door hangers' to leave on your neighbours door knob with event details – call FCSS to access hangers 780-980-7109.
- 3) Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol based rubs containing at least 60% alcohol, and avoid touching your face.
- 4) Always cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow.
- 5) Wear a mask if unable to keep 2m distance, although it is good practice to wear a mask whenever you are interacting with neighbours.

EVENT SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

- 1) When you register your block party the Social Development Coordinator will provide you with printable signage that includes the general guidelines listed above and door hangers to announce your event to your neighbours.
- 2) Make hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol available and practice enhanced cleaning and disinfection of common, high touch surfaces such as tables or chairs. Ask neighbours to bring their own chairs to the block party. *When you register your block party you will receive a gift card to help with expenses. You may use these funds to purchase PPE and sanitizing supplies.*

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- 3) Outdoor events must limit the number of people to the current guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) at the time of the event.
 - 2m separation must be maintained between people unless they are from the same household or cohort family.
 - If the physical space doesn't allow for 2m separation, the number of attendees must be reduced to comply.
- 4) Start small and invite only the people on your block in order to limit the number of people in attendance.
- 5) Games with shared balls, Frisbees, etc. are still not recommended unless participants are from the same household or existing cohort family. If you would like to do something more active for your event, get in touch with your neighbours to see if anyone on your block has special skills they would be willing to share. For example, if one of your neighbours is a yoga instructor, perhaps they would be willing to host a yoga class in a local park or front yard. Just be sure to maintain 2-meter distance between mats!

Remember to have fun! The overall goal of a block party is to build relationships and enjoy some time together. We can still do this – even though things may look a little different.