



## Health Officer

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[elkhartcountyhealth.org](http://elkhartcountyhealth.org)

Elkhart County Health Department

June 19, 2020

A special event is upon us—Father's Day! It is coupled with the official beginning of summer, and many of us are looking forward to grilling out, relaxing, and entertaining our families and neighbors.

Unfortunately, this year Father's Day is happening during a spike in the number of positive cases in Elkhart County, which means we cannot afford to entertain the same way we have in the past. If you're used to having a big crowd, the guest list may need to be smaller this year. You should consider the health status of the father you wish to honor, and be protective of those dads who have chronic medical conditions or are at higher risk of severe infection. You might want to be sure to entertain outdoors as much as you can while being mindful of the effects of excess heat and the sun on elders.

You may not be at the ballpark with Dad, but you can have fun in other ways. Playing games outside, reading a favorite book together, or working on a project together can show your special dad how much you care and value him, without exposing him (or you) to coronavirus. Gifts this year can include not just the traditional shirt, but also a sweater with a matching mask!

However, the best thing you can do for Dad is to keep him, your family, and yourself safe. Wherever you are and whatever you do to honor your father, please remember we are a hot spot of the pandemic. Protect those you love by using social distancing, wearing a mask, covering coughs/sneezes, washing your hands, and staying home if you are sick. Please do not put the lives of the people you love in jeopardy by ignoring this virus or downplaying its potential to kill. You will see that Elkhart County continues to have high rates of positive cases, hospitalizations, and a rising death count if you check the website at [coronavirus.in.gov](http://coronavirus.in.gov).

As we go into summer, honor your father, show him you value, and respect him by doing your part to keep everyone safe.

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Elkhart County Health Officer

*Improving the Lives, Health and Environment of our Community*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.