

Decorations, Costumes, and Celebrations

Information Sheet

Best practice recommendations

Decorations

- Follow Fire & Life Safety recommendations for all decorations. Guidance information is available on Insite for all AHS facilities. See [AHS Fire Safety Memo - Decorating in AHS Facilities](#).
- Should be stored in a wipeable container. It should be cleaned before bringing it into a patient care area.
- Should be cleanable, **not** damaged or visibly soiled.
- Should be handled by healthcare providers or others (e.g., volunteers) under healthcare provider supervision
- When decorations are attached to windows or walls, make sure the paint or other finishes are not damaged when they are taken down.
- Decorations should be low or no-touch and should not interfere with regular cleaning, access to personal protective equipment (PPE) or hand hygiene.
- Do not decorate workstations on wheels or other mobile electronic devices.
- If there are questions about the appropriateness of the chosen decorations, refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix for Artworks (Appendix E) in the [Infection Prevention and Control Healthcare Facility Design Requirements](#).

Costumes

- Costumes and footwear must be clean and launderable.
- Costumes must not interfere with hand hygiene or use of PPE.
- Hairpieces, wigs, hats or other costume elements must not have contact with patients when performing tasks including (but not limited to) bending, transferring and assisting with meals.

Celebrations

1. Workplace or staff celebrations

Celebrations involving food and/or beverages should occur in non-clinical areas only, i.e., no possible contact with patients.

2. Patient, family and visitor celebrations

- Ensure all children and accompanying adults are asymptomatic prior to entry to the facility.
- Children and accompanying adults must perform hand hygiene at the facility entrance.
- Follow [Enhanced Masking](#) when implemented.

- Patients on additional precautions cannot participate in the celebration. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Consult with site Infection Prevention and Control.

Additional resources

[Healthy Potlucks: Tips for Hosting](#)

[Bringing Food For Family \(for residents in a healthcare facility\)](#)

[Bringing Food to Family - Pocketcard](#)

[Bringing Food from Home - Information for Patients, Visitors, & Families](#)

Version History

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V10	2025-05-21	Major change. Document updated to remove pandemic-specific information. Additional resource section added.



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