



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

Returning to In-Person Chapter Meetings

Guidance for Together Women Rise Chapter Leaders

As vaccination rates continue to rise across the U.S. and warmer weather has arrived, many Together Women Rise chapters are considering the possibility of holding in-person meetings again. While this decision must be made by each chapter and each individual, based on local and personal situations, we recommend the following:

1. **Be aware of the current situation in your local community.** We strongly recommend that you rely on [information from the CDC](#) and your local public health authorities, and that you follow whatever guidance they are providing to your specific community. Keep up-to-date on local conditions, which may change over time.
2. **Meet outdoors.** If your chapter wants to meet in person again, we strongly recommend that you meet outdoors. The CDC states that outdoor activities are generally less risky than indoor activities. Consider a backyard gathering or a picnic in the park.
3. **Consult with your chapter members.** Reach out to your chapter members and discuss their level of comfort with meeting in person.
4. **Respect the individual needs and privacy of each member.** Each member's situation is unique and should be considered when deciding how you will meet. In addition, please respect the health privacy of your members by not asking them to share personal health information (including vaccine status).
5. **Follow CDC safety guidelines, which include:**
 - Ask members to stay at home if they are feeling ill or if someone in their household is ill.
 - Maintain social distancing – individuals from different households should remain spaced at least 6 feet apart.
 - Wear face masks.
 - Eliminate food at your meetings or serve food in pre-packaged boxes with disposable utensils to eliminate the need for shared items or congregating around serving tables.
 - Ensure that hand washing facilities are available and/or make hand sanitizer available.
 - Use alternate forms of greeting besides handshakes and hugs. Be creative about the new and different ways you can greet each other while minimizing any risk!
6. **Meet virtually for maximum safety.** If in doubt, virtual meetings continue to offer the lowest risk to you and your members. Your Regional Leaders and Mentors are available to help you set up and conduct a virtual meeting – it's a great way to connect even if you aren't tech savvy!
7. **Encourage members to support Together Women Rise!** Remind your members that our important work continues, and COVID has had disastrous impacts on women and girls around the world. Even if your chapter is not meeting, we need everyone to donate! Automatic recurring donations as an easy way for your members to continue their support.