



Must Have Etiquette for your COVID Holiday

Although you may not be traveling over the river and through the woods to spend the holidays with your family and friends, you are most likely still planning a festive meal for your home-based peeps.

Here is a quick reminder of those *pesky little etiquette* rules that you should follow at your holiday gathering. Even if it is an informal gathering at home with the same loved ones you have been stuck with since March.

1. *Offer to help* cook, set the table, serve, clean up. Better yet, if you know where everything is, jump in without being asked!
2. *No electronics* at the table. Unless you plan on staging a Zoom meal then don't even bring it to the table. The buzz, ding, the ring is distracting and rude.
3. Try not to overindulge in alcohol.
4. *Compliment* the cook and be sure to say please and thank you!
5. Place the napkin on your lap. The forks & knives are there for a reason. Do not expect the menu to cater to your liking. Try to find something you like and choke it down; an aversion is not the same as an allergy.
6. Participate in the conversation. Yes, you have quarantined with these people for months, but try to bring a light-hearted topic to the table. No politics, no religion, *no controversial topics*.
7. Do not be rude! Instigating and participating in rude banter produces an uncomfortable atmosphere for everyone.
8. Maybe NOT wear your pajamas...I know, I know, but this is your holiday dinner, not Walmart!
9. Savor the flavor.
Take your time and allow yourself to indulge your senses into the bounty before you.
The aromas, the flavors! I mean, really – YUM!



Just as a side note – you really should use these simple etiquette rules all year long not just for the holidays. Bring the best of you to all your meals.