

Virtual Holidays with Family & Friends

At York International, we acknowledge that the holidays mean different traditions for different people, however one thing that is consistent with all people is spending time with friends and family! To safely do that this year, meeting up virtually is the best way. But don't despair, we can still make the most with what we have and stay safe while having fun. Here are some of my tips on how you can safely enjoy the holidays with your friends and family!

First off, you can still enjoy a holiday feast! If you are in Toronto and surrounding areas, you can support local businesses through ordering your favourite food and go pick it up or have it delivered! If you are connecting with your friends around the world, you can enjoy your favourite food with them using Google Meet, FaceTime, WhatsApp or even Zoom on a virtual table. If you're into baking, you and your friends can also set up Zoom cookie-making or decorating parties with family and friends. If you are within driving distance, mask up and distribute the tasty treats you made.

For the competitive folks out there; you know yourselves 😊, you can also plan a games night, where you can play some of your favourite games. Here are some suggestions.



I know that you've heard about this one so download it for free on your phones and play with up to 10 people. The goal is to finish your tasks before the imposter kills you and to figure out who the imposter is.



Uno is a classic game you can play on your phone with your friends! The first person that runs out of virtual cards wins!



Host a Jeopardy-style quiz game over Zoom where the questions are all comprised of inside jokes or family traditions.



If all else fails, you can also put together a secret Santa! It's the season of giving so you and your friends can use "[elfster](#)". This website allows you and your friends to put in your wish lists and set your budgets. After you do this, the website will assign you and your friends to each other and you can buy gifts for each other!

This is great because you can deliver gifts to each other or mail them and open them on a video call together! If you are on a tight budget, you can also send each other holiday cards and letter to personalize your holidays. By doing this, you can still feel connected to your friends and family, while giving the extra warm wishes this (and every) season. We could all use a gift right now, don't you think?!

As you can see, there are a lot of things you can do online with your friends and family. The holidays mark a time for you to spend some quality time with those you are close to and this year you will need to get creative. My final suggestion to you is to make the most out of this time through personalizing your holidays based on what you find meaningful. Some questions you can ask yourself are: What do you like to do? Who do you want to spend time with? Make the holidays yours and have fun! You do not need to plan elaborate activities to have fun. This way, maybe, you may even start a few new traditions to add to celebrations in the years ahead.

Whatever you choose to do, I'm wishing you happy holidays and a happy new year!

Manvir, YI Engagement Coordinator.