

Dearly beloved,

If you are reading this letter, you either have or will soon be receiving an invitation to our wedding on October 4th, 2020. We're writing to explain that, yes, our wedding is still on, but we have a few things we want you to know, and a few awkward requests to make of you before you give us an official RSVP.

There is no denying the realities of COVID-19 have thrown a wrench into the functions of the world, and our wedding plans have not been immune from that. Our original guest list was 180 people. We pared that down to an invited list of 50 last month. We are now working toward a total head count under 30.

If you are out-of-state, we strongly urge you not to travel. If you have already booked a flight, great! We look forward to seeing you there. If you have not, we highly suggest you join us via livestream from the safety of your home. We know this isn't the same as being there, but we want to include you in the safest possible way, and that means the less traveling, the better. We will send information for joining the livestream in a separate invitation soon.

If you are local, but were on the fence about attending anyway, please feel very welcome to decline our invitation. We love you, we will miss you, and we will gladly accept your decline as a gift to our family members who are traveling long distances, or who are at increased risk. We will gladly send you an invitation to join us in the livestream as well.

Most awkward of all, if your spouse or partner was included in the invitation, but we don't have a close relationship with them individually, we ask that you consider attending solo. We would love to have a socially-distant double-date soon, and were our circumstances different we would be so happy to have them with us. But the numbers are the ruling force, and we need to hold space for our immediate original and chosen families. We so deeply appreciate your grace and understanding in this weird and unprecedented time.

If you are planning on attending, know that the Van Dusen Mansion is an indoor/outdoor venue, and social distancing guidelines will be enforced throughout the ceremony and reception. You will also receive a temperature check and short health screen upon your arrival. Both venue and catering staff will be sanitizing all surfaces every 30 minutes. Your invitation says that we will not require masking, however, we now ask that you wear a mask whenever possible, and especially when indoors. We are also hoping to enforce a limit on how many people are inside of a building at a time, pending weather restrictions.

Additionally, we have fully eliminated the dinner and dancing components of our wedding. Both a seated dinner and a sweaty dance floor feel like too large of risks to take during a global health crisis. Our wedding day will now consist solely of a ceremony and an extended cocktail hour reception. Butler passed hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be hosted by us, and we will depart the venue by 9pm.

What is most important to us is that we are getting married on October 4th, 2020, and whoever feels safe to do so is there to bear witness and share blessings with us. We will do what we can to make it as safe as possible for everyone in attendance, and to ensure those who join us from afar have a chance to feel included in the day. Please submit your RSVP on our website (link below) as soon as possible. If your RSVP is no, we will send you a new invitation with information for joining our livestream, accessing our virtual guest book, and viewing our registries. If your RSVP is yes, we will see you on October 4th.

All our love