

A Guide for Brides Who Want to Plan a Virtual Wedding or A Wedding Broadcast

The current pandemic might be changing life as we know it but this doesn't mean you can't still get married to the love of your life. Thanks to technology and a little creativity, you can still celebrate your union with the people you love.

A virtual wedding might not be the wedding you were hoping for, but if you don't want to postpone your big day, it's a great option to have, especially if you have family or friends who will be unable to attend your wedding.

A 5-Step Guide to Planning a Virtual Wedding in 2020

Feel free to reach out to your photographer and videographer teams when planning a virtual stream of your wedding. They will help you set up so that not only does your family get a great view, but your photographers can as well!

1. Decide on a Platform

There are a few platforms to choose from if you want to stream your wedding but Zoom and Facebook Live are two of the most popular and reliable options. Zoom charges a small monthly fee but allows you to host up to 100 attendees at a time. The cloud recording feature will even allow you to capture the moment. If you use Facebook Live, simply create a private group that people can join if they want to be a part of your day. Ask a friend or family member to capture screenshots throughout the ceremony and celebrations so that you can add photos of your wedding guests to your album. You can still do your speeches as planned, but everyone will need to enjoy them from home. Check your regulations based on where your wedding will take place to see if you may be able to have a photographer on-site to take photos of you and your partner during and after your ceremony.

2. Hire the Right Gear

If you want to plan virtual wedding coverage, you're going to need the right gear. A laptop or tablet with a good camera or a phone and a tripod are what you will need to stream your wedding. Whatever setup you have in mind, be sure to test it before the big day. Test the wifi from your location and have a backup (such as someone's phone hotspot etc).

3. Let Your Vendors Know

While you won't need all the usual vendors, you can still coordinate with a select few – your photographer being the most important. Your photographer can still be at your wedding while adhering to social distancing requirements. You can also still arrange a fancy meal, champagne and a wedding cake for you and your partner to enjoy on the day – all these items can be delivered. Lastly, you also want to make the necessary arrangement with your officiant, who will need to mail in the signed marriage license. Make sure that you're compliant with local marriage laws.

4. Let Your Guests Know

If you still love the idea of wedding invites, send out virtual invites. There are a number of websites that allow you to create digital wedding invites that can be emailed to your guests. Just remember to include the link to your Zoom or Facebook group. You may also want to add in some extra information such as how guests can mute their videos during the ceremony. If you will be capturing screenshots, let your

guests know so that they can dress accordingly. If you want to send off a few small gifts to guests, get them to RSVP as they usually would.

5. Prepare for Your Big Day

Even though you're having a virtual wedding, you still need to be prepared. Along with testing your equipment, make sure that you have an appropriate backdrop. You will also want to check times and delivery dates with your vendors to make sure all is in order. Next, discuss the order of the ceremony and day with your partner and photographer. Do you still want to walk down the aisle? If so, make sure these sorts of details are in place. Lastly, prepare your wedding outfits, hair and makeup. You may also want to arrange for a private call between you and your wedding party as you get ready so that they can still be a prominent and special part of your day.

You're all set! Now that you're ready to say those I Dos, don't forget to hit record and enjoy every second of your special day together. Remember, there will be plenty of time to celebrate in person with those you love once this is all done.

A Few Other Thoughts

This guide can be used as a supplement to a intimate wedding at your current venue if your guest list is reduced for whatever reason but you still want your friends and family to be able to dial in.