

The Courtesy Cure: 7 Tips for Rebooting Our Etiquette During and Post-Pandemic

As presented by [Mister Manners](#), Thomas P. Farley, to MPIGNY on September 23, 2021



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CHAPTER**

TIP 1: MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Shaking hands is going to feel awkward for some; downright uncomfortable for others. To know what's appropriate, take your lead from the other party. The good news is, regardless of how you feel about greetings, from the fist bump to the bow, the hand-over-heart to the elbow bump, we have more ways to say hello than ever before.

TIP 2: GO BIG ON SMALL TALK

No longer just for breaking the ice, **small talk** plays a role in easing anxiety. We're all getting our sea legs back when it comes to in-person mixing and mingling. While we navigate that reality, small talk is far from irrelevant—it's vital. Be prepared with some interesting conversational tidbits when chatter at an event goes stale. And focus on the fun—not the foreboding.

RECOMMENDED: Gather quick, interesting stories by signing up for the newsletters of getpocket.com and mentalfloss.com

TIP 3: CHANNEL YOUR INNER TALK-SHOW HOST

Virtual is here to stay, and whether we realize it or not, we have all become talk-show hosts. **Present the best version of yourself** every time you are on camera by ensuring your lighting, background and wardrobe are on-point. Make a great impression on-camera and off.

RECOMMENDED: Pick up tips for your home presentations from [@ratemyskyperoom](#) on Twitter, which ranks TV correspondents and commentators on their video environs as they report virtually.

TIP 4: DRESS THE PART

Athleisure may be comfy, but when we start venturing to events again, be sure to bring your sartorial A-game. Think of attending an industry function as though you were going to a class reunion, seeing people you have not seen in a long time. How will you dress to impress? Choose wardrobe items that are on-brand for you, demonstrating that you take yourself and others seriously.

TIP 5: AVOID AWKWARD

The advice our grandparents lived by: "steer clear of sex, politics and religion" in polite conversation has a new topic we can add to the list: "**masking and vaccinations.**" Much as you may feel certain of someone's opinions on these matters, you could be surprised. Stay away from these topics except in a surface way (e.g. when discussing event logistics), keeping your opinions close to the vest.

TIP 6: THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE

Restaurants are still understaffed; hotels are still short on linens and housekeeping. **Remember the service staff** who are giving it their all despite less-than-ideal situations. Tip generously, and thank them, letting them know they are not taken for granted.

TIP 7: PRACTICE PPE

Even before there were vaccine options, one of our best ways of battling back COVID-19 was through PPE: **Professionalism, Patience & Empathy.** Practice it every chance you get.