



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
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SCCC

19 November 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SOUTHCOM HEADQUARTERS AND SUBORDINATE UNITS

SUBJECT: Holiday Season Guidance to Minimize Spread of COVID-19

1. References:

- (a) Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, subject: "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 12), Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," dated August 6, 2020.
- (b) Command Guidance for HQ USSOUTHCOM Staff Regarding Force Health Protection and Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) Workplace Protocols

2. Purpose: This memorandum provides guidance to help protect individuals within our Department of Defense community from COVID-19 for gatherings and activities during the November to January holiday season. It supplements existing DoD, USSOUTHCOM, and U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Force Health Protection guidance as well as other state and local health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

3. As a Command, we will continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) prevention guidelines. When deciding whether to host or attend a holiday celebration or gathering, individuals should follow CDC recommendations to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season. This guidance is found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>. Other relevant CDC recommendations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Gatherings can contribute to the spread of other infectious diseases, thus getting an influenza vaccination is an essential part of protecting your health and family.
- b. Avoid traveling or attending gatherings if: recently diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not completed required restriction of movement; have symptoms of COVID-19; are awaiting test results; may have been exposed to someone who has contracted COVID-19 within the last 14 days; or are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- c. During travel and gatherings, wear a face covering, avoid close contact, wash your hands, avoid contact with sick individuals, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

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d. Limit the duration and the number of people at gatherings as much as possible.

e. Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities. If you attend an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, and fully enclosed indoor spaces. Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that it is safe and feasible based on the weather.

f. Check with the event host, organizer, or event venue for updated information about any COVID-19 safety guidelines that will be in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

4. When deciding whether to travel, individuals should also follow DoD and CDC recommendations. CDC guidance is found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>. Current DoD travel guidelines remain in effect and are provided in reference a. This DoD and additional USSOUTHCOM guidance on COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.southcom.mil/coronavirus/>.

4. When returning from holiday leave, or after gatherings with friends and family, continue to self-monitor for symptoms of illness. If you're not feeling well, contact your supervisor, stay home (or seek medical advice/care depending on the severity of your symptoms), and follow SOUTHCOM Force Health Protection policy (ref b). We're counting on you to keep yourself healthy—and to keep your colleagues safe and healthy too. Please practice responsible, disciplined force health protection measures on- and off-duty.

5. The point of contact for this memorandum is Col Susan O. Moran, SC-Command Surgeon, (305) 437-1327, susan.o.moran.mil@mail.mil.

Be Safe!


CRAIG S. FALLER
Admiral, USN
Commander