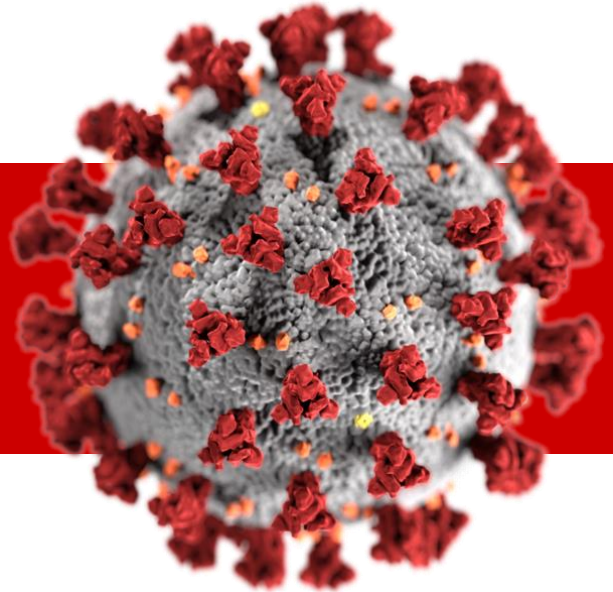


**COVID-19  
Pandemic Plan**



**Employee Vacation  
Travel Guidance**

June 17, 2020



**TEXAS CHEMICAL COUNCIL**

East Harris County } *Making Good.*  
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Members:

With summer upon us, many industry employees are planning family vacations which may include travel to a variety of destinations. While in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that employees and their families take added precautions when planning vacation travel.

This document is designed to provide guidance for travelers using public transportation to travel destinations, staying at hotels or vacation rentals, eating at restaurants, and visiting tourist attractions, theme parks, recreational facilities and other public places.

We hope that this guidance will be useful to industry employees and their families to stay safe and healthy while on their family vacations and ensure their safe return to work.

Sincerely,

Hector L. Rivero  
President & CEO  
TCC

Dennis Winkler  
Executive Director  
EHCMA

## **General Guidance**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following guidance to avoid being exposed to the coronavirus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, after touching surfaces frequently touched by others, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, and before touching your face or eating.
  - If soap and water are not available, bring and use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub your hands together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with others.
  - Keep 6 feet of physical distance between yourself and others.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public.
  - Because COVID-19 is spreading in the United States and abroad, CDC recommends that everyone wear a [cloth face covering](#) over their nose and mouth when in public, including during travel. Wear a cloth face covering, keep at least 6 feet of physical distance from others, and practice [other everyday preventive actions](#) to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Cloth face coverings may slow the spread of COVID-19 by helping keep people who are infected from spreading the virus to others. Medical masks and N-95 respirators are for healthcare workers and other first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze using a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Monitor your health
  - Be alert for symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19)
  - Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
  - Follow CDC Guidelines if symptoms develop.
- Pick up food at drive-throughs, curbside restaurant service, or stores.
- Make sure you are up to date with your routine vaccinations, including measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and the seasonal flu vaccine.

## **Domestic Travel**

The CDC recommends the following guidance for all domestic travel:

- Air travel: Air travel requires spending time in security lines and airport terminals, which can bring you in close contact with other people and frequently touched surfaces. Most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on flights because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes. However, social distancing is difficult on crowded flights, and you may have to sit near others (within 6 feet), sometimes for hours. This may increase your risk for exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Bus or train travel: Traveling on buses and trains for any length of time can involve sitting or standing within 6 feet of others.
- Car travel: Making stops along the way for gas, food, or bathroom breaks can put you and your traveling companions in close contact with other people and surfaces.
- RV travel: You may have to stop less often for food or bathroom breaks, but RV travel typically means staying at RV parks overnight and getting gas and supplies at other public places. These stops may put you and those with you in the RV in close contact with others.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>

## **International Travel**

The CDC recommends the following guidance for international travel:

- If you are traveling abroad, CDC recommends that you [avoid all nonessential international travel](#).
- Before your next international trip, visit CDC's destination pages to get health advice and see if there are any travel notices or alerts for your destination.
- There is widespread, ongoing transmission of novel coronavirus worldwide (see [Global COVID-19 Pandemic Notice](#)). If you have traveled internationally in the past 14 days, stay home and monitor your health.
- During this 14-day period, take these steps to monitor your health and practice social distancing:
  - Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also watch for cough or trouble breathing. [Use this temperature log to monitor your temperature](#).
  - Stay home and avoid contact with others. Do not go to work or school.
  - Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.
  - Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet or 2 meters).

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

## **Cruise Ships**

The CDC recommends that all people defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide. That's because the risk of COVID-19 on cruise ships is high. Older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease, should especially defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, because of their increased risk for severe disease.

- Passengers who return from a cruise ship or river cruise voyage are advised to stay home for 14 days, monitor their health, and practice social distancing.
- CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for cruise ship travel.

## **Hotels / Vacation Rentals**

The CDC recommends the following guidance for stays at hotels and vacation rentals:

- Hotels and vacation rentals and the hospitality industry is by its very nature, transient—it involves different people that have been exposed to different populations that have taken varying degrees of precaution to limit exposure to COVID-19. As a result, the touch points for exposure are exponential. Therefore, facility cleanliness and disinfection practices are of utmost importance. The CDC has provided [guidance for cleaning and disinfecting a facility](#).
- The American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA) has adopted [Safe Stay](#), an industry-wide, enhanced standard developed by [industry leaders](#) and public health officials in response to COVID-19. The initiative represents health and safety protocols designed to prepare America's hotels to safely welcome back guests and employees as the economy reopens. The initiative has an advisory council that comprises of a number of major industry leaders as follows:
  - Accor
  - AAHOA
  - Aimbridge Hospitality
  - Best Western Hotels & Resorts
  - Choice Hotels International
  - Davidson Hotels & Resorts
  - Disney Parks, Experiences and Products
  - G6 Hospitality LLC
  - Hersha Hospitality Trust
  - Hilton
  - Host Hotels
  - Hyatt Hotels Corporation
  - InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)
  - Loews Hotels & Co.
  - Marriott International
  - My Place Hotels
  - Noble Investment Group

- Omni Hotels & Resorts
  - Pebblebrook Hotel Trust
  - Radisson Hotel Group
  - Red Lion Hotels Corporation
  - Red Roof
  - Remington Hotels
  - Vision Hospitality Group
  - Walt Disney Parks and Resorts
  - Wyndham Hotels & Resorts
- When traveling and deciding where to stay it would be prudent to consider staying at a property owned by one of the industry leaders listed above as it is likely that the property has adopted the Safe Stay initiative protocols to reduce exposure to COVID-19.
  - Consider staying at a VRBO or AirBNB property or similar. This greatly limits exposure to others as compared to a traditional hotel property with housekeeping attendants, lobby staff, etc.
    - Many properties are including a buffer day or two before you arrive.
    - Also consider adding extra time to your rental and simply arrive 24-48 hours after your scheduled arrival
  - Other considerations
    - Bring cleaning supplies with you. When you get to your room, disinfect all high-touch surfaces, such as light switches, sink faucet handles, door knobs and the remote control. Wash plates, cups or silverware (other than pre-wrapped plastic) before using.
    - Adhere to social distancing practices
    - Avoid using elevators
    - Room service may be safer than the restaurant

## **Campsites / Parks and Recreational Facilities / Public Places**

The CDC recommends the following guidance for visiting and/or camping at public parks and recreational facilities:

- Visiting parks, campsites, trails and open spaces is one of the best ways to stay physically active, relieve stress and safely, connect with others. Below are guidelines for “DO’s” and “DONT’s” when considering visiting campsites, parks and recreational facilities. Additional information from can be found [here](#).
  - DO
    - Visit parks that are close to your home
    - Prepare before you visit
    - Stay at least 6 feet away from others (“social distancing”) and take other steps to prevent COVID-19
    - Play it safe around and in swimming pools. Keep space between yourself and others

- DON'T
  - Visit parks if you are sick or were recently exposed to COVID-19
  - Visit crowded parks
  - Use playgrounds
  - Participate in organized activities or sports
- When considering going camping, camp by reservation only, consider only camping with members of your household in your local region, do not invite visitors to your campsite, use personal equipment and avoid using rented or “loaned” equipment, and ensure that campsites are more than 6 feet apart (<https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/campgrounds>).
- Other considerations
  - Avoid public restrooms and picnic areas at campsites
  - Going camping at a time when much of the United States is experiencing community spread of COVID-19 can pose a risk to you if you come in close contact with others or share public facilities (like restrooms or picnic areas) at campsites or along the trails. Exposure may be especially unsafe if you are more likely to get very ill from COVID-19 and are planning to be in remote areas, without easy access to medical care. Also be aware that many local, state, and national public parks have been temporarily closed due to COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>).

## **Tourist Attractions / Tourist Destinations**

Consider the following when visiting tourist attractions and destinations:

- Adhere to social distancing practices
- Bring hand sanitizer
- Ensure there are temperature checks upon arrival
- Wear a face covering

## **Restaurants**

The Mayo Clinic recommends the following guidance for eating at restaurants:

- Before you eat at a restaurant, check the restaurant's safety practices. Here are some [considerations](#):
  - Are the employees wearing cloth face coverings, regularly disinfecting high-touch surfaces and practicing social distancing?
  - Is there good ventilation?
  - Are tables set far enough apart from each other to allow for social distancing?
  - Is the menu digital or disposable?
- Avoid salad bars and buffets

## **Bathrooms**

The CDC recommends the following guidance for using public restrooms.

- Avoid public restrooms if possible
- Practice good hygiene
- Wash hands thoroughly using soap for 20 seconds under warm water
- Avoid using the hot-air dryer and instead opt for paper towels to dry hands
- Use a fresh paper towel to open the restroom door and promptly throw away in the nearest trash receptacle