

Security Spot Light

An Informational Guide for Security Clients

Safer Holiday Errands

Many people spend more time on the roads and in stores during the holidays. Weather, the time of year, and normal driving risk factors result in an increase in accidents in these months. Drivers may be distracted while trying to take a call or find a parking spot. Stressed or rushed drivers are also dangerous drivers and might display aggressive driving behaviors such as following too closely.

Many stores allow you to order ahead and either go into the store to pick up your purchases or have them brought to your car. Services like this all minimize your need to deal with traffic and close contact with possible crowds or lines at the store.

If you do need to drive to run errands or go to the store, give yourself extra time in inclement weather and be sure to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing while in the store. Keep hand sanitizer in the car so you can clean your hands when you leave the store.

**Safeguarding American Assets
at Home & Abroad**



Tips for a Safer Holiday Season

In addition to signaling the end of the year, fall and winter are accompanied by a host of holidays. 2020 is no different, but because the global pandemic continues to pose a public health threat, social gatherings and the hustle and bustle of the shopping season should be managed with additional caution.

There are many steps that can be taken to help increase personal safety and the safety of others in the community. The goal is to be able to celebrate and participate in traditions and festivities fully while being mindful of the need for vigilance. Throughout the holidays, assess current COVID-19 levels in your community and be aware of any state or local guidance or restrictions that might impact your plans.

Safety at Work

Work locations vary, but some common practical guidelines can be employed to ensure the safety of all. Follow your company's rules for coming into the office, if allowed, and any pre-screening or face mask requirements. If decorating common areas, be careful not to obstruct or obscure fire extinguishers, fire alarms, emergency signs, or exits, as it can create unnecessary risk for building occupants and visitors. Minimizing decorations will also make it easier to properly clean and sanitize.

Holiday office gatherings have traditionally been held in the closing months of the year. This year, virtual gatherings are considered safest, but if hosting an in-person event,

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Home for the Holidays
End of the year holidays are a time for families to gather. For some, this means travel. Consider keeping family get-togethers small and local and make time to visit with out-of-town relatives via video calls.

Holidays can be stressful and maintaining traditions such as decorating and preparing special meals can help reduce that stress. Ensure that electric decorations are UL-listed and check that cords are not damaged before using. Practice frequent hand washing, especially when preparing food. Keep foods at a safe temperature and put away leftovers immediately to help reduce the risk of food-borne illness.

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that planning should include steps to minimize transmission. In addition to current levels of community spread things to consider in your planning include the following:

- **Group size**—the larger the gathering, the greater the risk. Make note of attendees so that notifications can be made if someone does become sick soon after the event.
- **Location**—indoor events are generally riskier than outdoor ones and can make it more difficult to observe social distancing.
- **Duration**—longer events increase the likelihood of people coming into close contact and increases risk.
- **Commute**—transmission rates vary by community and some guests may come from areas where infection is more prevalent, increasing the risk to all.

Keep in mind that although the celebration is in a social setting, it is still a company event. Be sure that you and those around you follow company rules and policies. Face coverings should only be removed to eat or drink. Limiting alcohol consumption can also minimize or eliminate unsafe conditions and help prevent embarrassing situations that could reflect negatively on you and possibly lead to termination. Although it is a celebratory occasion,

minimize gestures that promote close contact, such as hugging or shaking hands.

Slow Down, Enjoy the Holidays

Tis the season for family, friends and traditions. With planning and some modifications, the holidays can be as enjoyable as ever. Demonstrating patience and tolerance can help reduce seasonal stress. Getting rest and eating nutritious food will help keep you healthy. The CDC website has a [coronavirus microsite](#) that includes recommendations for staying safe and healthy at home, at work, in the community and while traveling during the holidays and every day. Securitas USA is thankful for our employees, clients and the communities in which we do business. We encourage you all to slow down and enjoy the holidays. At Paragon Systems, we believe that this is accomplished through our corporate principles of Integrity, Vigilance, and Compliance. We offer them as our gift to you this holiday season.

