GLOBAL HORIZONS

A communications platform for MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division

Division Director's Message

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Novel Coronavirus Pandemic Disease "COVID-19"

In light of the disruptions and challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic disease (COVID-19) outbreak, the Protocol and International Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department has suspended protocol services at Miami International Airport until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience and extend our appreciation for your kind understanding - From the protocol team.

Background: The virus was first reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, in December 2019. It is a coronavirus, and as such, part of a large family of viruses that tend to be common in both humans and different species of animals, such as camels, cattle, cats, and bats. A characteristic of coronaviruses is that they have a series of crown-like spikes. Several of them are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This virus, which was unknown before the outbreak began, has been named "SARS-CoV-2" (CoV: coronavirus), and the infectious disease it causes is "coronavirus disease 2019", frequently referred to as "COVID-19".

At times, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread from person to person. Just like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 is a beta coronavirus and originated in bats. As the outbreak in Wuhan began, the first patients had a link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting an animal-to-person spread. This indicates that the virus most likely emerged from an animal reservoir. Later cases indicated that the virus was spreading through person-to-person contact, and now evidence is pointing toward **community spread**. "Community spread" is the term used when it is unknown how or where a patient became infected.

Pandemic: On March 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared COVID-19 a *pandemic*. Pandemics, global outbreaks of diseases, happen when a new virus emerges and begins to spread between people. Since there is little to no pre-existing immunity to a new virus, it can spread worldwide. According to WHO, this is the first time a new (novel) coronavirus is causing a pandemic of this magnitude, but in the last century, there were four pandemics caused by emerging influenza viruses.

Symptoms: According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, the following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure: **FEVER, COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH**. The WHO lists: **FEVER, TIREDNESS, and DRY COUGH** as the most common symptoms. Patients may also complain of aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. The CDC further lists emergency warning signs for COVID-19 and recommends immediate medical attention if any of the following develop: difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, and bluish lips or face. *Since the COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, we recommend that you consult regularly with your physician and/or appropriate local and health authorities for the latest news and updates.*

This edition is dedicated to the novel (new) coronavirus pandemic disease "COVID-19." The disease is in everyone's mind and it is causing significant societal disruptions and challenges to our way of life.

As our leaders make decisions regarding containment and health officials work to find a cure, individuals and families are assessing and planning how the virus would impact them and their means of livelihood.

I am certain that readers will find insightful, the relevant information, resources, and helpful tips about COVID-19. As with all *past pandemic outbreaks* - The Great Bubonic Plague of London (1665), The Spanish Flu (1918), The Asian Flu (1957), The Hong Kong Flu (1968), The Swine Flu (2009), etc., it is our hope that COVID-19 would soon be eradicated or reduced to insignificance.

Please endeavor to listen and adhere to heath advice from our leaders and health officials and be safe.

Inside this issue

Miami-Dade County Government Updates for COVID-19 and related weblinks
https://www.miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page

Florida Department of Health (FDOH)
http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/index.html

Visit the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) website to learn about how it spreads, protecting yourself, etc.
www.cdc.gov

CDC's weblink for travelers and travel related industries.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html

World Health Organization (WHO)
www.who.int/

United Nations - COVID-19 Global Health Emergency and Information from the UN System
https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus

Worldometers - weblink for coronavirus live updates, including confirmed cases, new cases, total recoveries and total deaths globally and by country, state, territory or conveyance - www.worldometers.info/coronavirus

TSA Temporarily Accepting Expired Driver's Licenses for Travel
The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is allowing the use of expired driver's licenses as acceptable identification for those who are not able to renew their licenses.
https://www.khon2.com/local-news/tsa-temporarily-accepting-expired-drivers-licenses-for-travel/

ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.

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For comments, suggestions, event announcements or to opt-out, please send us an email.

BRIEFS & NOTES

Social Distancing
Per the CDC's recommendation, social distancing involves "remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance" (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible to limit the ability of the virus to spread.

Isolation and Quarantine
Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease. **Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. **Social distancing** is not the same as **self-quarantine or isolation**, The key difference is that quarantine or isolation restricts the movement of people within a certain area or zone to limit transferring and spreading an infection. **Social distancing** places no such locational constraints, rather it is a *behavioral practice* to lower the risk in most circumstances.

How Long Does COVID-19 Live on Surfaces?
How long can the new coronavirus live on a surface, like say, a door handle, after someone infected touches it with dirty fingers? A study out this week finds that the virus can survive on hard surfaces such as plastic and stainless steel for up to 72 hours and on cardboard for up to 24 hours. Read more from the following weblink:
https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/14/811609026/the-new-coronavirus-can-live-on-surfaces-for-2-3-days-heres-how-to-clean-them

Effectiveness of Hand Sanitizers Against COVID-19
Alcohol attacks and destroys the envelope protein that surrounds some viruses, including coronaviruses. This protein is vital for a virus's survival and multiplication. But a hand sanitizer needs to be at least 60% alcohol in order to kill most viruses. Hand sanitizers with less than 60% alcohol were also found to be less effective at killing bacteria and fungi and may only reduce the growth of germs rather than killing them outright. Learn more by visiting - http://theconversation.com/coronavirus-not-all-hand-sanitisers-work-against-it-heres-what-you-should-use-133277

Why Soap is so Good at Killing COVID-19
One of the most consistent COVID-19 messages from health officials has been the importance of good personal hygiene. Washing your hands with soap is one of the simplest and most effective ways of killing off any viruses you may have come into contact with. Soap is one of the most effective ways to get rid of COVID-19. It dissolves the fatty layer that coats coronaviruses, but you have to wash your hands properly. Additional information is provided on the following weblink -
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/coronavirus-soap-covid-19-virus-hygiene/

You can Kill Coronavirus with Common Household Cleaners
The COVID-19 outbreak, caused by a novel (new) coronavirus, has stores scrambling to try to keep cleaning and sanitizing products on the shelves. Items such as hand sanitizers and face masks are hard to come by as people are stockpiling them out of fear of getting sick from the virus….Despite all the fear about the virus, this coronavirus strain is actually easy to kill out in the open, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). To read more, visit - https://www.simplemost.com/kill-coronavirus-common-household-cleaners/

When and How to Use Masks
If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection. Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing. Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. If you wear a mask, then you must know how to use it and dispose of it properly. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PREVENTION

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or elbow.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Individuals in Miami-Dade County who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19, should call the Florida Department of Health at **305-324-2400**. If you have a medical provider, call them. If traveling to a medical office or facility, call ahead. For questions about COVID-19 in Florida, please call the Florida Department of Health at **1-866-779-6121**.

For more information, visit **miamidade.gov/coronavirus**

FOR A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CALL 911

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

15 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.**

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

THE WHITE HOUSE

CDC

For more information, please visit
CORONAVIRUS.GOV

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- *Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.*
- *Avoid touching your face.*
- *Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.*
- *Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.*

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.