

COVID-19 Social Distancing Talking Points for Agents

Use: These talking points can be used for social media content, including Facebook videos or Facebook Live. They are intended to reinforce the need to social distance, even in counties where there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Links to include in the caption section of your video:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/coronavirus/>

Introduction

- In addition to personal actions like handwashing, social distancing is a strategy that our community can do *together* to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- By slowing the spread of COVID-19, we can reduce the number of people who get sick at any one given time. This helps protect those most vulnerable in our communities as well as our healthcare resources.
 - This has been referred to as “flattening the curve.”

What is social distancing?

- According to the CDC, social distancing means keeping space between yourself and other people who you don't live with. To practice social distancing:
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from other people
 - Do not gather in groups
 - Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

How does social distancing work?

- COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby.
- It is possible that a person could also get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Social distancing helps limit contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces.
- Anyone can get and spread COVID-19.

Who should practice social distancing?

- When COVID-19 is spreading in your area, everyone should limit close contact with individuals outside your household.
- Follow guidance from the authorities where you live.
 - (List the current guidelines that have been given by your local authorities)
- Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you have no symptoms.

- Those with mild symptoms or no symptoms may not get tested for COVID-19. This means that someone may have the illness without knowing.
 - Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely play a role in the spread of COVID-19.
- *Everyone* has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their family, and their community.

Tips for social distancing

- If you need to shop for food or medicine at the grocery store or pharmacy, stay at least 6 feet away from others.
 - Use mail-order for medications, if possible.
 - Consider a grocery pick-up or delivery service.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others, including when you have to go out in public.
 - Stay at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering.
- Avoid large and small gatherings in private places and public spaces, such as a friend's house, parks, restaurants, shops, or any other place. This advice also applies to teens and younger adults. Children should not have in-person playdates while school is out.
- Work from home when possible.
- If possible, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.

Conclusion

- Social distancing is difficult but remember that it is temporary. And it works!
- The purpose of social distancing isn't simply to protect yourself. Social distancing is done for the greater good and to protect our healthcare resources and those who are vulnerable.
- You should stay apart from people physically during this time, but it is still important to stay connected with those you love.
 - Use calls, video chat, or social media to communicate and stay connected.
- For more information, visit the CDC's website and also visit the Extension COVID-19 resource hub (links in video caption).

Reference

1. CDC (2020). Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

Please contact Miquela Smith with questions: miquela.smith@ag.tamu.edu