

From: [Communications](#)
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Subject: SOCCCD Update - Stay Safe for the Holidays
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SOCCCD Family –

As we approach the eighth month of living and working through the pandemic, we (Chancellor's Executive Cabinet - CEC) would like to thank you for all the good work exuded and many sacrifices made during this time.

We (CEC) also understand and acknowledge that each of us are growing weary of the isolation, fear, and anxiety that has come with COVID-19. However, we cannot let down our guard with the holidays approaching. We know that many of us will miss the physical company of loved ones in the coming season of holidays. While it is difficult to imagine the weeks ahead without loved ones or friends huddled with us around dining tables or fireplaces, the rising tide of infections in our community and throughout the country tell us that foregoing these gatherings this year is one of the most important sacrifices we can make for others.

Public health experts project that a spike in cases owing to holiday gatherings would force closure of additional businesses and schools. Our children need to stay in school, but schools will not be allowed to stay open in January if community spread spikes. Our own Saddleback and IVC students need hands-on experiences vital to their education. An uptick in cases could prevent us from bringing back our own students for Spring semester. Thus, the sacrifice we make in foregoing indoor gatherings, let alone long-distance travel for indoor gatherings, benefits the children in our community and our own students, in addition to vulnerable populations. This season, it will take a village and we all need to do our part.

Because holiday gatherings involve food and drink, such that masks have to be removed, please consider connecting with loved ones and friends this season outdoors and with social

distancing between households. We can still gather around the tables if the tables are separated and outside!

If you are thinking of traveling, CEC would like you to please be mindful to use every precaution (face coverings, social distancing, gathering outdoors) to keep you and your families safe. We also want you to remember that by keeping your family safe...you keep our SOCCCD family safe! Finally, please do not forget that if you will be traveling over the holidays, you may be required to quarantine for 14 days once you return.

So, be well and stay safe, as you look forward to a restful and warm holiday season!

**Kathleen Burke, Elliot Stern, John Hernandez,
Ann-Marie Gabel, Bob Bramucci, Letitia Clark, Cindy Vyskocil**