Safer Traveling During COVID-19

Know before you go

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasize that the safest way to celebrate holidays is at home with household members. If traveling, check the COVID-19 community transmission and consider getting tested upon arrival.

Prepare a travel plan and pack essentials

Before you book travel, have a discussion with your travel companions and the future household about safety expectations. What is the best method of travel? Where will you sleep? What are the expectations for reducing risk upon arrival?

Pack these essentials

- A face mask and a few spares
- Face shield or goggles for extra protection
- Pack of disposable gloves to avoid touching public surfaces
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Touchless payment for making purchases during travel
- A water bottle with a straw
- A flu vaccine

Claim your seat

Travel during non-peak hours

If possible, fly with an airlines that leaves the middle seat empty for social distancing

Leave a few rows empty between you and others in the car or bus

Open windows in cars and buses when possible

While en route

Use disposable gloves or your sleeves to touch public surfaces like doorhandles, kiosks, and railings. If you can't do this, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after touching surfaces.

Stay hydrated. Insert a straw underneath your mask rather than removing your mask completely.

Wear a mask and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Reiterate expectations. Make sure you and your companions understand each others' boundaries for socializing at your destination.

Having second thoughts?

Many companies are allowing people to cancel or postpone travel plans at no cost. Zoom is also sponsoring free video calls with no time limits for Thanksgiving.

UIC Collaboratory for Health Justice