



# UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

SQUARE DANCE – AMERICAN FOLK DANCE



Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Hello dancers and dance leaders,

We have all been bombarded with information regarding the Coronavirus even to the point of grocery store shortages on everyday items such as toilet tissue. So there is no need for us in the square dance community to reiterate the media reports. However we would like to examine the situation from the perspective of the Square & Round Dance Organizations. Below are a few points for both dancers and dance leaders to consider.

- The United States covers a large area and the prevalence of COVID-19 varies in different geographic locations. Therefore, club leaders should first follow the guidelines within their state and local communities.
- Even if it's not mandated by your local government to restrict groups from meeting you need to further evaluate the average age of your club and seriously consider the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) states the following:  
"Identify actions to take if you need to temporarily postpone or cancel events, programs, and services, especially for groups at greater risk such as older adults or people with chronic health conditions."
- Consider the economic aspect whether to cancel dances or not. Since many clubs are already struggling, would it be prudent to go dark to save the expense of having a dance or continue to hold the dance realizing they may have fewer dancers in attendance? This is a determination that only club/dance leaders must make.
- If you do decide to hold your dance you may want to follow the suggestions listed below. Feel free to copy and post them in a prominent location at your dance hall.
  - **Steps to Protect our Dancers**
    - 1. Wash hands after every tip.
    - 2. Use hand sanitizer often, although soap and water washing is best.
    - 3. Avoid hugs and handshakes. Greeters, take note: No yellow rocking: just a smile and a welcoming greeting.
    - 4. Don't touch your face or anyone else's face.
    - 5. Absolutely cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow. But if using your hands to cover, afterward wash thoroughly with soap and water.
    - 6. Avoid sharing mics for announcements.
    - 7. You might temporarily dance without touching hands.



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### o **At the Snack Table**

- 1. Those preparing snacks should wear gloves.
- 2. Stay away from the snack table if you are coughing or sneezing. Have someone else pick up your snack.
- 3. No double-dipping.
- 4. Use tongs, serving spoons, or a napkin to pick up your treat. No unprotected fingers.
- 5. "What you touch is what you take," so no picking through the choices with your hands before making your final selection.
- 6. Don't leave open cups on or near the snack table.
- 7. Bring your own lidded water bottle or containers.

As dancers can easily see by reading this information, dance leaders struggle over decisions whether or not to cancel/postpone dances. We would encourage each dancer to respect the decisions and those making them. Likewise, an individual dancer's decision whether or not to attend a dance should be respected by both the dance leaders and fellow dancers. If you're not dancing please keep in touch with fellow club members by making regular phone calls, emailing, using Facebook, possibly arranging a meal with one or two friends, or getting together in a small group activity such as a game night. This connection is what keeps our friendships vibrant.

We should remember though this is very frustrating for all of us, it is temporary. Just like the weather, be it a bad winter storm or a sweltering heat wave, it will pass then both dancing and toilet tissue will once again be plentiful.

Virtual Yellow Rocks,  
Tony & Diana Rock  
President, United Square Dancers of America