

Comrades-

Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch sent all his Department Commanders a message yesterday, November 2nd. As we ramp up meetings during these colder months, I think it is best that I send his message to you in full.

Hal wrote:

I'm sending this email because we have been receiving report from members and non-members alike, that Posts and Departments are getting lazy about COVID precautions at all levels of the organization. This trend needs to cease immediately.

I completely understand that we have been cooped up for 8 months and we all miss the camaraderie we use to have at the posts/districts and department, but we can't let our guard down. I as stated in my executive order, we can have meetings as long as we meet local, state and national restrictions and guidance. As much as we like to think we are invincible, we are not! We need to follow proper distancing to include or meetings, if masks are required we need to wear them. We can fist/elbow bump instead of handshakes. (I know I've also been guilty)

If there is a gathering and someone there is/was positive, please let everyone know; doesn't have to be by name. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE also include VFW HQ ( Kdeshano@vfw.org or Kjones@vfw.org ), we need to be aware and the last thing we need is for a national rep spreading it all over the country. Please do not suppress this info!!!! I don't care who has it, the word needs to get out to everyone. Keeping it a secret or threatening retaliating action will not be tolerated. The CDC defines close contact as: **Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period\* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.**

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If we follow proper procedures and keep everyone informed, we will be able to keep having meetings and functions in person. Please help by everyone doing their part.