



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

March 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I want to thank you for all of your hard work during these difficult times. The Department's task of protecting the rights and safety of Americans is even more critical as our country combats the COVID-19 and its pernicious impact on our citizens' lives.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of cities and states have imposed shelter in place and lock down orders or other travel restrictions. We can expect additional orders as the crisis develops. As you know, many federal employees, including Department of Justice employees carrying out law enforcement functions, are at times required to travel for official purposes. In order to ensure that federal employees continue to provide official services to the public, I am directing that all United States Attorneys contact state and local law enforcement leaders in their geographic areas of responsibility to inform them of the following:

- 1) Federal agencies have issued directives addressing the circumstances under which federal employees may travel and commute consistent with CDC guidelines. Federal agencies will continue to monitor and ensure that these directives are followed and modified as appropriate as the situation develops.
- 2) If encountered by local law enforcement during such travel, federal employees shall identify themselves, using their Personal Identity Verification or "PIV" cards, and explain the nature of their work and travel. These cards include a photograph of the employee and list the federal agency for whom the employee works.
- 3) Accordingly, the United States Attorneys should inform their state and local law enforcement partners that we need to ensure that local law enforcement officials enforcing travel restrictions are aware of the fact that federal employees must be allowed to travel and commute to perform law enforcement and other functions and should not be prevented from doing so, even when travel restrictions are in place.

Please also inform the Chief Judge and federal law enforcement partners in your district that Department employees remain able to mobilize as appropriate in order to continue our collective mission.