



Thursday March 12, 2020

As The Chamber of Medford and Jackson County continues to be focused on member and regional safety, and as we continue to work closely with local, state and federal U.S. government agencies, as well as the United States Chamber of Commerce officials, to monitor and provide updates on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, check out the below tips from the [U.S. Chamber Foundation](#) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for practicing workplace health and safety and preventing the spread of the virus.

The Chamber takes the health of our community and our members seriously and will follow the most reasonable protocol as it relates to our popular programs and projects. By now I'm sure you have been following listed recommendations, but a quick review as an extra measure of precaution is just good policy.

Your Chamber will continue to urge for any response to Coronavirus to be grounded in facts, not driven by fear. It is essential that everyone is prudent and prepared, and that we do not overreact or fail to react appropriately. Southern Oregonians should continue to monitor the situation on the [CDC website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Businesses, working together with government, can help instill the confidence and calm that will be necessary to contain the spread of the Coronavirus and to keep our daily lives and the economy going at the same time.

At this time, for example, state officials have made suggestions for suspending public meetings of over 250 people for the next few weeks and are still recommending our public schools stay open. So, for now, our Chamber meetings of 1-200 will carry on. We will evaluate next month's Forum as we approach that date.

Early next week, I expect to be named to one of four Member Task Force groups being formed by the United States Chamber of Commerce in an effort to help our local business community and policy makers undertake responsible, fact based planning.

In the meantime, please utilize the [resources](#) from Vice President Pence and from the U.S. Chamber at uschamber.com/coronavirus.

To your continued good health.

Best regards,

Brad S. Hicks, CCE, IOM
President & CEO
The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County