



March 16, 2020

Dear Chamber Members and Community Partners -

We are facing fluid and extraordinary times in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The details of this situation and the responses are quite literally changing by the day. I hope the resources we have been sharing through email and social media have been of some assistance. So, while "normal" may be cancelled, common sense and leadership are not.

Within the last 24 hours the recommendations from public health officials regarding meetings have changed. What was previously cancelling gatherings of 250 or more people, is now mandated in the State of Oregon to limiting meetings or gatherings to 25 people or fewer, with many cancelling meetings of any size. We recognize the potential disruption of this, but we will be doing our part to help our member businesses succeed during this period.

Effective immediately in the best interest of you, your business, and our community, we are suspending **ALL** networking, meeting and programming events in person for four weeks. Meetings scheduled for the foreseeable future will be evaluated month-by-month based on recommendations from public health officials. This means Greeters, Forum, Leadership, Lemonade Day meetings, Legislative Action Team, TRADCO, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Employment Law Series, Travel Medford Tourism Council, Travel Medford Hotelier meetings, etc. The ethos of The Chamber has always been geared towards direct face-to-face contact, but we have the capacity and will shift toward virtual meetings. Look for emails in the coming days on this shift to use technology to continue our mission to provide value to our members. I am confident we will find innovative tools to encourage connections and business building in new ways.

This is not about us as individuals, but about protecting people with vulnerable immune systems and our friends and family over 60. This is not just about COVID-19, but doing our part to ensure there is bandwidth at our local medical facilities to be able to assist with all illnesses.

Your Chamber office will remain staffed, however, we are taking necessary precautions and our doors will be closed to the public. We are available via phone or email, but should you need to meet in person, we ask that you make an appointment. Should further actions be prudent to work remotely, we will continue to serve our members in every way possible.

I am always available to you and would appreciate any and all input as we navigate these challenging times. Please call, email and stay in close touch. Let's be proactive now, push pause on a few meetings and events for the short term so that this crisis is mitigated sooner rather than later and we can get back to business as usual. We greatly appreciate your patience and consideration.

All The Chamber members who have Greeters meetings scheduled have been wonderful in helping us come to a mutual decision to reschedule their meetings - we thank you!

This is a true test of our collective leadership to ensure the Medford and Jackson County business community can navigate through this dramatic and challenging time. This too shall pass and we will be better individuals and businesses because of it.

Be patient, be safe, help others... And wash your hands!

Best regards,
Brad

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