

Sarah Oates

From: info@alaskacharr.com <info@alaskacharr.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 8:07 PM
To:
Subject: Alaska CHARR CEO Update Regarding COVID-19



Dear Alaska CHARR Member:

The Alaska Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant, and Retailers Association (Alaska CHARR) exists to protect, improve, and promote Alaska hospitality. We find ourselves in an incredibly challenging situation as our industry works to mitigate panic around the growing concern of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Alaska and throughout the country.

As of yesterday, Governor Dunleavy has [declared a public health emergency](#) in response to what is still an anticipated outbreak of the new Coronavirus in Alaska. Today, some of the major Alaska cruise lines [suspended all cruises](#) for the next 60 days, and [many events around Alaska have been canceled or postponed](#) due to Coronavirus concerns. This will undoubtedly have an immeasurable impact on industry employees and business operations. Alaska CHARR will continue to keep lines of communication open with the Governor's office, the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, and other key leaders in our state as we work to gather data on the economic impact the Coronavirus threat is having as we seek relief for impacted hospitality employees and businesses.

According to the CDC, this virus is not foodborne. State and local food codes establish strict safe food handling requirements for restaurants, and I ask that operators be proactive by stepping up existing cleaning and sanitation procedures.

Attached to this email is a list that we've put together from the Center for Disease Control website for our members to prepare your establishments and employees for this public health emergency. The list will help you with monitoring and responding to absenteeism, continuing your essential business functions, changing your business functions if necessary, encouraging sick employees to stay home, performing routine environmental cleaning, and many more considerations for you and your management and employees.

A few practical things you can do immediately (besides hand-washing, disinfecting, and cleaning) are to start using disposable single-use paper menus, don't leave condiments on tables, and seriously consider delivery (for restaurants). Consider using your employees for delivery rather than food-delivery services since they will likely need the work. If you do not already have customer take-out parking you might make that a priority. Also, consider a Grab-and-Go refrigerator by your cash register with pre-prepared meals for your customers to warm up when they get home. Anything to minimize human contact will be helpful in the upcoming weeks.

Don't forget to communicate with your customers via email and social media. You might let them know of your enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols, your take-out options, and your concern for their well-being.

The situation relating to coronavirus is changing on a daily basis. The following summarizes work being conducted at Alaska CHARR on your behalf regarding this issue. Please save this email for reference as needed.

Coronavirus Resources

Alaska CHARR will continue to update our members on Coronavirus resources in response to industry needs in partnership with the [National Restaurant Association](#) and the [Alaska Department of Health & Social Services](#).

Advocacy on behalf of Alaska Hospitality

Your statewide association is working to make sure key elected officials understand the economic impact of decisions being made as they work in partnership with public health officials to manage the spread of the Coronavirus. A term called 'flattening the curve' is the ultimate goal of elected leaders and public health officials. The term represents an effort to keep demand for Coronavirus health care services at or below the capacity of our state's health care system. The short-term effect will directly correlate to economic loss, and as such, we need to collect data now to best represent relief needs of the industry in association with our national partners. Please stay tuned as Alaska CHARR develops ongoing survey outreach in an effort to track the magnitude of the impact so we can best represent the needs of your business and your employees.

In addition, we are asking the Governor's office for consideration against travel bans in Alaska.

I'll close by saying it continues to be an honor for those of us on Alaska CHARR's professional staff to serve Alaska hospitality. We believe in the importance of integrity and transparency in all that we do, and you have our commitment to continue walking alongside each of you as we collectively navigate our current challenges and those that we will face together in the future.

At Your Service,

Sarah Daulton Oates

President & CEO, Alaska CHARR

Office: 907.274.8133

Cell: 907.229.9972

www.alaskacharr.com



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.