



March 13, 2020

Dear Chamber Member,

The Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce has been communicating with Town of Chincoteague officials throughout the week to learn more about, prepare for and communicate properly information about Coronavirus and how it may affect our community. In an effort to disseminate information regarding COVID-19, we have updated our [Health & Public Safety page](#) on ChincoteagueChamber.com to include:

- Center of Disease Control informational links
- Governor Northam press releases
- Town of Chincoteague public service announcements
- Event and activity schedules, postponements and cancellations
- Business/Organization openings and closures

CDC flyers can also be found at the bottom of this email, which you can easily print and have on display in your home, business or organization.

We hope you find this information to be a valuable resource which will help you plan and prepare. If you would like to update or add any information to the Health & Public Safety page, please email Joanne at [joanne@chincoteaguechamber.com](mailto:joanne@chincoteaguechamber.com).

If you have any events listed on [Virginia.org](http://Virginia.org) that are canceled or postponed, VTC is asking that you cancel the event on the website. This will help visitors to their site know what events are still taking place throughout the Commonwealth but also help VTC track economic impact from COVID-19.

March is normally the time of year that our business community is gearing up for the tourism season. We are happy to see that several businesses reopened this week but understand that this is a very fluid situation. We want you to know that the chamber is here to support you in any way we can. We will be concentrating on a shop local campaign to encourage locals to continue to support our business community.

If you are hosting any events, we encourage you to:

- Promote sanitation for workers, vendors, exhibitors and participants prior to event
- Review event procedures and modify if necessary to promote social distancing
- Brief participants before events regarding safe practices
- Consider secondary and tertiary planning for events scheduled now up to 6 weeks

As a precaution, our March 18 Members Networking Luncheon at Don's Seafood has been canceled and the March 19 Multi-Chamber Business After Hours at Classic Collections at the Vault have been postponed.

In addition, Lucas Gonzalez, a business columnist at DelmarvaNow, is currently working on an article to support the business community and stimulate the economy. He is interested in hearing from you to learn more about your business; opening dates, hours of operation, etc. Evelyn has already spoken with him but you can contact Lucas directly at [lgonzalez@delmarvanow.com](mailto:lgonzalez@delmarvanow.com) or 410-845-0969. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to have your business promoted.

As you reopen for the season, we also ask that you let the Chamber know. We are eager to share your days and hours of operation with guests when they visit us. You can either email Theresa at [info@chincoteaguechamber.com](mailto:info@chincoteaguechamber.com) or call 757-336-6161.

The weeks before and after Easter are typically Spring Break and a busy time for our island. We normally encourage our businesses to be open to welcome guests but also understand that each business needs to decide what is best for their staff and patrons. If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19, Bryan Rush, Town of Chincoteague Director or Emergency Services is available to assist you at [brush@chincoteague-va.gov](mailto:brush@chincoteague-va.gov) or 757-336-3138.

In an effort to learn from this situation, we would ask that you track the number of cancellations (reservations/events), visitation numbers to your business, etc. as we navigate through this together. The data will be compiled to help us all learn how to manage a similar situation in the future and build business resiliency plans.

In the meantime, please be diligent in social distancing and most importantly take care of yourselves. We hope that we are all spared by this virus but also want our businesses up and running! We need our amazing workforce healthy!

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce