



March 11, 2020

LETTER TO OUR ACVB CYTES MEMBERS

The cancelation of events and travel plans due to COVID-19 is greatly impacting the travel, hospitality and event industries globally and locally. The most important thing we can do is to keep communication lines open, especially with you, our members. As such, we want to give you an update about how the spread of the coronavirus is affecting the meeting/event and visitor business for Ames and Iowa State University.

As of today, we have not had any of our meetings cancel, but some have reformatted how they will proceed. Of note, the State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa scheduled for March 26-27 in Ames has implemented a new platform of conducting the competition *virtually* instead of in person. Although the situation is rapidly evolving, at this moment, this is the *only* previously-scheduled event that is not physically being held in Ames. As far as we know, all other events scheduled to take place, including Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, National Beep Baseball Association World Series, and the Farm Progress Show, is proceeding as planned.

Earlier this afternoon, Iowa State University issued a formal announcement that the university is moving all classes online beginning **Monday March 23 and continuing through April 3, 2020**. The university will reassess the situation during the week of March 30. The period of online instruction may be extended if conditions warrant.

There have been *no reported cases of COVID-19 in Ames, ISU Campus, or Story County*. While that is good news, it is frustrating and disheartening to know our local businesses and partners may temporarily lose revenue. The Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau is committed to do everything possible to keeping events on track, visitors safe and healthy, and Ames thriving. Additional steps are being taken within our office, ISU and the State of Iowa to implement a response plan and to ensure access to resources to effectively manage the situation.

The safety of the event attendees and travelers who visit Ames and Iowa State University is of great importance to the ACVB, but so is the welfare and success of our members. The best thing anyone can do is to remain calm, stay informed, and do your part to reduce risk. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please feel free to contact us (515-232-4032 / communications@amescvb.com). Please stay tuned to our website (thinkames.com) and social media for more updates as they become available.

AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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