

COVID-19 - Industry Update 1: March 5, 2020

Greetings to Travel Partners,

In regard to the rapidly spreading COVID-19 (novel Coronavirus), the Wilmington and Beaches CVB is closely monitoring updates from New Hanover County, as well as Visit North Carolina and other state agencies that are taking the lead on preparation and information distribution.

At the time of this writing (March 5, 2020), the CVB is not aware of any reported cases of COVID-19 in New Hanover County. We respect the importance of this matter and will continue to share updates to our partners on an on-going basis as the situation changes.

As we monitor the situation, we encourage all partners to please keep the CVB informed of meeting/event cancellations that cite COVID-19 as the reason for cancellation. Please also let us know if you notice an increase in lodging cancellations that cite COVID-19 concerns.

Following are links with relevant information:

New Hanover County:

New Hanover County has developed a webpage to share up-to-date information and resources so residents can be aware of local efforts and how to prepare if action is needed locally.

<https://health.nhcgov.com/your-environment/public-health/coronavirus/>

NC Dept. of Health & Human Services:

The N.C. Dept. of Health & Human Services recommends everyone continue taking precautions to protect themselves and others from the spread of respiratory illnesses, which includes COVID-19.

www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina

Visit North Carolina: Governor Roy Cooper created the [COVID-19 Task Force](#) to further prepare for the possibility of COVID-19 infections in North Carolina. As of March 4, 2020, only one North Carolinian has tested presumptively positive for COVID-19. Visitors and travelers in and through the state should take the same precautions that are recommended for traveling during the flu season. Those precautions are even more valuable this year. If travelers need more information on North Carolina relating to coronavirus, they can go to <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus>.

NC Restaurant & Lodging Association – Tips for Restaurants:

www.ncrla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Coronavirus_2019-nCoV_Info_TipsforRestaurants.pdf

U.S. Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

AAA: <https://carolinas.aaa.com/emergency/coronavirus/>

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New Hanover County's tourism industry generates more than \$613 million in annual economic impact, creates 6,470 jobs and contributes \$54 million to the state and local tax bases. Each county resident saves an estimated \$228.31 annually in taxes.