Dear Forsyth Community Partners,

There is no new way to say that we are facing unprecedented times, and there is nothing more important than the safety, health, and wellbeing of our community, its residents, and visitors. We realize at the City of Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau that we cannot stem the tide of this fast developing new normal. We will be partners and participants in doing our part to minimize the opportunity for this virus to spread. In an abundance of caution for our team, stakeholders, clients and community, we are closing our daily operations office until further notice. At this point we will be working, but the building is closed to the public per the City of Forsyth. This is a rapidly evolving situation that changes by the hour and there is a lot of uncertainty, however we will continue to work diligently to provide our hospitality community with up-to-date industry resources.

*Please forward to any colleagues in the industry that you feel would benefit from this information.*

**What is the City of Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) doing?**

• Staff & Offices: The City of Forsyth CVB’s staff will be working but the Welcome Center and our offices located at 68 North Lee St., Forsyth, GA 31029 will be closed to the public during this time. We will conduct our business via email and the telephone.

• Marketing & Messaging: The City of Forsyth CVB is continuing destination marketing efforts for Forsyth during this time. We will provide positive messaging and continued updates through our website and social media channels. Key messages include outdoor recreation, support of local businesses, and human-interest stories.

• Our office will remain in regular contact with the State Tourism Office (Explore Georgia) etc. to stay informed on the latest updates as it relates to travel.

• We will place a COVID-19 visitor-facing message on our website: [www.forsythcvb.com](http://www.forsythcvb.com) and postings to Instagram and Facebook.

**Links with factual updates:**

• The most up-to-date information for Georgia is located at the Georgia Department of Public Health website: [www.dph.georgia.gov](http://www.dph.georgia.gov)

• The most up-to-date information on a federal level is available on the CDC’s website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Hospitality Industry Resources:**

American Hotel and Lodging Association Resources (AHLA) - The AHLA has published industry talking points, best practices, and resources to help partners manage this situation on their COVID-19 web page. If you have an employee who tests positive for COVID-19, contact the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584).

Georgia Restaurant Association Resources (GRA) - The GRA has issued a list of industry resources to help restaurants manage COVID-19, see below. If you have an employee who tests

positive for COVID-19, contact the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584).

• ServSafe: Info & Tips for Restaurants (in English and Spanish)

• Coronavirus Prevention 101 for Restaurants (courtesy of GRA members Castellucci Hospitality Group and R.O. Hospitality)

• The National Restaurant Association has provided talking points that can help you speak with guests, and communicate that guest health and safety is of utmost priority.

• Webinar: National Restaurant Association/ Coronavirus: Industry Readiness and Response

**Mass Gatherings & Special Events:** The CDC, in accordance with its guidance for large events and mass gatherings, recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States. Read full recommendation: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

General guidance:

• The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. As a reminder, the Department of Health always recommends everyday preventive actions to help impede the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

• Avoiding close contact with people who are sick

• Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

• Covering your cough or sneezing with a tissue, then disposing of the issue

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing

• If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash your hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

• Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Like every team, the City of Forsyth CVB is keeping a close eye on COVID-19 and will be ready to respond accordingly and responsibly. Thank you for your time and your concern for the safety, health and wellbeing of our community.

With kind regards,

Gilda Stanbery

Gilda Stanbery, Executive Director/CEO

City of Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau

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