

A Message to our Chamber Members regarding COVID-19

Dear Chamber Members,

With the impacts of COVID-19 on our local business community already in effect and changing daily, if not even hourly, in addition to good hand hygiene and common-sense precautions with your employees and patrons, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce encourages all local businesses to consider the following:

1. **For your business:** Prepare for negative economic impacts.
 - Capital: Create, confirm, or expand your line of credit.
 - Staffing: Develop staffing plans for varying levels of customers and revenue (what does an 80% scenario plan look like?).
 - Insurance: Check with your insurance provider to understand your coverage and options.
2. **For your customers:** Make your place of business as hygienic as possible and communicate what you are doing to patrons so they feel comfortable visiting.
3. **For your employees:** Check, modify, and communicate HR policies regarding remote working, sick-leave, and compensation during health crisis. Try to ensure your policies are as flexible and non-punitive as possible. Sick employees should be encouraged to stay home.
4. **For your workflow:** Cross-train employees for key functions so that daily schedules can continue relatively uninterrupted by potential employee absences. Where relevant, consider staggering start and end times to reduce large numbers of people coming together at the same time; and create and test remote employee collaboration systems.
5. **For your cashflow:** Communicate with your landlord (or tenants) and lenders about expectations and request flexibility (better to have that conversation now).
6. **For yourself:** Eat well, sleep, and exercise. Taking care of yourself in this time of stress will improve your resistance to infection and resilience in managing difficult business situations. And of course, wash your hands all the dang time and don't touch your face, or anyone else, for that matter.
7. **For your Chamber:** For us to best serve you, we need to know and share what our members are doing to manage risks. To that end, please tell us what what's working and what you need from us!

At the present time, our Chamber office will remain open as a "Handshake-Free Zone". We have closed the Business Information section, however the tourism section remains open and operated by the county's Tourism Department. If you need to see any of the Chamber staff in person, please call to make an appointment at 352-795-3149. All Chamber events, programs and meetings have been cancelled or rescheduled through April. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook for updates on events, Chamber news, and resources to help your business weather this trying time.

Sincerely,
Josh Wooten, President / CEO