



Mark Wilson

President and CEO

850.521.1209

MWilson@FlChamber.com

www.FloridaChamber.com

**FLORIDA
CHAMBER**
of Commerce

Securing Florida's Future

MEMORANDUM

To: Florida Chamber Members

From: Mark Wilson, President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Re: Please Follow Facts, Not Fear - Visit the Florida Chamber Coronavirus Resource Page

The Florida Chamber of Commerce urges Floridians and visitors to follow the facts, be cautious but not fearful when it comes to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Florida Chamber is the official state chapter of the National Safety Council, and we are committed to helping keep Floridians safe. The safety of our collective employees is paramount and they deserve the facts.

At times like these, it's important to remember this is a global situation and misinformation and overreacting is causing a secondary impact on our economy. As I've said for years, Florida's economy may be creating one-in-10 new U.S. jobs but our economy is a fragile balance of innovation, trade, tourism and economic diversification. Our Chief Economist is closely monitoring the situation and I'll be back in touch on that later. For now, let's focus on safety and the facts.

Florida is open for business, for travel and for spring break and we are in 24/7 contact with Governor Ron DeSantis' office, state public health agencies, VISIT FLORIDA, the CDC and other important partners. If the CDC changes their recommendations, we will let Florida Chamber members know immediately. In the meantime, the Florida Chamber is still traveling and performing business as normal **AND I KNOW MOST OF YOU ARE DOING THE SAME**. In fact, I'm typing this memo from Miami during our national meeting of the top 100 chambers of commerce in America.

I would like to thank all our members who have called to share your stories, concerns and best practices. This is one of those times when we're all in this together and the infodemic that is happening as a result of the health concerns is having significant secondary impacts on our economy. Days before President Trump addressed the nation, our Chief Economist, Dr. Jerry Parrish, said, "[...don't panic, be smart.](#)" He may have been the first to say it, but it was true then and it's true now.

To help Florida Chamber members follow the facts of the Coronavirus, **[the Florida Chamber of Commerce today released our Florida Chamber Coronavirus resource webpage](#)** with information business leaders can use to prepare, both internally and externally, for potential impacts from the Coronavirus. This webpage includes important links from Governor DeSantis' office, the Emergency Operations Center, Centers for Disease Control, Florida Department of Health and our partners at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and it will be updated regularly.

[Share this link](#) with your executive leadership, local business partners, employees and friends.

For speed, and for your convenience, **I have appointed Greg Blosé as our point of contact for information regarding Florida's COVID-19 information**. Greg is a veteran of the Florida Emergency Operations Center as he has staffed many hurricanes and served as our point of contact during the Zika virus as well. Should you have any best practices, suggestions or questions, please contact Greg Blosé at gblose@flchamber.com or call 850-521-1243.

Again, we're in this together and we will be in touch regularly.