

**HATTIESBURG**  
CONVENTION COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

Brandon Bell - Marketing Coordinator, Hattiesburg Convention Commission

[bbell@hattiesburg.org](mailto:bbell@hattiesburg.org)

601.268.3220

Amanda Hargrove - Director of Marketing, Hattiesburg Convention Commission

[ahargrove@hattiesburg.org](mailto:ahargrove@hattiesburg.org)

601.268.3220

**An update regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) for our guests**

**Hattiesburg, MS (March 12, 2020)** - As the prevalence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) draws closer to home, we recognize there are questions this challenge presents. The health and wellbeing of our guests and the public is always paramount. As such, the Hattiesburg Convention Commission is committed to operating its attractions with public health at the forefront, guided by expert information from public health and government authorities, and best practices from each industry we represent.

As our colleagues across the country determine plans related to hosting meetings, conventions and performances; or operating museums and zoos, we have implemented special operational procedures appropriate for each facility. Though we are limiting the size of events and gatherings in accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), International Association of Venue Management (IAVM), U.S. Travel Association, Events Industry Council, Association of Zoos & Aquariums, American Alliance of Museums, and state and local government, all Hattiesburg Convention Commission facilities (Lake Terrace Convention Center, Hattiesburg Saenger Theater, Hattiesburg Zoo and African American Military History Museum) are open and welcoming guests.

The starting point for safe facilities is an increased frequency of cleaning of high-touch areas. Also, we have added additional hand sanitizing stations along with more visible signage to lead guests to these resources. And, we are taking this time of heightened awareness to provide information about best hygiene practices and illness prevention to guests and employees.

In our event venues, we are working with all of our clients with planned large gatherings to determine the best way to address their events in light of current health advisories. For some, this

means postponing planned gatherings or significantly modifying their programs. Both the Convention Commission and its clients understand that public health always comes first in determining the path forward.

Likewise, at our attractions, we are carefully monitoring operational activities of industry leaders in North American zoos and museums. This means that while we remain open, we may modify certain activities, programs, or guest volume to provide the highest level of safe enjoyment to all. Our goal is to provide a safe sanctuary for parents and children during these challenging times. Access to the inspirational stories of our American heroes or simply, safe outdoor spaces and fresh air can focus our collective outlook on the can-do American spirit.

We will continually update our status and operational changes as our community moves forward. Please visit [hattiesburg.org](http://hattiesburg.org) to get up-to-date information on any Convention Commission facility.

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*The Hattiesburg Convention Commission mission is to enhance the lives of our neighbors and grow the economy of Hattiesburg by creating and operating high-quality attractions that provide compelling experiences and create fans for life.*