



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 Saenger Theater is committed to operating with public health at the forefront, guided by expert information from public health and government authorities, and best practices from the performing arts theater industry.

As our colleagues across the country determine plans related to hosting special events and performances, we have implemented special operational procedures for the theater. Though we are limiting the size of most events and gatherings to 250 persons or less in accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), International Association of Venue Management (IAVM), League of Historic American Theaters, and state and local government, the Saenger Theater is open and welcoming guests on scheduled event or performance nights. However, the theater will not be open to the general public outside of scheduled performance times.

The starting point for an even safer Saenger Theater 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 patrons and employees.

At the Saenger Theater, we are working with our show producers with planned large attendance programs to determine the best way to address their events in light of current health advisories. We will address these scheduled shows on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with official guidelines. Both the Hattiesburg Saenger Theater and its show producers understand that public health always comes first in determining the path forward.

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 and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

###

*The Historic Hattiesburg Saenger Theater is a 997-seat establishment built in 1929. Originally a theater meant to show silent films, the building was one of seven Saenger Theaters built and operated throughout the South by the Saenger brothers. Currently, the Saenger Theater is operated by the Hattiesburg Convention Commission. Our mission is to enhance the lives of our neighbors and grow the economy of downtown Hattiesburg by creating compelling performance experiences that draw residents and visitors.*