

**Subject:** 200316 Official Communication; The Moose Fraternity and COVID-19

## **Official Communication for March 16, 2020**

### **The Moose Fraternity and COVID-19**

(March 16, 2020)

During this unprecedented time of caution and concern relating to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID- 19), Moose International has had to make some difficult decisions regarding events and activities in the coming weeks. The safety of our members, and those in our care, is paramount during this time of uncertainty, and therefore has driven the decisions and recommendations listed below.

**Please read the following information carefully as there is information that pertains to nearly every lodge and chapter:**

#### **Mooseheart**

School has been discontinued as of March 16<sup>th</sup> in accordance with the guidelines set forth by Illinois Governor Pritzker. At this time, school is scheduled to resume on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Campus visitation is restricted and a number of on-campus events in March and April have been cancelled, including the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

#### **Moosehaven**

The campus is currently restricting all visitors, with an indefinite end date, with the exception of family members whose resident may be in the final stages of his/her life. Campus events in March and April have also been cancelled including the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

#### **Lodge Activity**

1. To ensure the safety of our members, MI is following the guideline of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is recommending the cancellation of upcoming events, meetings and programs that involve 50 or more individuals.
2. For lodges operating in states/provinces that have shut down restaurant and/or bar operations, you must stop selling all food and beverages within the lodge and may only provide take-out services if your current license permits you to do so. For those lodges that reside in areas that have not set restrictions at this time, please follow the guidelines set by your state/province and restrict your service to less than 50 individuals at a time.
3. Moose International recommends cancelling all Bingo operations, especially if those events exceed the 50-person maximum.
4. No dispensations will be granted at this time for public events or those that exceed the 50-person maximum.

5. Unless state and/or local laws prohibit it, you may still conduct legalized gaming within the lodge.
6. Lodge and Chapter meetings may still be held, assuming they fall within the 50-person limit. This includes officer meetings, lodge/chapter membership meetings and committee meetings.
7. By decree of the General Governor's Office, officer elections have been postponed. The election process can take place in June with new officers taking charge on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Current incumbents will have their terms of office extended from April 30<sup>th</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup>.
8. Lodges and Chapters will not be penalized in award criteria if their Midyear Meetings were cancelled due to the coronavirus.
9. Moose International will not bill for the risk pool assessment during the month of April to provide some financial relief at this time. We will continue to re-evaluate the risk pool assessment billing depending upon the length of closures.

### **Moose International Events and Activities**

1. Moose International offices will remain open until further notice.
2. The International Moose Convention in Milwaukee and the Pilgrim/College conferrals **are still scheduled as planned** at this time. We will be monitoring the situation for all events in May and the months beyond, and will notify the membership if any changes will be necessary.
3. Some International events **HAVE been cancelled**. They include:
  - a) The Moose International **Bowling Tournament** scheduled for late March and early April in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
  - b) The Moose International **Darts Tournament** scheduled for mid-April in Belleville/Swansea, Illinois
  - c) The Moose International **Youth Awareness Congress** scheduled for the end of April in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey

At this time, there are no plans to reschedule these events and refund information will automatically be sent to all of those who have registered. Questions may be sent to Camille Ruffino ([cruffino@mooseintl.org](mailto:cruffino@mooseintl.org)).

This is an extremely fluid situation which may change at any moment. Please make sure to review any future notices sent regarding the Moose Fraternity's activity in regards to the coronavirus (COVID-19) as direction may need to change.

We recommend you use common sense in the daily operations of the lodge and to stay informed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)), and continue to emphasize proper handwashing and social distancing in the workplace.