



March 13, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and District 7010 - et district 7010

Dear Rotary Family and Friends --

Our District Executive Committee held a call this morning to discuss the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and rising concern, coupled with the outbreak officially being declared a "pandemic" by the World Health Organization [WHO] on March 11th.

Now that we have community spread of the virus it is incumbent on all of us to heed the advice/guidelines from our public health professionals, government officials and Rotary International. We must take steps to mitigate the chance of spreading the virus (to which no one has immunity) particularly to those older members of our community and those with underlying health issues. Social distancing at this point in time is a must.

Rotary International has cancelled all in person meetings that were to occur in March, and this will most likely extend into April and beyond as deemed necessary. Most travel by staff and senior Rotarians is also cancelled. However, the RI Convention in June is still scheduled to take place as of today.

For **District 7010**, we have decided to cancel **Rotary Weekend 2020** (April 3-5). Registrants will receive a full refund. If you have reserved a guest room, please remember to contact the hotel to cancel your reservation. There will be no cancellation charge up to 24 hours before your scheduled arrival.

Planning is underway to offer online sessions, in particular for Presidents Elect and those involved with Foundation Grants, as well as other sessions that had been scheduled for the Weekend. We anticipate these will be available in April and May.

Over and above that, there is always the ongoing opportunity to arrange for one-on-one online sessions on any topic/issue you may have.

Subsequently, the **Rotary Leadership Institute** [RLI] (April 3) and our District Advisory Council meeting (April 3) have also been cancelled. As has the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards** [RYLA] (May 1-3). Registrants will receive information about refunds.

Our **Annual General Meeting**, scheduled to take place during Rotary Weekend, will now be conducted online on April 4th, 9 am. Details will be sent out to the Presidents Elect.

With our District Conference 2020 not taking place until November 6-8th, we will continue to promote the conference.

Any other cancellations or postponements that may develop will be shared via email by the organizer(s) and also posted on our website and Facebook Page.

Club meetings. We have been receiving inquiries seeking advice or direction concerning whether or not to hold club meeting, fundraisers, etc. Some clubs have already decided to cancel their weekly meetings or other functions, while others are contemplating doing so. Some have decided to do so in line with the school closures (up to April 5th) and then re-assess the situation at that time.

Rotary International recommends that members and participants follow the guidelines set by the [World Health Organization](#) and your national, regional, or local health authorities to protect your health and safety. If authorities recommend it, postpone or cancel in-person meetings, or conduct them online or by phone.

Closely examine your personal circumstances, including any health issues, when you consider travel and participation in events.

For the latest information visit the info posted on My Rotary – [HERE](#).

Recognizing that this may be a stressful time for our members, our youth and other participants in Rotary programs and others we serve, it is important to acknowledge the psychological impacts of the current situation, including potential impacts on meetings and event plans as well as direct health concerns. For mental wellness considerations during this time of concern, WHO offers guidance on addressing [wellbeing](#) and [stress](#) for individuals, families and youth.

We must be vigilant in protecting our members, our families, ourselves and those we serve for the foreseeable future. During this crisis, contact your local communities to learn what is happening in your area. Brainstorm ideas within your clubs to find ways to provide Rotary support and service through other means such as financial, email, and phone call messages to those most vulnerable, who will surely feel isolated.

And as always, please remember that your District Advisory Council is here to support you and your clubs during this unprecedented event. "[We are always just one call or email away!](#)"

Yours in Rotary,



DG Bill Hagborg, 2019-2020
District 7010