



Ottawa, March 15, 2020

On Friday March 13, 2020 I had discussions with the District Commander, Deputy Zone G5 Commander and the President of Richmond Legion #625 to evaluate our position with regards to the Corona Virus (COVID 19). The discussions were about the health and welfare of our members currently and on March 29, 2020. We also did not want to appear to be over-reacting to the situation. Furthermore, we considered the recommendations of many levels of governments as well as the directive received from Dominion Command.

Based on this, March 29, 2020 Zone G5 Spring Convention has been cancelled to follow the 21 day suggested minimum activity that seems to be the standard time period to slow the possible infection (s) that occur during large gatherings. The recommendation is + 300 however due to the strong senior representation in our Zone and Legions, we felt that we had a higher than normal risk of exposure.

Also note that we will continue to publish the Zone Convention booklet, so send your report immediately if you have not already. A nil report is not fair to everyone else who has already taken time to complete.

We have received and sent to all the branches many emails with links and documents that contain guidance and Health information for everyone to follow in reducing their risks and those of their members to the virus. Basically, we would like all Branches to follow the simple tasks to provide a sense of security to your members if you have decided to continue your normal (or not so normal) business.

As such all Branches should immediately implemented the following or similar:

1. Bartenders should sanitize the bar area including tables, chairs and the bar before the start of their shift as well as to sanitize areas previously occupied.
2. When no events are planned, bartenders should sanitize your Rental Hall (s) to include tables and chairs before the start of their shift.
3. During a legion function, Cleaning should sanitize tables, chairs and working area before the event takes place.
4. Cleaners should sanitize all door handles and items commonly used by your customers as part of their daily routine.
5. Branches should install at least two hand sanitizers for customer and member use including one immediately as you enter the branch and one as you enter your main lounge. Please use them as often as you can.
6. Branch Cleaning Staff should be periodically using a steam machine (If possible) to further sanitize all table, chairs and the bar.

With the well-being of your members in mind, we are requesting that you communicate with your members to avoid visiting our branch if you are experiencing any flu like symptoms. Furthermore, if they are returning from a high-risk location including Europe and the United States and suggest they could self-isolate or at a minimum avoid visiting your branch for a period of 14 days to ensure they are not carrying the virus.

An extreme concern about your members that are self-isolating and could potentially require your support such as a member that lives alone and have no immediate family in the area. In this case, perhaps an offer a valet service to purchase food, medications or any other services that they require. Consequently, if they are self-isolating or know of someone that is self-isolating, someone from the Branch (or a team of Volunteers) could be on call to help your vulnerable members.

Be assured that we are continuing to monitor the situation and we will react appropriately as the situation evolve.

Thank you, comrades for your understanding and support in this time of concern.

Kind regards,

Tim Blanchard
Zone G5 Commander
Royal Canadian Legion