

Wednesday March 12, 2020

Philadelphia, PA

Dear SIA Members,

Care for your wellbeing and safety inspires this coronavirus update about SIAHQ's efforts in this emerging and fluid situation.

SIAHQ is taking all developments concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) very seriously and will continue to closely monitor the situation. We feel strongly that it is our collective responsibility to focus on the facts and to act with common sense and sound judgement, taking the advice of the relevant authorities and scientists.

We continue to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation closely and are listening carefully to the questions and concerns we receive from you. Please continue to share your questions and concerns.

Every part of the world is experiencing a different rate of COVID-19 spread. We urge all members to follow their local, regional and national recommendations to prevent its spread and to protect yourselves. Follow the recommended hygiene and distancing guidelines. Check these sources to stay abreast of developments:

- [WHO International](#)
- [CDC](#)
- [Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering tracker](#)

With region conferences around the corner, and many Dream Program events underway, you must consider the risk facing people in your community.

What can your club do to ensure you support the best defense for the spread of COVID-19? **In view of the seriousness and risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection—if you are in North America, Japan and Korea, you must postpone or cancel all club events through at least April 15.** You should reassess this timing based on your local health and governmental authorities' recommendations.

If you are with a club located in the US or Canada, you need to know our club and region liability coverage does not cover communicable diseases. Holding an event of any size given the current circumstances will be considered negligent, placing great risk upon the club, its members, the region and SIAHQ.

Know SIAHQ has communicated with all region governors to advise:

1. the annual conference requirement have been relaxed for 2020
2. what to consider when deciding to continue, postpone or cancel 2020 region conference.

In response, as of this morning, all five Japan regions have opted to cancel their region conference while México-Centroamérica has chosen to postpone.

Should anyone ask, there are no plans to postpone or cancel the 46th Biennial Convention in Bellevue, WA. The health and safety of all our convention attendees is our highest priority. We will work to ensure the highest possible degree of hygiene, safety and medical care at the convention. Please keep checking the [convention webpage](#). We'll be updating it regularly in the coming months leading up to the convention.

At SIAHQ, business continues. While the situation continues to evolve, you can count on the fact we will continue to do our very best to address your concerns.

We wish you, your families and your communities good health and resilience in



come.

concern for you,

Elizabeth M. Lucas, CAE

Executive Director and CEO

Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

1709 Spruce Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103 | 215-893-9000 | siahq@soroptimist.org | Soroptimist.org | LiveYourDream.org

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