



City of Manzanita

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Greetings Manzanita merchants,

In the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak, it's hard to know which way to turn. In just the space of a week, the lives of our vibrant small businesses have been turned on their collective heads. Unlike other community challenges we have faced, this is a situation that offers no template to follow. Information and rules change minute-by-minute and we are all rushing to adapt and preserve that which we have fought so hard to build.

Many of you have expressed concern over spring breakers coming from Washington State and other areas of higher infection rate. I echo those concerns and can assure you that inviting visitors to keep coming has taken a back-burner. Instead, my communications with travel organizations and media now center on encouraging visitors to shop with you online, buy gift certificates, and concentrating on having them to make plans a trip for a later date. For visitors who have come despite the situation, I am telling them to respect your businesses posted rules and to practice social distancing.

Locally, our best option is to keep communicating with one another. In order to keep everyone up-to-date on what is happening locally, I have revamped my weekly event bulletin to reflect ongoing changes to shop schedules, services, and so on. I will update it daily, look for it in your inbox. Please email or call me if you have anything you'd like added, shared, or changed. I am also constantly updating the Explore Manzanita website and our social media channels to push out and share local news. Additionally, I have been keeping in contact with my counterparts at regional destination management organizations such as Visit Tillamook Coast, Oregon Coast Visitors Association and chambers and visitors centers from Astoria to Lincoln City. I have also participated in communications with Travel Oregon and Travel Portland to try and gauge how the travel industry is re-acting to the outbreak. Every Oregon Coast town is facing the same challenges and as news comes out from these channels, I will continue to share it with you.

Finally, I want to reassure you that the Manzanita Visitors Center offers all of you its full support as we try to navigate through this. I understand the value of visitors to our local economy. Even more so, I value how our small businesses make us a stronger community. You are all my friends and neighbors and I am always available by phone, email and, when necessary, in person.

Dan Haag
Manzanita Visitors Center