

March 10, 2020



Dear Friends,

The Rainbow Chamber is monitoring the evolving story of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and will share information and updates on scheduled events on an ongoing basis.

All meeting and event decisions will be based on how best to ensure the safety of our members and all who attend our programs. At this time, we have no immediate plans to cancel any programs, but please be aware that this could change at any time. [Update: as of March 9, the County of Santa Clara is mandating the cancellation of all mass gatherings - groups of over 1000 people.]

Currently, the risk to the general public is low due to the unlikelihood of exposure to the virus. Risk of exposure is elevated for healthcare workers, people who have had close contact with persons with COVID-19, and travelers returning from affected international locations (China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, Japan, and Hong Kong).

Below are the recommendations from the Santa Clara County Department of Health on how to manage events:

- Urge anyone who is sick to not attend.
- Encourage those who are at higher risk for serious illness to not attend.
- Try to find ways to give people more physical space so that they aren't in close contact as much as possible.
- Encourage attendees to follow increased hygiene, such as:
 - Washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used in a pinch
- Avoid close contact with other people
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Covering their cough or sneeze with a tissue - if available - or into their elbow
- Clean surfaces with standard cleaners.

The Santa Clara County Health Department offers a [dedicated page on Corvid-19](#) with updates and recommendations.

Now, as always, is the time for compassion, staying informed and using common sense.

Stay safe,

Bettie O and Hank Dean, Co-Presidents, Rainbow Chamber Silicon Valley