

Optimist International



Greetings Optimists,

With Members distributed across the globe, we are closely monitoring information regarding the recent outbreak of coronavirus, called COVID-19. As this situation has developed, Optimist International leaders have reached several decisions to protect the health of our Members, Leaders, Staff and the communities we serve.

- Optimist International recommends that Clubs and Districts follow advisories, guidelines and rules dictated by their local, state, provincial and national health agencies.
- In the absence of specific recommendations, Club leaders should consider the health of Club and community members, as well as their family and friends before scheduling an event. Emphasize proper [handwashing and hygiene](#) to avoid transmission. Avoid handshakes and hugs in greetings and [practice social distancing](#).
- Effective immediately, all District conferences and meetings should be postponed or canceled through at least April 30, 2020.
- All non-essential travel (both air and ground) for Optimist International staff, committee members and Board Members is suspended until further notice. Optimist International recommends that District leaders suspend all non-essential travel.
- Districts may consider holding Oratorical contests via livestream or other remote methods.

Being Optimists, we are planning for a successful Optimist International Convention to take place as scheduled, June 28-July 1 in Schaumburg, Illinois. We are also looking forward to our outstanding Optimist Junior Golf Championship in July 11-26 in Miami, Florida, and our inspiring Optimist Oratorical World Championship, July 15-17, in St. Louis, Missouri. If plans for these change, we will notify those involved immediately.

For more information about coronavirus, including precautions and advisories consult:

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
[U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[World Health Organization](#)

Consult state, provincial, regional or local health agencies for specific information about your location.

The health of our Members, Friends and the communities we serve remains our highest priority.

Thank You