

Message from Chamber President and CEO, [Sandy King](#):

Word came in yesterday from state officials that the four Ellis County Chambers must postpone the Ellis County Market event this weekend. For a first year event, it is difficult to estimate the economic impact to our community, but we do know that cancellations of major events across the country are causing widespread worry. From our local hotels to main street shops, no corner of our economy will be spared the economic reverberations of cancellations such as this.

Yes, your local business community is concerned. Our first thoughts are, as always, with our community. Your local merchants do more than work here, they live here, own homes here, raise their families here – our concerns are your concerns. The bedrock of any community is health and safety, and first and foremost we want both for our community.

Which is why we are asking our entire community to take a moment, get the facts, and let professionals do what they have trained for years to do; manage these types of situations. It's important to remember that our businesses do not operate in an unregulated environment, from the local health department, to state and federal regulations, standards to own and operate a business in Ellis County are generally high, especially so for hospitality related business. It's our local agencies that we have trusted to make it so, and we should trust that process now.

All our local and state agencies are working tirelessly to keep us up to date, and to keep control of an evolving situation using years of study, preparation and protocol for this very scenario. And as of today, most are saying the same thing – be smart and carry on.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has issued no warning or restrictions on travel anywhere in the U.S. and the health risk to the general public remains low.

Perhaps legitimate health and safety concerns will prompt officials to take further actions in the coming days and weeks, and if that becomes the case, the Chamber of Commerce and our business community will respect the guidance of those professionals. In the meantime, we encourage our community and local businesses to remain calm and carry on.

Now, more than ever, our community will need to support each other. Chambers of Commerce have carried the “Shop Local” flag for sometime now. We do it because we believe in it. Today, we do it because our community is absolutely going to depend on it.

Please join us in supporting our local businesses. As always, we sincerely thank you for your support!