



16 March 2020

TO: VFW and it's Auxiliary

Subject: Response to Corona Virus,

1. As many of you know the Governor of Ohio, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and President of the United States have issued a number of declarations, directives and recommendations in response to the Corona Virus Pandemic. Some of these change daily. Department leadership is doing it's best to keep up with changes, determine impact to our District and Posts, and issue you clear guidance as appropriate.
2. Last night I issued an Emergency General Order in response to a Governor of Ohio directive to close Restaurants and Bars. These were transmitted to District Commanders to be communicated to all Posts in the Department by E-mail and phone. The Emergency General Order states:
 - a. Posts and Lodges of non-profit organizations are NOT exempt from the Governor's order to close Restaurants and Bars. As such all "Canteens" in our Posts will close by 9PM until further notice.
 - b. Even though Canteens are closed, Posts could remain open to conduct only critical business, to include their March meeting given most meeting attendance numbers falls within Ohio and CDC guidance. All other activities/gatherings, i.e., Bingo, parties, dinners, dart tournaments, etc., are cancelled.
 - c. Posts could prepare meals for "takeout" as this is also allowed for restaurants to offer takeout.
3. I have directed our Department VFW and VFWOC offices at 35 E. Chestnut, Columbus, be closed effective today until further notice. To be clear Department operations will continue via electronic means. Both offices will monitor E-mails and telephone messages, and will contact you no later than close of the next business day! Our Veterans Service Director and Department Service Officer will determine status of our Veterans Service Offices.
4. As we monitor the situation some issues we are assessing are potential impacts to Post meetings in April for 2nd round nomination/elections, District testimonials, Department June convention, etc. More direction to follow based status of state and federal directives/orders.
5. Please utilize your chain-of-command for questions/information!!

BE PATIENT AND USE COMMON SENSE!

Dan Faulkner
State Commander
Dept. of Ohio