

ILLINOIS: COVID-19 IMPACT ON STATE'S HOTEL INDUSTRY



JOBS LOST IN ILLINOIS HOTEL INDUSTRY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- 26,124 direct hotel-related jobs lost
- 119,408 total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

ILLINOIS HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

Paul Fisher – Chicago, IL

"We are making hard decisions to reduce staffing by up to 50% due to reduced demand at our hotel in order to save the business."

Raymond Ceresa – Morton, IL

"I have experienced firsthand...PANIC from our guests resulting in mass cancellations of guest rooms, conferences, family reunions, meetings, dinners, seminars, galas and more. The results: immediate loss of revenue in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, tightening up expenses/labor/purchases, cutting employee hours since our business levels have been slashed, a hiring freeze, panic by our employees and fear they may be laid off, etc."

Tami Simmins – Rolling Meadows, IL

"Our hotel team's payroll hours were immediately cut as we schedule based on demand. And of course, the owners were impacted by the loss of revenue. As a small hotel management company.... we manage operations on behalf of those owners, and we are compensated by the top line revenue. This story is being repeated at all our hotels. Our teams, owners and specifically our management company will be greatly impacted by this incident regardless of whether any of us contract the virus or get sick."

James Winning – Chicago, IL

"As a hotelier in Illinois I have experienced firsthand our occupancy drop to single digits for the next two months in less than two weeks leading to us already starting layoffs for periods of 2 months."

Michelle Irvin McConnell – Bloomington, IL

"I have experienced first hand...my loyal, dedicated housekeepers crying as they have no hours, no money to pay their rent of which is due in less than two weeks. They fear being homeless with their children. I have staff that have worked for me for over 10 years!!"

HEADLINES ACROSS ILLINOIS ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

165 news stories in Illinois regarding impact to hotel industry on broadcast, print and online news outlets:

Chicago Tribune – [Coronavirus Hammers Chicago's Hotel Industry](#)

Hotel occupancy rates have plummeted. Housekeeping staff, bellhops, valets and other workers are being let go, not knowing when — or if — they'll be back. Some of Chicago's swankiest properties have gone dark, temporarily closing their doors to overnight guests. An already dire situation is set to get even worse as the new coronavirus puts the brakes on travel and sends the lodging industry into a tailspin, unleashing ripple effects across the economy.

Chicago Daily Herald – [Jobless Claims Jump By 70,000 As Virus Starts To Take Hold](#)

Economists are predicting a surge in layoffs as efforts to contain the spreading coronavirus result in people losing jobs in a variety of industries from restaurants and bars to airlines and hotels.

Chicago Sun Times – [Chicago Hotels Cutting Staff, Considering Closure](#)

Layoffs have begun at Chicago-area hotels, an industry leader confirmed Monday, as occupancy rates have plummeted because of the coronavirus and official efforts to control its spread.

Dispatch-Argus – [A Cruel Paradox: Beating Virus Means Causing US Recession](#)

"Travel industry executives visited the White House on Tuesday with a dire warning on the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic: half of all hotels in the United States could close by year's end and put 4 million Americans out of work without a massive bailout from Washington."