

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



JOBS LOST IN OKLAHOMA HOTEL INDUSTRY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- **14,879** direct hotel-related jobs lost
- **43,066** total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

OKLAHOMA HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

Arti Patel - Del City, OK

“As a hotelier in Oklahoma I have experienced first over \$180,000 in cancellations for hotel rooms this week. At this point our fixed costs such as mortgage and interest payments will not be met. We will not be able to operate or make necessary payments as a business let alone be able sustain any payroll.”

Mike Chhita – Stillwater, OK

“As a hotelier in Oklahoma I have experienced firsthand... impact of the coronavirus pandemic. with all the travel halts, and cancellation of events is taking a toll on our industry. we need help”

Gloria Short – Stillwater, OK

“As the Director of Sales, I am passionate about maximizing bookings and revenue so the General Manager can employ a full staff at good wages. It is true when they say "happy employees make guests happy", but the effects of the widespread panic has put our hotel and our staff on edge. While I try to strategize and find replacement booking in a smaller market, I cannot find a quick fix or the replacement business because our market demand is largely generated by OkState who is closed for what is rumored to be - the rest of the Spring semester. The virus panic has caused hoteliers alike to decrease guest services, cleaning services, and minimize select amenities in public spaces. Regardless of our nations pandemic, our guests are still our guests and they still deserve to be happy and feel like they are getting what they pay, but delivering the information to our guests can be challenging for associates. The overall effect on COVID-19 and businesses crosses over into all staff members and guests. This is the worst I have ever witnessed in 20 years of service.”

HEADLINES ACROSS OKLAHOMA ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

40 news stories in Oklahoma regarding impact to hotel industry on broadcast, print and online news outlets including:

Tulsa World – [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.”