

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



JOBS LOST IN TENNESSEE HOTEL INDUSTRY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- **17,744** direct hotel-related jobs lost
- **65,870** total jobs lost supporting hotel industry

TENNESSEE HOTELIERS SHARING THEIR HARDSHIP

Mike Patel – Knoxville, TN

“Business has come to a halt, and we have to lay off staff members because we will not have the income to keep them working.”

Rakesh Patel – Germantown, TN

“As a hotelier in Tennessee I have experienced firsthand...A steep decline in business. We have no choice but to cut hours/staffing. These are our busy months.”

Debbie Davis – Knoxville, TN

“By Monday, March 16, 2020, we were forced to lay-off half of our team, 11 wonderful, service-oriented people. As I write this, Tuesday March 17th, we closing our breakfast buffet to reduce the threat to our guests and team members. We have also shut down two full floors of rooms, and will consider taking even more drastic options just to stay in business.”

Heather Brown – Oak Ridge, TN

“We laid off over 50% of our work force at Holiday Inn Express yesterday and more layoffs to come for both hotels. Both hotels have had massive cancellations for individuals and all events which has caused devastating financial strain on our hotels. We are now currently considering shutting down our Holiday Inn Express.”

Rob Kraus – Arrington, TN

“As a hotelier in Tennessee I have experienced firsthand how many of our properties across the country are having to lay off employees for large unknown periods of time. Not only are hotels but our corporate employees at the same time.”

HEADLINES ACROSS TENNESSEE ON IMPACT TO HOTEL INDUSTRY

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

Citizen Tribune – [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.”

WVLT – [Knoxville Hotels Lay Off Employees Amid Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

As the coronavirus continues to spread many businesses, schools and events across East Tennessee have closed or been canceled. Hotels in Knoxville have already been impacted by concerns regarding the coronavirus. Due to travel bans, event cancellations and canceled vacations hotels have made the decision to lay-off employees. The Hilton Knoxville has laid off all 80 hourly employees. The hotel said the administrative staff will still be working. The Embassy Suites in Knoxville laid off 56 employees amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The Tennessean – [Bracing For Recession, Nashville Economy Enters Survival Mode](#)

Nearly \$130 million in expected direct spending has been lost from 346 canceled events, according to the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp. “We believe the hospitality industry will likely be hardest hit but we know everyone will be hurt,” NCVV CEO Butch Spyridon said. “There have been significant furloughs and layoffs at bars, restaurants and hotels.”