



July 15, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Chair, National Governors Association
444 N. Capitol St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

The Honorable Greg Fischer
President, The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Governor Hogan and Mayor Fischer:

On behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), the sole national association representing all segments of the U.S. lodging industry, including iconic global brands, hotel owners and franchisees, lodging real estate investment trusts (REITs), hotel management companies, independent properties, bed and breakfasts, state hotel associations, and industry suppliers, we thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented public health and economic crisis. The economic impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on the hotel industry is the worst our industry has ever faced. As a result of the sharp drop in travel demand from COVID-19, state and local tax revenue from hotel operations are projected to drop by \$16.8 billion in 2020, according to a recent *Oxford Economics* study.

We are grateful to the more than two dozen governors and numerous mayors who have standardized the use of face coverings in all indoor public spaces and we strongly encourage your fellow elected leaders to follow suit by expanding face covering requirements. The use of face coverings by guests in hotels will instill confidence with other guests and employees that every hotel is a safe place to visit and work. By making it safer for Americans to travel, we will be one step closer to rebuilding an industry that is a pillar of communities across the country. We believe that governors and mayors play the leading role in promoting the use of face coverings to help halt the spread of COVID-19.

To support your leadership, we will soon be expanding our industry guidance to identify requirements for our guests, including the wearing of face coverings in indoor public spaces, practicing social distancing and reducing in-person contact by selecting contactless options. This guest checklist will be incorporated into AHLA's Safe Stay guidelines, an industry-wide enhanced health and safety protocols designed to provide a safe and clean environment for all hotel guests and employees.

Among those planning to travel in 2020, 68 percent of expectant travelers say they are likely to stay in a hotel. As such, a checklist will serve as a tool to educate guests on new industry norms, based on guidance from the CDC, reflecting the industry's commitment to advancing public health precautions during the pandemic.

The health and safety of our guests and employees is our industry's top priority. The steps being taken to heighten health and safety protocols through AHLA's Safe Stay guidelines reiterate our commitment to guests, employees and – critically – to your communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chip Rogers
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Governors of the United States
Mayors of the United States