

Ours is a changing world...

With the news of COVID-19, changing moment by moment, it's hard to keep up. Sports have gone dark. So have attractions & theme parks. Kids across America are coming home from college, their semesters at school over or broadcast online. Schools are closing and turning to remote learning.

Here in the Androscoggin Valley, life is changing as well. Meetings have been cancelled, businesses have ramped up cleaning procedures, and all of us are taking precautions where we can.

Here at the Chamber, we're making some of those changes too, but our mission remains the same: servicing our local businesses and the community. We can't panic, but we can prepare, and we can begin taking some commonsense steps toward keeping the community, our businesses and our employees safer.

We could go on and on but know that helping to support local businesses is crucial at a time like this. These same businesses are the ones supporting our kids' fundraisers, the ones where we gather with friends, and where the workers know our names. We need them to be around not only next week or next month, but for years to come. Let's support them, where we are able, to get them through this time.

If you want to support a local business, but have concerns related to the virus you can purchase a gift certificate now to be used later. Steps like that will enable local businesses to keep paying their staffs – your friends and family members – and keep businesses viable in our community.

I'm sure we'll be sharing more information in the days and weeks ahead.
For now: Stay calm, stay informed, support your neighbors, and let's all look forward to better times ahead.

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