For the travel and hospitality industry, the safety of the traveling public, our guests and our employees is of the utmost importance. We are in daily contact with public health authorities and are acting on the most up-to-date information on the evolving coronavirus situation.

Health and government officials have continually assured the public that healthy Americans can ‘confidently travel in this country.’ While it’s critically important to remain vigilant and take useful precautions in times like these, it’s equally important to make calm, rational, and fact-based decisions.

Though the headlines may be worrisome, experts continue to say the overall coronavirus risk in the U.S. remains low. At-risk groups are older individuals and those with underlying health conditions, who should take extra precautions.

The latest expert guidance indicates that for the overwhelming majority, it’s OK to live, work, play and travel in the U.S. By seeking and heeding the latest expert guidance—which includes vigorous use of good health practices, similar to the preventive steps recommended for the seasonal flu—America’s communities will stay strong and continue to thrive. The decision to cancel travel and events has a trickle-down effect that threatens to harm the U.S. economy, from locally owned hotels, restaurants, travel advisors and tour operators to the service and frontline employees who make up the backbone of the travel industry and the American economy.

We are mindful of a guiding principle that long predates this current public health situation: without the safety and security of travelers, there can be no travel. The travel industry will maintain lines of contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health and Human Services, and the White House, and will remain vigilant for any changes. Collectively, we are taking enhanced steps to ensure both the safety of travelers, guests and our own employees.

Click here for the full list of signatory organizations.

Coronavirus has the travel industry’s full attention because without safety and security for travelers, there is no travel.

Federal public health officials have repeated frequently: It is safe for healthy people to travel in the U.S.

All of the official coronavirus-related travel guidance is directed at specific, vulnerable demographics: the elderly, and people with serious underlying health conditions.

It is also important to understand there are zero official restrictions on travel in the U.S. All current travel restrictions are specific to travel to or from countries with pronounced coronavirus outbreaks.

The U.S. travel industry is in daily touch with officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the White House, and is acting on the most up-to-date official guidance to keep our customers and employees safe.

U.S. health officials are urging the same personal best practices that are standard for a typical flu season—frequent washing of hands, avoid touching your face, etc.

With the situation evolving rapidly, we encourage the traveling public to seek and heed the latest expert guidance, and to make fact-based travel decisions.

Because travel and tourism has such a sizable impact on the U.S. economy and here in [LOCATION], a decision to not travel creates a significant downstream effect and directly affects the workers whose jobs and livelihoods are so dependent on travel.