March 16, 2020

Dear Chapter Leaders,

ATD National shares the talent development community’s deep concerns over the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are actively monitoring the latest information including reports and travel advisories from the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other global public health authorities.

On March 15, the CDC issued guidance recommending against gatherings of 50 or more individuals for the next eight weeks.* The CDC has also recommended that events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing. ATD chapters should heed this guidance as well as any applicable government mandates and health and safety guidelines given by state and local authorities and global health organizations.

Prior to the March 15 CDC recommendation, a number of chapters had previously alerted ATD National that they had cancelled or postponed upcoming meetings or switched to virtual options. If your chapter is currently working through a meeting cancellation or postponement, please work with your meeting venue regarding any changes, including contractual obligations related to cancellation or rescheduling as part of your programming strategy. Should your chapter need assistance with virtual platforms, please refer to this article regarding tech companies offering free remote working tools or reach out to your chapter relations manager (CRM) for additional support.

Regarding the ATD 2020 International Conference & Exposition scheduled to start in nine weeks, May 17–20, we are continuing to work closely with our Denver partners and other experts to evaluate the impact of the outbreak on the event. Our staff, participants,
exhibitors, sponsors, partners, chapter leaders, volunteers, and everyone who joins ATD to learn and network at our events and workshops are our highest priority. Members of the ATD National team meet daily to review new information and guidance from public health authorities. We will continue to monitor the situation and share the latest information available on our FAQs.

Thank you for your support of and commitment to your chapter and your local community.

Sincerely,

ATD Chapter Services

*Note: Guidance is changing often, so please check the CDC website frequently for updates.