

Guild of Oregon Woodworkers COVID-19 Information – Update
March 15, 2020

Dear Members

It's been a busy Sunday morning for the Board discussing COVID-19 actions we should take or not take. Steve Poland, our President, put forth the following suggestions which the board has agreed whole heartily.

“None of us know if we are already unwitting carriers, and none of us would want to be responsible for passing the virus on to anyone else, which could then impact their family and others. Nothing we are doing is important enough to put anyone's health and life in danger. As such, the Guild is taking the following actions.”

1. **We are closing the shop as of 5:00 pm today**, Sunday, March 15 for a minimum of 4 weeks until April 15th.
2. It will remain closed until we are advised by public health officials that it is ok to reopen. This could be for an additional month or more.
3. **All classes are suspended as of 5:00 pm tonight** including the HOST session scheduled for tonight.
4. The education group is looking at the option of rescheduling classes or canceling them. All registered students will be given a refund for canceled classes and you will have the option to accept a rescheduled class or take a refund. This will take some time to do the analysis so please be patient.

The Guild board will continue to monitor the situation and discuss options and suggestions by conference calls or emails and keep the membership up to date.

In addition to all the suggestions by official organizations, the Guild IT department would like to advise the following during this time of public uncertainty and desire for more information.

1. **Emails** - Any emails you receive offering products, advice, or information about the virus be extremely cautious before (i.e. do not) clicking on any link – the public is ripe for scams and you may get a virus nastier than COVID-19.
2. **Offers**- Any offer for anything that asks for money is 99.9999% a scam. *Do not respond or open any link.*
3. **Surveys** - My inbox is being flooded with free gift certificates and surveys that want my opinion – JUST SAY NO!
4. **Social Media** - Same goes for social media content and links – DO NOT BE TEMPTED REGARDLESS OF HOW INTERESTING IT LOOKS to open a link.
5. **Conspiracy Theories** - There are numerous conspiracy theories going around – please do not forward them or believe in them. There is a segment of our population that needs to assign blame. Our focus needs to be on a solution and that is following the advice and guidelines from official organizations.

This is the time to be cautious but not to panic or get into a herding mentality. Be courteous to all, understanding to those who are overly reacting to the situation and check on your friends and neighbors who may need your help during this stressful period.