

Message from CPB President and CEO Pat Harrison

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Dear Colleagues:

CPB is working with PBS, NPR, APTS and general managers to address health and work challenges with regard to the coronavirus pandemic. Our priority is the health and safety of the public media workforce as well as the “health” of stations and your ability to serve your communities.

At CPB we are implementing workplace telecommuting policies and are urging employees to stay at home. Our Executive Team and Senior Vice Presidents will be accessible via phone, email, text, and when necessary, teleconference. To reduce the risk of exposure and transmission, we have suspended all in- person meetings. Containment now depends on each of us.

Some of you are performing services under CPB grant agreements that may contemplate or require in-person meetings or public gatherings. These can include but are not limited to town hall meetings and community engagement events. Please postpone those meetings and events until the threat of contagion is officially declared to be over. Please consider webinars and teleconferencing when suitable. Rest assured that CPB’s Project Officers will work with you to relax any grant requirements that could contribute to spreading the virus.

We have also been urging the remaining 100+ public radio and television stations that are receiving their Community Service Grant (CSG) payments by check to immediately convert to Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). To further address any potential disruption, CPB is assessing circumstances that attend the release of second CSG payments. For example, where a station is unable to provide required reports due to operational challenges created by the coronavirus. We are also monitoring the financial impact of the coronavirus on the stations and the system and identifying needs.

These are early days and I will be providing you with updates and responding to your questions as we confront this global pandemic. Thank you for the work you do, especially at this time of crisis for our country. Public media’s local presence, our commitment to high quality journalism and trusted information, and our educational content are needed more than ever. Our goal is to help you do your work regarding our vital mission.

Pat Harrison

President and CEO

Corporation for Public Broadcasting