

13 March, 2020



Dear NWCA members,

Many of you recently received orders from your respective campuses restricting domestic travel, and have contacted us to cancel your registration for the conference. The NWCA Executive Council has been in discussion with each other and with the Coeur d'Alene Resort about the best path forward, and the facts indicate that we must either postpone or cancel our 2020 conference.

Although the details remain to be determined and negotiated, it is increasingly obvious that the 2020 conference, as was planned and scheduled for April 16-18, 2020, will be impossible to hold for reasons beyond everyone's control.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare released [guidance on public events in Idaho](#) on March 12, 2020. This document recommends postponing or cancelling a conference when, among other circumstances, the event will draw participants from communities with confirmed community spread of COVID-19, and when the event's audience may expose high-risk populations, including adults over the age of 60 and those with chronic medical conditions, regardless of the number of attendees. Both of those circumstances are likely, if not confirmable, for our conference. These circumstances exist in addition to the fact that most, if not all, of our participants would be unable to attend because of official domestic travel restrictions or prohibitions issued by many campuses in the northwest region. Furthermore, at the time this letter was written, Idaho had one confirmed case of COVID-19.

As my update on March 5th indicated, we had, until this point, been intent on holding our conference as planned. This decision came at great deliberation and with concern for the health and safety of both our members and the resort staff, the professional and personal needs of our members, and the financial viability of the NWCA. We are working to ensure that all of those concerns are balanced and managed with optimal efficacy.

If you have already registered for the conference, the NWCA executive committee has agreed that the registration fees will be refunded. We will reach out to the registered members about those details.

Lodging and travel reservations should be handled as you made them. Unfortunately, NWCA cannot reimburse any non-refundable lodging or travel arrangements.

For those of you who had papers or panels accepted for presentation, you will be able to report your acceptance on your vita as you would for any conference at which your work had been accepted. I am happy to provide you with a letter documenting your acceptance if such documentation would be useful for you.

We will update the details of the next conference when we have them available.

Until then,

Steve Yoshimura, Ph.D.
2020 President
Northwest Communication Association