



March 13, 2020

Dear MIFA Members:

In light of the evolving news of the COVID-19 virus and its impact on our speech community, we want to provide you with information regarding the remaining MIFA events for the 2019-2020 school year.

First, please understand that MIFA organizes only the state level contests. "Invitational tournaments" are organized by various schools independent of MIFA, and their decision to hold an event or cancel is entirely their own.

We continue to plan MIFA's state level events for the conclusion of the Individual Events season for both middle and high school students. We're hopeful that we will be able to hold the contests as planned but know that with five to seven weeks until the various tournaments, many things may change. Our host sites and/or local, state or national agencies may require that events be altered or cancelled. At this time, upcoming events are more than a month away and we are still moving forward as scheduled although some deadlines will be adjusted to accommodate school closures.

That said, MIFA's priority is the health and safety of our students, coaches, judges and volunteers. We will continue to work closely with our host sites, units of government and health/emergency partners to plan event details and we'll rely on their expertise and advice to inform our decision making. The Forensic Council (MIFA's board of directors) meets early next week and will conduct a thorough risk assessment prior to making the decision to proceed, postpone, cancel or make alternate arrangements. Thankfully we have several weeks before any of these events and with every passing day the situation becomes clearer.

We appreciate everyone's continued support of the MIFA, as well as our plans to execute safe and responsible events. For now, keep rehearsing, wash those hands and we'll update you as more details become available.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jonathan Becker  
Executive Director