

**For Immediate Release
March 14, 2020**

Hames Corporation – COVID-19 Response

A Message to Our Customers and the Community of Sitka

Sitka, Alaska – March 14, 2020

To our valued customers and neighbors,

At Hames Corporation, our family knows the important roles our stores play in our community and in you and your families lives during these uncertain times. As the situation around the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve, we know how important it is to be prepared. We would like to reassure the public that our staff have and will continue to monitor all information locally, nationally and globally so we can plan how best to serve Sitkans. Safety is one of our core values. The safety and security of our employees, customers and community remain our highest priority.

As your neighborhood retail and grocery stores, we are taking steps to the best of our ability to make sure that you and your family have access to what you need. At this time, our family would like to reassure the community and share some of the steps we have and are taking to better ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in our stores.

Last week, our team began planning and taking steps to make sure we can serve our community if it becomes impacted in a significant way. Your health is important to us. We have stepped up how often we clean and disinfect all departments, restrooms and other high-touch points of the store, including check stands, service counters and grocery carts. Cart wipes and hand sanitizer stations are accessible in key locations throughout our stores for your convenience. As always, we encourage customers to wash their fresh and packaged produce and meat products before consuming them at home.

All of our employees have been encouraged to follow the CDC's recommendations to keep themselves and their loved ones healthy. We have placed additional emphasis on the importance of handwashing and the consistent use of hand sanitizers. We have encouraged our employees to stay home when they feel ill and we are working with our Human Resource team to ensure that every employee who faces a crisis can have peace of mind that we will help them get through it. To help support our employees in the case they do become ill, we have reviewed and have currently suspended many employment policies to support any employee that may need to take leave to care for their self or an ill-family member for an extended period of time.

We ask that you help us keep our store employees, vendors and community safe. When you visit one of our locations, we ask that you use sensible precautions when entering our stores and facilities. If you or a member of your family or household are not feeling well, please come back when you are feeling better. If you are in immediate need of supplies, we ask that you consider community support and have a healthy friend, colleague, neighbor or family member shop for you.

Island life in Southeast Alaska does not come without its challenges, but we are confident that we will overcome any adversity this pandemic may bring to our community in the upcoming days, weeks and months. You may have already noticed some regional shortages of certain products, such as sanitizing wipes, disinfecting cleaners and other cleaning supplies.

There has also been public concern that our supply chain will be compromised. Our family and senior management team would like to reassure you and let you know that we have multiple suppliers and at this time barge transportation has not been stopped or delayed. If this situation were to change, please know that we will be the first to communicate any local public health notifications or concerns that arise that would directly impact our store operations.

In meantime, we are asking customers to respect any quantity limit we may place on select, high-demand items like hand sanitizers, household cleaners, etc. to help ensure more of our fellow Sitkans can find the products they need during this critical time. Rest assured, we are working with our suppliers to order and and refill high-demand products as quickly as possible. It may, however, take some time to reestablish our stock levels and we ask for your patience and understanding in that regard.

Our employees, customers and community are at the center of everything we do. At Hames Corporation, we believe it is in challenging times like these that the power of community care is needed most of all. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your continued confidence in our family of stores.

Roger L. Hames

Roger L. Hames.
Chairman & CEO, Hames Corporation

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” -- Coretta Scott King

For more information, press only:

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