



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2020

## **FESTIVAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF 2020 VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL**

**Vidalia** – It is with careful consideration that the Vidalia Onion Festival Committee and the City of Vidalia have decided to cancel the 2020 Vidalia Onion Festival due to the threat of Covid-19. The health and well-being of our citizens and visitors is of the utmost importance to us. We must heed the advice of our national and state elected officials and the CDC to safeguard against the situation as much as possible. Much thought went into whether we could reschedule, but a multi-event festival like this makes it impossible to find a date that would be feasible for the majority of the events. The Vidalia Onion Festival is scheduled to coincide with the beginning of the harvest; Vidalia Onions have a short season, with supplies usually only lasting thru the end of August.

The following information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention was used to make the decision to cancel the 2020 Vidalia Onion Festival.

### Considerations for Postponing or Cancelling a Mass Gathering

There are a number of factors to consider when determining the need to postpone or cancel a large gathering. These include:

**The overall number of attendees.** Larger gatherings (for example, more than 250 people) offer more opportunities for person-to-person contact and therefore pose greater risk of COVID-19 transmission.

**The number of people attending who are at greater risk of more serious illness after contracting COVID-19.** Older adults and persons with severe pre-existing health conditions are thought to be at increased risk.

**The density of attendees within a confined area.** Based on what is currently known about the virus, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts (within 6 feet).

**The potential economic impact to participants, attendees, staff, and the larger community.**

**The level of transmission in your local community and the level of transmission in the areas from which your attendees will travel.** To better understand the level of community transmission in your community (and in the communities from which your attendees will be traveling), consult with your local and/or state public health department.

**If there are ways in which to significantly reduce the number of attendees.** For example, for sporting events or school concerts, organizers could consider holding the event but significantly reduce the number of audience members.

**At a minimal-to-moderate level of community transmission, it is recommended to:** Cancel community-wide mass gatherings (for example, >250 people; **the cutoff threshold is at the discretion of community leadership based on the [current circumstances the community is facing and the nature of the event](#)**) or move to smaller groupings.

Cancel gatherings of more than 10 people for organizations that serve [higher-risk populations](#).

We are all disappointed that the long hours our volunteers have already put in will not result in a 2020 festival. However, please know that the Vidalia Onion Festival Committee has already started making plans for 2021.

###

CONTACT: Alexa Carter Britton  
Executive Director, Vidalia CVB  
912-538-8687  
[abritton@vidaliaga.gov](mailto:abritton@vidaliaga.gov)