

# THE BENSON

PORTLAND

A COAST HOTEL™ ©

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PORTLAND LANDMARK HOTEL REMAINS RESILIENT AMID COVID CRISIS**

*The iconic Benson Hotel repurposes a bit of history to keep guests and employees safe.*



**PORTLAND, Ore. – (May 6, 2020)** – While many Portland area hotels are closing due to the drop-off in demand related to COVID-19, those that remain in operation have to take serious steps to mitigate risks to both employees and guests. The Benson Hotel, Portland’s historic landmark hotel, has never closed its doors in 107 years, and its commitment to impeccable service and customer experiences remains intrinsic to its tradition. With the world-wide focus on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19, and the need for social distancing to reduce potential exposure for all of us, The Benson Hotel has taken safety and cleanliness to a new level.

In keeping with its elegant and historic lobby, The Benson engineering team fabricated 72" high standing plexiglass dividers, designed to help guests feel safe and comfortable, with minimal risk of exposure at the Front Desk, while checking in next to others. To match the aesthetics in the beautiful grand lobby, the plexiglass dividers are secured in heavy iron stands that were made using repurposed table bases from The Lobby Court, which served as a secondary outlet to The London Grill, the hotel's original fine dining restaurant of The Benson for more than half a century from 1955 until 2011.

"This crisis presented an opportunity to get creative and reinvent the feel of check in at our Front Desk, so our guests and employees feel safe," said Jeremy DeJong, Chief Engineer. "Brian Davis, our Maintenance Manager, and I looked at it as an opportunity to re-use antique table stands we already had on hand for that purpose."

The Benson recently earned the 2020 AAA Inspector's Best of Housekeeping Award for surpassing the highest cleanliness and condition scores as measured during a comprehensive, on-site inspection of the property. Desktop protective shields have also been installed at the Front Desk to provide staff and customers peace of mind in safeguarding the risk of exposure.

"We have taken steps to enhance our already rigorous standards of housekeeping and cleanliness, to include increased frequency in cleaning and sanitization of high touch areas, in both public areas and our guest rooms," said George Schweitzer, Managing Director of The Benson Hotel. "As recommended by the CDC, all associates currently wear non-medical, cloth-based face coverings when in public guest facing areas. Hand sanitizing stations are present in all high contact areas. An EPA registered peroxide all-purpose disinfectant cleaner, which has demonstrated effectiveness in killing viruses, is also used to clean and sanitize surfaces throughout the hotel."

For more information on cleanliness & sanitation practices which are fundamental aspects of the service The Benson Hotel offers, please visit [www.bensonhotel.com](http://www.bensonhotel.com).

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#### ABOUT THE BENSON

*Established in 1913, the historic Benson Hotel combines European elegance and charm with modern luxuries. Located in the heart of downtown Portland near popular sights, tax-free shopping, nightlife and performing arts venues and museums, The Benson Hotel features 287 guest rooms and suites with high-definition LCD televisions, high-speed wireless, alarm clocks with iPod/MP3 stations, organic bamboo robes and slippers, Sealy® Tempur-Pedic sleep-system beds and more. The property is also home to The Palm Court restaurant and bar, as well as more than 18,000 square feet of versatile meeting and event space. For more information visit [www.bensonhotel.com](http://www.bensonhotel.com). If you would like to stay in touch, please "like" us on Facebook at [The Benson Hotel](https://www.facebook.com/TheBensonHotel) or "follow" us on Twitter at [@TheBensonHotel](https://twitter.com/TheBensonHotel) and Instagram at [@TheBensonHotel](https://www.instagram.com/TheBensonHotel).*

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