

COVID-19 Business Resources

Basic information about COVID-19

The most up to date and accurate information can be found at the Vermont Dept. of Health website:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>

WHEN TO CALL

- If you have questions about COVID-19: Dial 2-1-1
- If you are returning from [most of Europe](#), China, Iran or South Korea: Call Health Department Epidemiology at 802-863-7240.
- If you are sick or concerned about your health: Contact your health care provider by phone. Do not go to the hospital, except in a life-threatening situation. Do not call the Health Department.

Person-to-person spread of the virus occurs mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Take these everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your arm or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

On March 13, Gov. Phil Scott called on Vermonters to help protect our most vulnerable - the elderly and the very ill - and announced several mitigation strategies to help slow the spread of the new coronavirus. They include restricting visitor access at long-term care facilities and hospitals, prohibiting large, non-essential gatherings of more than 250 people and suspending out-of-state travel for state employees. Gov. Scott declared a state of emergency to help ensure Vermont has all the necessary resources to respond to this evolving threat. [Read the executive order.](#)

Federal and State of Emergency Information: <https://www.astho.org/Programs/Preparedness/Public-Health-Emergency-Law/Emergency-Authority-and-Immunity-Toolkit/Emergency-Declarations-and-Authorities-Fact-Sheet/>

Deerfield Valley Food Pantry- Distribution Dates Thursday March 19th 1-3 and March 21st 9-11 Delivery will be made directly to vehicles. If you need more information please call the Food Pantry and Leave a message at (802)464-0148

Donations- Financial can be made on-line and food can be dropped at Shaw's, West Dover Post Office, Jacksonville Post Office and People's United Bank.

Employer Resources

Documenting any and all losses is important for federal assistance provided to the state and region.

The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation: The BDCC will help you:

- access needed working capital through BDCC directly or other partners;
- conduct INSTIG8 Rapid Financial Forecast to support statement of need;
- assistance with narrative formation for various applications

- access to distributed technology tools through INSTIG8's Amazon Activate program;
- virtual team work guidance; and
- general support and assistance.

<https://brattleborodevelopment.com/coronavirus-covid-19-business-resources/>

Business Impact and SBA Loans

ACCD is asking any Vermont business impacted by the response to COVID-19 virus to share these impacts with the Agency through a dedicated email address: commerce.covid19@vermont.gov.

In addition, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act recently passed by Congress expanded the Small Business Act's definition of a disaster to include Coronavirus (COVID-19). As a result, the SBA will be able to provide Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) under a Governor's Certification Disaster Declaration. In order for SBA to consider an EIDL declaration, the Governor must demonstrate that at least five small businesses in a disaster area have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the disaster.

The Agency is working to identify businesses that meet the Small Business Administration's threshold for SBA disaster loan assistance. Businesses are asked to complete an assessment form (available on the ACCD website at <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/sba-worksheet>) and return it to commerce.covid19@vermont.gov (please cc myself ghavreluk@wilmingtonvt.us and the BDCC at bdccovid19@brattleborodevelopment.com) as soon as possible to help us advocate for eligibility. Our goal is to gain information in each of the 14 counties across the state. We are looking for data on impacts in the following areas:

- Economic Injury
- Supply Chain
- Workforce (Including that caused by lack of childcare)
- Business Travel
- Visitor Travel and Tourism Activities
- Remote Work Capabilities

The Agency has also established a hotline so that businesses may call to report impacts and be directed to resources: (802) 461-5143. The hotline will be staffed Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Stay Up to Date

ACCD and the Department of Labor are working to keep you updated whenever new information becomes available. We encourage you to sign-up for our Business and Economic Response to COVID-19 Newsletter.

For more information on Unemployment Insurance:

UI Employer Services - 802-828-4344

Office of the Commissioner – labor.commissioner@vermont.gov

Vermont Department of Labor: <https://labor.vermont.gov/>

Able and Available Determinations: Staff shall not deny claims for able and available issues due to a claimant being isolated or quarantined at the direction of a health care official due to potential or verified exposure to the COVID-19

disease. These individuals shall be treated as temporarily unemployed through no fault of their own, and able and available, for the purpose of UI benefits.

The U.S. Department of Labor has released guidance that encourages states to exercise flexibility in authorizing benefits for individuals who are required to self-isolate/quarantine. Specifically, these employees can be considered temporarily laid off and thus eligible for benefits. This guidance supports the actions identified by the Department and supports states' efforts to extend benefit and minimize the impact to employers.

Employee Resources

Vermont Department of Labor:

Work Search Requirement Waiver: For employees who are impacted by a temporary closure of a business and have been provided with a return to work date within the current ten-week period, the work search requirement should remain waived. For individuals who are impacted under #1 of this memorandum, the Department will also waive the work search requirement for the time the individual is in isolation/quarantine.

Expedited Payment of Benefits: I have directed Unemployment Insurance Division Director, Cameron Wood, to implement any/all measures necessary to allow for a more expedited benefit payment process. This includes issuing payments prior to employer confirmation and shortening the Electronic Fund Transfer validation process whenever possible.

Please feel free to reach out to me I will be updating this as information is available.

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