

COVID - 19 Update for Business

Governor Issues Coronavirus Emergency Declaration

Gov. Ned Lamont declared both a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency March 10, giving him broad powers to manage the state's coronavirus response.



The emergency declaration:

- Provides the administration with certain legal authority to take specific, swift action to protect public safety and health.
- Allows the administration to temporarily modify or suspend any state law or regulation to protect public safety and health. Lamont is compiling a list of laws and regulations from state agencies.
- Delegates decisions on large gatherings to local officials.
- Gives mayors and first selectmen the authority to take action they deem necessary to address disasters and emergencies.

[Read More Here](#)

Coronavirus: An Employer's Guide

If you feel uncertain about addressing the coronavirus, don't feel bad, you have lots of company.

However, don't let your discomfort prevent you from acting. A plan, subject to updating—and trust us, it will need updating—is better than no plan at all, or attempting to fill a blank slate on the fly.

In fact, for most employers it's fair to say, "you've been here before." Go back a decade or more, think SARS, swine flu, H1N1, even Superstorm Sandy, among others. All have elements present again today. And the business strategies that enabled survival then, should put you in good shape to get past coronavirus 2020.

Don't misjudge the potential severity of today's crisis, but don't discount your capacity to assess, plan, and survive.



Here is a high-level perspective on elements of recommended strategies to develop, update and flesh out as necessary.

SBA To Provide Small Businesses Impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19) Up to \$2 Million in Disaster Assistance Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state's or territory's Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities.

SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.

For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov(link sends e-mail)



**U.S. Small Business
Administration**

Guidance for Businesses and Employers to
Plan and Respond to (COVID-19)



Coronavirus in Connecticut: 3 things to know
right now