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| Agency of Commerce and Community Development | COVID-19 Economic and Community Response |

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| **March 20, 2020** |

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| **UPDATE: SBA Emergency Loans Available to All Vermont Small Businesses**The Small Business Administration has approved [Governor Scott’s request for a disaster declaration](https://governor.vermont.gov/press-release/governor-phil-scott-announces-economic-injury-disaster-loans-available-small). Disaster assistance is available to businesses and non-profit organizations in all Vermont counties.SBA’s [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDLLoans) (EIDL) offer up to $2 million in assistance per business, providing economic support to overcome temporary loss of revenue.  EIDLs 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 and 2.75% for private non-profit organizations, which are also eligible for EIDLs.To apply online, visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. Documents that may be requested when applying include recent federal tax return, profit-and-loss statement and balance sheet.For more information, call the SBA disaster assistance customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. For local SBA information, call 802-828-4422.ACCD encourages businesses to seek professional business counseling and technical assistance before taking on additional debt. Vermont has a robust business technical assistance provider network. More information about these resources can be found online at <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/resources>. |

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| **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**This recently enacted federal bill (H.R. 6201) provides free testing for coronavirus, expands funding for food security programs, and provides paid sick, family, and medical leave for employees at companies with 500 employees or fewer. Unemployment insurance is also being expanded along with increased Medicaid funding to states. The measure would provide tax credits to employers to offset the costs of providing emergency paid leave. Read a summary of the bill [here](https://vbsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/H-6201-Bill-Summary.pdf) [summary and link provided by VBSR]. |

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| **Stay Informed**The latest amendments to Governor Scott’s [emergency declaration](https://governor.vermont.gov/content/declaration-state-emergency-response-covid-19-and-national-guard-call-out-eo-01-20) include:* All [non-essential adult elective surgery and medical and surgical procedures](https://governor.vermont.gov/content/addendum-3-executive-order-01-20), including all dental procedures, are ordered to be postponed in the safest but most expedient way possible.
* [Sales of “to-go” beverage alcohol is permitted](https://governor.vermont.gov/content/directive-4-delivery-and-take-out-beverage-alcohol-department-liquor-and-lottery-pursuant-eo) with the purchase of a meal, as well as the delivery of alcohol product by licensed retail stores.
* The Department of Motor Vehicles has [suspended all in-person transactions](https://governor.vermont.gov/content/directive-3-department-motor-vehicles-suspension-person-transactions-pursuant-eo-01-20), effective 4:30pm on Thursday, March 19. The DMV will continue to process registration and license renewals and various other services [online](https://dmv.vermont.gov/), by mail, or via telephone.
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| **Guidance from the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**In an effort to keep agricultural producers, businesses and service providers as up-to-date as possible on health and safety issues with the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets has developed [a new set of resources](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information), including guidance on [Food Safety](https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19), [Food Industry Resources](https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/food-industry-resources/) (from Cornell University), and [FAQs for Veterinarians and Veterinary Clinics](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Animal_Health/Covid/covid-19-faq-vet-clinics_1.pdf). |

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| **Business Impact**We are still interested in hearing from all Vermont businesses impacted by the response to the COVID-19 virus. Please continue to share these impacts via the [Agency Business Impact Form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vtcovid19), which will help us assess the full impact as we work toward solutions. |

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