

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Resources for small-business owners and workers

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has called for a “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order that only allows essential businesses and workers to work on-site. The executive order is scheduled to run through April 13.

The coronavirus threat in Michigan has negatively impacted employers and employees throughout the state. The government response has also created difficulty, but there are resources available to help.



RESOURCES FOR SMALL-BUSINESS OWNERS

- » The governor’s executive order utilizes the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency guidelines as well as other state specific guidelines to determine who are considered critical infrastructure workers: [Critical Infrastructure Workers](#)
- » In addition, the following link provides answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the governor’s “Stay Home” order: [Governor’s EO 2020-21 FAQ](#)
- » For any questions for the state Department of Labor, Employment and Opportunity, please email LEO-Coronavirus@michigan.gov or call **517-335-7858**. Small-business owners also can the [MEDC Business Resources](#) number at **1-888-522-0103**
- » Businesses that paid less than \$720,000 in sales and use tax in 2019 have been given an extra 30 days to file those taxes.
- » If employers would like to continue operating but need to limit hours, the Unemployment Insurance Agency’s Work Share program is the best option. This allows employers to maintain employment levels and business operations during declines in regular business activity rather than laying off workers.
- » Employers will not be charged for unemployment benefits if their employees become unemployed because of Executive Order 2020-9 requiring them to close or limit their operations.
- » The Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s call center stands ready to support businesses looking for assistance through other available state programs. For more information, people can call **888-522-0103** or visit: www.michiganbusiness.org
- » The Michigan Strategic Fund/Michigan Economic Development Corp. has approved a small business relief program of up to \$20 million related to coronavirus. The program will offer a total of up to \$10 million in grants and \$10 million in loans for businesses in Michigan directly impacted by the governor’s mandated closures or other virus-related repercussions. Details on how to apply are expected soon. Funding is expected to be available on or before April 1, 2020. For more information, visit: www.michiganbusiness.org/covid19/
- » The Michigan Small Business Development Center can also provide resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Their website: sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19/
- » Congress passed a bill that would provide \$1 billion for low-interest SBA loans up to \$2 million for small businesses. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) will help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of COVID-19. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period. disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/PaperForms
- » The federal government has moved Tax Day from April 15 to July 15. All small-business owners and taxpayers will have this additional time to file and make federal payments without interest or penalties.



RESOURCES FOR WORKERS

- » Given the circumstances, employees may be exempt from strict compliance created with several provisions in the Michigan Employment Security Act until April 14, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. The executive order would make it easier for employees to qualify for unemployment.
- » Under the executive order, the individual is considered to have left work involuntarily if they leave work for reasons related to the COVID-19, including a family care responsibility because of a government directive such as school closings. This allows these individuals to qualify for unemployment benefits.
- » The executive order extends the timeframe to claim unemployment benefits from 14 days to 28 days from the time that the employee last worked.
- » The executive order extends the eligibility timeline for unemployment benefits from 20 weeks to 26 weeks for claims filed before April 14, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. and after the issuance of the order.
- » Under new emergency rules order by the state, first responders in Michigan who are exposed to the coronavirus are now eligible for workers compensation for the next six months.