



Northern Colorado Regional Economic Development Initiative

Dear Partner,

As Economic Developers we have another perspective to share on the COVID-19 outbreak. In this challenging moment, we need to encourage our communities to adapt their support of local businesses (examples include being mindful of social distancing, pick up and go, and saving your visit for another day if you are feeling unwell). The following industries will likely be impacted by a decline in consumer spending from COVID-19: travel, hospitality, retail, restaurants, and small businesses of all industries (including our minority-owned businesses). Supporting these businesses to the best of our ability should be a central message of our communications.

In addition, we have a duty to provide useful information to the businesses we support in our communities. As such, NoCo REDI would like to share a digest of useful information gathered by network members. Please share this information with your business community, on your website, and through your other normal channels of communication.

**SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus:**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest federal disaster loans to small businesses in designated areas suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus. To become a designated area the regional needs to document the impact Coronavirus is having on our businesses. If we can document five businesses have suffered economic injury per county the SBA will direct disaster support to our region.

Please ask businesses that are suffering an economic loss as a result of Coronavirus to fill out the *attached economic injury worksheet*. Contact information for each County is below.

More information: <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>

**Larimer County:**

Lori Hodges with the Larimer County office of emergency management is coordinating with the SBA on this effort for Larimer County. Please email worksheets to Lori Hodges [hodgeslr@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:hodgeslr@co.larimer.co.us) and CC: Adam Crowe [acrowe@larimer.org](mailto:acrowe@larimer.org).

**Weld County:**

Roy Rudisill with the Weld County office of emergency management is coordinating with the SBA on this effort for Weld County. Please email worksheets to Cecilia Moreno at [cgarcia-moreno@weldgov.com](mailto:cgarcia-moreno@weldgov.com) and CC: Lora Lawrence at [llawrence@weldgov.com](mailto:llawrence@weldgov.com).

**STATE OF EMERGENCY & HOURLY PAID SICK LEAVE:**

Under the executive authority of the state of emergency, the State of Colorado Department of Labor and Employment has been given the authority to **require** employers/businesses in the service and hospitality industries to:

- Provide **four days of paid sick leave** for those with flu-like symptoms who are being tested for coronavirus

- Only apply to workers in the service industries, including:
  - Leisure and hospitality
  - Food services
  - Childcare
  - Education, including transportation, food service, and related work at educational establishments
  - Home health, if working with elderly, disabled, ill or otherwise high-risk individuals
  - Nursing homes
  - Community living facilities

However, the rule will not require paid leave for the full recovery period for COVID-19 cases, which can extend for weeks. The emergency rule will be in place for up to 120 days, but only while Colorado's state of emergency continues. Polis will reassess the emergency status every month.

An overview of the findings are here: [7 CCR 1103-10 Colorado Health Emergency Leave with Pay \(“Colorado HELP”\) Statement of Basis, Purpose, Authority, and Findings](#)

The actual rules are here: [7 CCR 1103-10 Colorado Health Emergency Leave with Pay \(“Colorado HELP”\) Rules](#)

**USEFUL BUSINESSES RESOURCES:**

- [CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease](#) - Strategies for employers to implement now in the workplace, and how to plan for a potential outbreak
- [Employer's Council Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Guide](#) for employer information on human resources and other legal considerations
- [Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America - Insurance-related Resources](#) - Disaster planning toolkit, losses of business income implications, worker compensation, and more
- [Know Your Finances Checklist](#) that may help secure your business' financial well-being - Have you thought about a line of credit for your business? What are your procedures to accommodate a potential business disruption?
- National Restaurant Association - [Restaurant Guide to Coronavirus](#)
- [Department of Homeland Security](#) – Official website providing information on preparing for natural disasters.
- [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#) – Official website of the State providing up-to-date information on novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
- [CPR News - Colorado Coronavirus Efforts Under State of Emergency Will Include Additional Paid Sick Leave for Workers and More Tests and Labs](#)
- [The Denver Post - Colorado opens drive-thru coronavirus testing facility](#)

We will continue to share new information as it becomes available. For now, best of luck and keep supporting each other.

Best,

Your Partners at NoCo REDI!