



# State to Main

*The Voice of Vermont Business*



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### **Message from Vermont Chamber President**

In her letter to Vermont Businesses, Vermont Chamber President Betsy Bishop outlines the steps the Vermont Chamber is taking to support businesses impacted by COVID-19. "Currently, the entirety of my staff is 100% focused on obtaining state and federal resources that can be used by Vermont's business community to mitigate the economic damage inflicted by this crisis."

### **House Remains Adjourned**

The House remains in adjournment with in-person meetings postponed until Tuesday, March 24, and perhaps beyond. Before adjourning, the House passed two measures to respond to the Coronavirus crisis. Due to the closure of the State House, neither of these bills are currently law. The Vermont Chamber is urging legislators to take action as soon as is safely possible.

### **Senate Reviews Coronavirus Response**

Senate Committees met remotely to continue work on the annual budget and to consider COVID-19 response measures. This week's Senate business was largely informational, with no committee or floor votes taking place. Like the

House, the Senate has postponed in-person meetings until at least Tuesday March 24.

### **Federal Coronavirus Legislation Passes**

Federal lawmakers passed and signed into law bills that would enable the Small Business Administration to provide \$7 billion in low-interest loans to small businesses impacted by COVID-19, and that provides \$104 billion in relief and expands sick leave and FMLA for COVID-19 related leave.

### **Governor Scott Executive Order**

Late last week, Governor Scott issued an executive order directing the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to work with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Vermont Small Business Development Center to survey businesses to determine the economic impact of financial losses related to COVID-19 for purposes of pursuing SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans. The Administration is regularly updating its COVID-19 business page with information on additional directives.

### **Childcare Solutions for Essential Workers**

The Administration is also encouraging workers identified on the Essential Persons List to complete a webform intended to collect information that can be used to connect families of essential workers with childcare in schools and licensed childcare programs. Families can also call 2-1-1, ext 6.

### **UI Application Process Updated**

To address the unprecedented influx of unemployment insurance applications, the Vermont Department of Labor launched a mobile friendly web application for individual claimants and step-by-step guidance for new claimants. The department is also encouraging employers to fill out a mass layoff spreadsheet if the employer plans to lay off 10 or more employees.

### **In Case You Missed It**

**State Agency Resource List:**

[Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Vermont Department of Labor COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Agency of Human Services \(Department of Mental Health\)](#)

[Department of Financial Regulation Business Interruption Insurance Guidance](#)

**Federal Agency Resource List:**

[U.S. Small Business Guidance and Loan Resources Related to COVID-19](#)

[U.S. Department of Labor COVID-19 FMLA Guidance](#)

[IRS COVID-19 Tax Relief Guidance](#)

[Office of Senator Patrick Leahy](#)

[Office of Senator Bernie Sanders](#)

[Office of Congressman Peter Welch](#)

**In the News:**

[Vermont Lawmakers Look to Expand Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits](#)

[State Tax Coffers Could Take \\$200M Hit from COVID-19 in Next Three Months](#)

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