



To keep you informed on what's happening at the State Capitol in response to COVID-19, we wanted to share with you the following updates.

On Wednesday, March 18:

Governor Whitmer issued three new executive orders (hyperlinks below with all EOs):

- Executive Order 2020-14 - extending the deadline for Michigan residents to pay back taxes and avoid foreclosure on their property during the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Executive Order 2020-15 - orders a temporary change to the Open Meetings Act to allow public bodies to conduct their meetings electronically, while also facilitating public participation.
- Executive Order 2020-16 - expands the capacity for child-care services for health care workers, first responders, and other members of the essential workforce providing critical infrastructure to Michiganders during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, announced the Senate is leading a business coalition of top advisers to address business needs as they deal with the economic impact of the coronavirus. The coalition will be led by state Senator Ken Horn, (R-Frankenmuth). More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.senatormikeshirkey.com/horn-senate-to-lead-coalition-on-business-needs-due-to-impact-from-coronavirus/>

The **Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity** (LEO) issued a "*Guidance to Employers Contemplating Potential Layoffs*" to help Michigan employers on how to avoid potential layoffs related to COVID-19. The press release with links is pasted at the end of this email.

The **Michigan Department of Treasury** is waiving penalty and interest for the late payment of taxes or the late filing of the return for the monthly sales, use and withholding taxes due on March 20, 2020. The following notice provides more details:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/SUW_Penalty_and_Interest_Waiver_Notice_684145_7.pdf

Description and Links to Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders Related to COVID-19:

While we have been sharing these executive orders with you as they were announced, the

following is a complete list with links to each of the Executive Orders:

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-4](#) - Declaration of a State of Emergency.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-7](#) - Temporary restrictions on entry into health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-8](#) - Enhanced restrictions on price gouging.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-9](#) - Temporary restrictions on the use of places of public accommodation.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-10](#) - Temporary expansions in unemployment eligibility and cost-sharing.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2020 -11](#) - Temporary prohibition on large assemblages and events, along with temporary school closures.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-12](#) - Enhanced support for deliveries.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-13](#) - Temporary enhancements to operational capacity and efficiency of health care facilities.

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-14](#) - Temporary extension of deadline to redeem property for nonpayment of delinquent property taxes

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-15](#) - Temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings and temporary relief from monthly meeting requirements for school boards

[EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-16](#) - Expanding child care access during the COVID-19 emergency

Additionally, the following website is a source for updated information from the administration: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>.

While these are very uncertain times, please know that the MLC Team is available to answer your questions. Additionally, we will provide regular updates as more information becomes available.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF

LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

State Provides Guidance to Employers Contemplating Potential Layoffs

LANSING, MICH. The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity today provided guidance to Michigan employers on how to avoid potential layoffs related to COVID-19.

“We know that many families and businesses are and will experience economic pain as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said LEO Director Jeff Donofrio. “Through Governor Whitmer’s executive action and existing state programs, there are resources for employers affected by COVID-19. We are also strongly urging job providers facing work shortages to place their employees on temporary leave as opposed to termination, so that they may remain eligible for potential federal assistance.”

Work Share If employers are financially distressed but hope to continue operations by cutting back hours, they are encouraged to use the Unemployment Insurance Agency's [Work Share program](#) that allows employers to maintain employment levels and business operations during declines in regular business activity rather than laying off workers. More information about the program can be found at www.michigan.gov/workshare.

Temporary Leave vs. Termination Due to the uncertainty regarding potential congressional action regarding whether and how furloughed workers will be able to access federal paid sick, family and medical leave resources, **employers are strongly urged to place employees on temporary leave and advise the worker that they expect to have work available within 120-days as opposed to termination.** There is no additional cost to employers, employees remain eligible for UI benefits through the state, and employees may remain eligible for potential federal assistance.

Steps for employers placing employees on temporary unpaid leave:

- Do not terminate the employee – specify a temporary/indefinite leave with return to work expected that is within 120 days.
- Do not create a contractual obligation to bring the employee back to work – Let the employee know that the situation is fluid and subject to change.
- Provide the employee with a formal [Unemployment Compensation Notice](#). Employers will need to provide their Employer Account Number and Federal Identification Number.
- Communicate to the employee about their rights. Under Governor Whitmer's recent [Executive Order](#), workers are placed on leave, or are unable to work because they are sick, quarantined, immunocompromised, or have an unanticipated family care responsibility, are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
- Ensure employees are provided information on how to obtain unemployment insurance benefits. [A factsheet can be found here](#).
- Get each employee's up-to-date contact information.
- Let employees know if you will be putting updated information on the entity's website or intranet, if applicable.
- Appoint a single, or limited number of individuals who will field questions, and communicate that information to employees.
- Keep a tally of all questions and answers. Periodically share with employees.

The state is monitoring issues related to continued medical insurance coverage and will update accordingly.

Elimination of Certain Unemployment Costs to Employers

Under the governor's order, an employer or employing unit must not be charged for unemployment benefits if their employees become unemployed because of an executive order requiring them to close or limit operations.

Other Resources

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's call center stands ready to support businesses looking for assistance through other available state programs. For more information, visit the MEDC's website: www.michiganbusiness.org or call 888.522.0103. The Michigan Small Business Development Center can also provide resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Visit their website <https://sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19/> for additional information.

Governor Whitmer is also seeking additional solutions for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Earlier this month, Congress passed legislation that makes \$1 billion available to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide low-interest loans to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and nonprofits that have suffered substantial economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor has informed SBA that she is seeking an Economic Injury Disaster Loan Declaration for the state and has initiated the process to receive the declaration from SBA. Once granted, small businesses in qualifying areas will be able to access low-interest loans through the SBA. In the interim, we are encouraging small businesses that could benefit from SBA loans to start collecting the information they'll need to complete and submit their application. [Examples of information needed can be found here](#). For additional information or to obtain help preparing the loan application in advance of the declaration, please contact the [Michigan SBA offices](#) in Detroit or Grand Rapids.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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Pure Michigan Business Connect offering virtual, statewide matchmaking platform for suppliers, buyers providing critical response to COVID-19

Free portal offers opportunity for service providers and suppliers to access virtual introductions for sourcing products and services critical to response for COVID-19

LANSING, Mich. –The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's [Pure Michigan Business Connect program](#) is now offering a free, online procurement platform to assist suppliers of critical health and human services across a broad range of categories access critical supplies and products as they respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. The platform will make virtual introductions between vetted businesses within the state providing supplies including food, medical devices, paper products, cleaning equipment and more.

“This virtual matchmaking platform builds on the significant success of PMBC in providing

supply chain sourcing solutions by supporting critical COVID-19 response efforts, as well as creating opportunities for small and medium-sized Michigan businesses,” said MEDC CEO Mark Burton. “This is part of a comprehensive effort to ensure that every possible resource is made available to service providers, businesses, communities, entrepreneurs and others in the face of economic hardships resulting from coronavirus.”

The Pure Michigan Business Connect virtual procurement assistance platform will give Michigan service providers access to introductions with vetted businesses within the state to source critical supplies needed to serve individual patients, staff or members of the community impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Buyers that could benefit from the virtual platform include childcare facilities, community centers, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, municipalities, food distribution centers, homeless shelters, non-profits and more. Items to supply could include medical devices, pharmaceuticals, cleaning supplies, testing supplies, textiles, paper products, vitamins, water and more.

Service providers seeking access to supplies and suppliers who have items to support COVID-19 response efforts can learn more by visiting <https://pmbc.connect.space/covid19/forms>.

The matchmaking platform is the latest effort of MEDC to support Michigan businesses and communities as they are impacted by COVID-19. Resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19 are available at michiganbusiness.org/covid19.

MEDC’s call center stands ready to support businesses looking for assistance through other available state programs. For more information, visit MEDC’s website: www.michiganbusiness.org/covid19 or call 888.522.0103. The Michigan Small Business Development Center can also provide resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Visit their website <https://sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19/> for additional information.

MEDC is also encouraging businesses and communities throughout the state to learn more about its wide range of tools aimed at assisting Michigan’s small- and medium-sized businesses. In particular, the MEDC [Access to Capital](#) programs can provide greater availability of working capital during times of growth, change or economic uncertainty. To support businesses and communities during this unprecedented time, the organization will also be evaluating other enhancements to programs such as its [International Trade, Entrepreneurship and Innovation](#), [Pure Michigan Business Connect](#), [PlanetM](#) and [Match on Main Street](#) programs.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

For those who have questions about the state’s actions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-6136 between 8AM - 5PM daily.