

Updated 3/27/20

FDHA has received many requests for information regarding resources available in the wake of COVID-19. Below is information you may find helpful. This document will be updated as new information emerges.

EMPLOYEES

NEW! U.S. Stimulus Package Set to Pass - This is a **preliminary general summary** of the stimulus package that was approved by the U.S. Senate on March 25th. It is expected to be approved by the House on March 27th.

- *Unemployment benefits* - People who are unemployed receive an extra \$600/week for up to 4 months, on top of state unemployment benefits to make up for 100 percent of lost wages.
- *Rebates* - All U.S. residents with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 for married couples) receive a \$1,200 (\$2,400 for couples) "rebate" payment. They are also eligible for an additional \$500 per child. The payments would start phasing out for earners above those income thresholds and would not go to single filers earning more than \$99,000; head-of-household filers with one child, more than \$146,500; and more than \$198,000 for joint filers with no children.
- *Employers who keep employees* – May receive a tax credit for keeping idled workers on their payrolls if they meet certain criteria and they receive a refund for half of what they spend on wages, up to \$5,000 per employee.
- *Tax on Wages* – Employers and self-employed individuals may defer the 6.2% paid on wages for Social Security.

NEW! IRS Tax Filing and Payment Extensions FAQs – You may access [FAQs posted by the IRS](#) to provide additional information on the tax return filing and tax payment deadline relief recently announced.

NEW! Florida Department of Revenue Issue Orders on Property and Sales Tax Payment - The emergency orders address extensions on paying sales tax and property tax payment:

- Sales Tax - [emergency order](#) and [press release](#)
- Property Tax - [emergency order](#) and [press release](#)

U.S. Department of Labor - The Wage and Hour Division provides information on common issues employers and employees face when responding to COVID-19, and its effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

- Field Assistance Bulletin 2020-1: Temporary Non-Enforcement Period Applicable to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) ([PDF](#), [TEXT](#))
- [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers](#)
- [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights](#)
- [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements](#)
- [COVID-19 and the Fair Labor Standards Act: Questions and Answers](#)
- [COVID-19 and the Family and Medical Leave Act: Questions and Answers](#)
- [WHD Response to COVID-19](#)

Department of Economic Opportunity Re-employment Assistance Office – The office has posted [Reemployment Assistance COVID-19 FAQs](#) to provide information on who may be eligible and how to request assistance. It notes the following individuals may be eligible for re-employment assistance:

- Those who are quarantined by a medical professional or a government agency,
- Those who are laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period by their employer due to COVID-19 concerns, or
- Those who are caring for an immediate family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19.

You may also contact the hotline at 1-800-204-2418 or [RA Virtual Service](#). Fraud Hotline is 1-800-342-9909.

Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) – This Act requires companies that employ less than 500 employees to pay 80 hours of sick leave and up to 12 weeks of family leave for employees who are required to stay home because of 6 specific Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-related reasons. This March 20th [GT Alert](#) discusses an employer's requirements to pay the emergency sick leave and family leave to employees. The FFCRA also provides a 100% tax credit to a company for these sick and family leave payments to employees, so that there should be no net cost in making these payments

Florida Available Unemployment Benefits - The benefits available to an individual vary based on criteria used to assign the benefits. The amount of benefits also varies per individual. A rough estimate of expected benefits would be half of an individual's previous full-time wages, up to a maximum of \$275 per week. Typically, Reemployment Assistance lasts up to 26 weeks or until employment is found. Once a new full-time job is found, there is no more need for reemployment assistance, so the benefits stop. However, working part-time or temporarily does not necessarily end the benefits.

EMPLOYERS

Short-Time Compensation (STC) permits pro-rated Reemployment Assistance (RA) benefits to employees whose work hours and earnings are reduced as part of a STC plan to avoid total layoff of some employees. You may access specific information about STC [here](#).

Temporary Layoff - A temporary layoff occurs when the employee is separated from their job due to lack of work, and the employee has a return-to-work date within eight weeks of the separation. An employee that is on a temporary layoff must meet the following eligibility requirements: (1) monetarily eligible; (2) able and available for work; and (3) have a fixed or approximate return-to-work date within eight weeks. You may access more information about temporary layoffs [here](#).

Florida Request to US SBA for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Funds - Governor DeSantis' request to the federal U.S. Small Business Administration to make the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program available for Florida's small businesses impacted by COVID-19 has been granted. More information may be found [here](#).

Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program - Governor DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program provides short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19. The application period is open and runs through May 8, 2020. Visit FloridaDisasterLoan.org for more information.

Emergency Management Posts Business Damage Assessment Survey - The Business Damage Assessment survey is activated to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey, managed by DEO, will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin. The survey can be taken online at <https://floridadisaster.biz/>.

DBPR Emergency Order Extending License Renewal Deadlines – The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) has issued an emergency order, EO 2020-01 to extend license renewal deadlines and renewal requirements for a period of 30 days for licenses with an existing renewal deadline occurring in the months of March or April 2020.

PRESIDENT TRUMP, FLORIDA GOVERNOR AND AGENCY ORDERS

NEW! March 25, President Trump approved Gov. DeSantis' Request for Emergency Declaration and ordered federal assistance to supplement state, tribal and local efforts regarding COVID-19 beginning on January 20th and continuing

[Executive Order 20-51: COVID-19 Response Protocol and Directs Public Health Emergency](#)

[Executive Order 2020-72 Executive Order re: Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Non-essential Elective Medical Procedures](#)

[Executive Order 2020-51 Executive Order re: Establishes Coronavirus Response Protocol and Directs Public Health Emergency](#)

HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY INFORMATION

New! CDC Provides Guidance for Dental Settings – On March 27th, the following guidance was issued: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>. The guidance provides interim infection prevention and control for Dental Settings during the COVID-19 Response

New! Volunteers Sought for Testing Centers - The State Emergency Operations Center is seeking to identify resources available in the local healthcare infrastructure that can be redirected to support the response when Florida begins experiencing medical surge. Please complete the COVID_19 Healthcare Provider Resource Availability Survey. You may access the survey [here](#) .

Department of Health Dedicated Website to COVID-19 – You may access updated information at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>. Information includes health directives, number of COVID-19 cases (updated twice daily) and other important information. You may also access a COVID-19 Toolkit which may be helpful. You may also access DOH Dashboard which provides a map of confirmed cases, and testing sites [here](#).

Medicaid Waiver - March 16, 2020, CMS granted Florida a Medicaid 1135 Waiver which allows Medicaid reimbursement of out of state providers who are not currently authorized for Medicaid reimbursement. You may read the document [here](#). CMS blanket Medicaid waivers for COVID19 in the [Emergency Declaration Health Care Providers Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#). (3/13/20) - [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Section 1115\(a\) Opportunity for States](#).

Agency for Health Care Administration Centralized Website for Agency Issued COVID-19 Alerts –The website can be accessed at this link: http://ahca.myflorida.com/covid-19_alerts.shtml