

Updated 4/3/20

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.

Coronavirus Resources

EMPLOYEES

NEW! Department of Economic Opportunity(DEO) Waives Waiting Period for Re-employment Assistance – DEO announced the waiting week for Reemployment Assistance has been waived so eligible Floridians may receive the support they need to help recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19. This is applicable to anyone who has filed for Reemployment Assistance [beginning March 29 through May 8, 2020.](#)

Individuals filing for Reemployment Assistance will not be required to register in Employ Florida or submit information on a biweekly basis on the employers contacted each week. For more information regarding unemployment filing, how to reset your PIN, and contact information at DEO [click here.](#)

NEW! IRS People First Initiative Temporarily Adjusts, Suspends Key Compliance Programs | March 31 - By [Josh Pryes](#) and [Scott E. Fink](#) - On March 25, 2020, the IRS announced the People First Initiative, which limits enforcement actions and postpones payments due under existing Installment Payment Agreements and Offers in Compromise for a defined period of time. The Initiative is effective between April 1, 2020, and July 15, 2020, and is aimed at addressing challenges taxpayers may face due to COVID-19. [\[Read the full GT Alert\]](#)

NEW! Florida Department of Revenue – [DOR COVID-19 Resources](#) - Important tax information for individuals and small businesses related to COVID-19; Emergency orders - Sales Tax - [emergency order](#) and [press release](#); and Property Tax - [emergency order](#) and [press release](#)

U.S. Stimulus Package - Some of the provisions include:

- *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.

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

NEW! Florida Association of Counties' COVID-19 Policies and Order Dashboard – This dashboard contains known emergency orders and policies implemented by counties regarding COVID-19. You may access the dashboard [here](#).

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

NEW! U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) – [Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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 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! Gov. Desantis Executive Order on Mortgage and Eviction Relief [#2020-94 Executive Order](#)

NEW! Gov. Desantis Executive Order on Reemployment Assistance [#2020-93 Executive Order](#)

NEW! Gov. Desantis Amended Executive Order – Stay at Home [#2020-92 Executive Order Amending 20-91](#)

NEW! [#2020-90 Executive Order re: Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Broward and Palm Beach County Closures](#)

[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 28th, 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 AHCA Issued COVID-19 Alerts –The website can be accessed [here](#).