

## COVID-19 Information Update 3-18-2020

**Just in as of 3:50 pm new federal legislation:** The Senate passed a multi-billion dollar Coronavirus aid package today, sending it to the President, who is expected to sign it.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act passed by a vote of 90-8. It will provide:

- Two weeks of paid sick and family leave to many American workers who are in quarantine, helping a family member with COVID-19 or who have children whose schools have closed. Workers will get 100% of their normal salary.
- Total of 12 weeks of paid leave to many of those who have children whose schools have closed. Workers would get about 67% of their normal salary for this period.
- Bolsters unemployment insurance.
- Free testing for the coronavirus for those who need it.
- Boosts food assistance (SNAP) and federal funding for Medicaid.

Congress has already started working on a third stimulus package that is likely to address the needs of small businesses.

Source: USA Today

### 3-18-2020, 10:00 am

The Paducah Chamber is committed to serving our members and the community during this time of COVID-19 pandemic. More news and resources are being announced daily (and hourly) and we are continuing to monitor those through the U.S. Chamber, Kentucky Chamber, Small Business Administration and other sources.

**New Closures** - Yesterday Governor Andy Beshear announced more business closures and you can read that announcement [here](#). This includes facilities like gyms, salons, movie theaters, concert venues, sporting event facilities, and others to close today by 5 p.m. Businesses like grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, banks, hotels, post offices, laundromats, vets, warehouses, and some others can remain open. The Governor has also asked Kentucky hospitals to cease elective surgeries (urgent and emergency procedures will still be performed) and has ordered all childcare centers to close by Friday.

**Signage for Businesses Staying Open** - Additionally, the state is requesting that all public-facing businesses that are remaining open post the attached signs at all entrances. You can access those signs [here](#).

**Unemployment Insurance Instructions** - New instructions have been issued today regarding how employees should file for unemployment. Beginning today Unemployment Insurance claims must be filed on a specific day of the week based on the first letter of your last name. For today, March 18, employees with the last name starting with A-I can file. Click [here](#) for the schedule for the rest of the week. Friday is a makeup day for employees who missed their day. Here's a [list](#) of what an employee needs to have ready for filing.

**SBA Disaster Loans** - Governor Beshear has made an official request to the Small Business Administration (SBA) asking them to issue an Economic Injury Disaster Loan proclamation for Kentucky. The SBA is in the process of working on the declaration. The application can be found [here](#), although it will not be active until the declaration has occurred. You are encouraged to go ahead and register as a user even if the state hasn't been approved. You can register [here](#). For information on the loans, click [here](#).

**Federal Legislation** - The U.S. Chamber has released an updated summary of the latest version of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act passed by the U.S. House with new revisions. President Trump has announced his support. You can read the marked up summary [here](#). Here's a [link](#) to read U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's statement from the Senate floor this morning.

**Kentucky General Assembly** - The Kentucky General Assembly is continuing to meet today but new restrictions were issued earlier this week. Click [here](#) to read how you can stay connected to the work of the General Assembly.

Thank you for your continued support. Your Chamber Board and staff are here to help in any way possible. We will continue to promote our local businesses. Please reach out via phone 270-443-1746 or email to [info@paducahchamber.org](mailto:info@paducahchamber.org).

