

Dear Business Leaders,

We would like to share with you information about a variety of programs that may help businesses and employees with the potential economic impacts from COVID-19. Below are links to current State, Federal and local assistance programs and guidance related to COVID-19.

General Information

- [Latest Updates from the City of Alameda](#)
Please check [this link](#) regularly for the latest updates on COVID-19 from the City of Alameda.
- [Alameda County Public Health Information related to COVID-19](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 information](#)

Resources for Workers Impacted by COVID-19

- **Paid Sick Leave:** [Please click here](#) for information on the use of Paid Sick Leave related to COVID-19. Note that paid sick leave may be used for illness, treatment, and preventative care (i.e. self-quarantine).
- **Sick or Quarantined Workers:** Sick or quarantined workers may be eligible to file for State Disability Insurance, with benefits ranging from 60-70 percent of wages (depending on income) and from \$50-\$1,300 a week. [Please click here](#) for more information.
- **Caregivers:** Workers caring for an ill or quarantined family member *may* be able to file for up to six weeks of Paid Family Leave. Benefit amounts are approximately 60-70 percent of wages (depending on income) and range from \$50-\$1,300 a week. [Please click here](#) for more information.
- **Reduced Hours or Layoffs:** Workers whose hours have been reduced or who have been laid off due to COVID-19 may be able to file for Unemployment Insurance (UI). UI provides partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own. [Please click here](#) for more information.
- **School Closures:** Workers who miss work to care for a child who is not ill, but home due to a school closure, may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. [Please click here](#) for more information on Unemployment Insurance, and [please click here](#) to visit the FAQ page which addresses school closures (see #11).
- **Complete List of Resources from CA EDD:** [Please click here](#) to visit the CA Employment Development Department for a complete list of benefits and resources related to COVID-19.

- **FAQ on CA EDD Resources for COVID-19:** [Please click here](#) for a helpful list of FAQs related to these benefits.

Resources for Employers Impacted by COVID-19

- **Tax Assistance:** Employers may request up to a 60-day extension from the EDD to file state payroll reports and/or deposit payroll taxes without penalty or interest. A written request for extension must be received within 60 days from the original delinquent date of the payment or return. Employers may call the EDD Taxpayer Assistance Center for more information at 1-888-745-3886.
- **Reduced Work Hours:** Employers can apply for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Work Sharing Program if reduced production, services, or other conditions cause them to seek an alternative to layoffs. The Work Sharing Program helps employers and employees:
 - Minimize or eliminate the need for layoffs
 - Keep trained employees and quickly prepare when business conditions improve
 - Avoid the cost of recruiting, hiring, and training new employees
 - Receive Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits
 - Keep their current job
 - Avoid financial hardships
 Please [click here](#) for more information.
- **Potential Closure or Layoffs:** Employers planning a closure or major layoffs as a result of COVID-19 can get help through the Rapid Response program. Rapid Response teams will meet with you to discuss your needs, help avert potential layoffs, and provide immediate on-site services to assist workers facing job losses. For more information, refer to the [Rapid Response Services for Businesses Fact Sheet \(DE 87144RRB\) \(PDF\)](#) or contact your local [America's Job Center of California](#)
 - Alameda's One Stop Career Center can be reached at 510-748-2208. [Please click here](#) for more information.
- **Disaster Relief Loans:** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be offering up to \$2 million in disaster assistance loans. For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- **Business Counselling:** EAST Bay Score is offering business counselling services in Room CV 225 at the College of Alameda. They are open Monday through Friday, 9:30am to 2:30pm, and can be reached at 510-381-7741. [Please click here](#) for more information.

- **Protect Your Workers:** [Please click here](#) for the latest Cal/OSHA Interim Guidance on Requirements to Protect Workers from COVID-19

General Business Recommendations

The California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) suggested that businesses take the following approach with COVID-19:

- 1) Postpone rather than cancel events—the State has emphasized that the public health advisories are very fluid, with the situation changing daily with new factual information. To minimize disruptions, businesses and community organizations may decide to postpone instead of cancel major events.
- 2) As with general good business practices to help manage economic volatility and uncertainty, the State recommends that businesses develop a range of scenarios to help with planning future operations. These scenarios can be adjusted as more current information becomes available.

Sincerely,

The City of Alameda Community Development Department