

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

March 17, 2020, 2:00PM Conference Call

On behalf of the Baker-Polito Administration, thanks so much for joining us on this afternoon's conference call.

To follow up, I wanted to share a quick summary of the resources and information we discussed.

Guidance on the Governor's [Emergency Order](#) announced on Sunday, March 15th, 2020.

The Governor's announcement on Sunday, March 15th bans gatherings of over 25 people, as well as prohibits the on-site consumption of food and drink at restaurants and bars. Please find dedicated guidance for businesses and employers at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-15-2020-assembly-guidance/>. This order is effective March 17th.

\$10M Small Business Recovery Fund Announced by Governor Baker

The program is open to small businesses with less than 50 employees who can demonstrate an adverse impact on revenues resulting from the coronavirus outbreak. Loans are up to \$75,000, with an annual interest rate of 3%; there are no payments for the first six months, followed 30-months of principal and interest payments. Please feel free to share this news with your networks; you can read more at MGCC's website, www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

Small Business Administration's Economic Disaster Loan Program Update

The Governor announced today (March 17th) that he has submitted a request to activate the EIDL program in Massachusetts. We've worked closely with the federal government and SBA to open this program; we will continue to partner to get capital flowing to our small businesses as soon as possible. We will send out an email notification when this application is formally opened.

Contractual Changes to Regional Tourism Grant Program Requirements

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing severe disruptions to many Massachusetts businesses, including those that rely on tourist visitation. We also realize that regional tourism councils may need additional flexibility in how they spend MOTT funding in order to most effectively support the tourism industry under these unprecedented circumstances. To that end, please note that MOTT will waive contract requirements that limit spending on administrative services and marketing salaries, provided that each RTC that exceeds the contract caps in these categories will provide an accounting of expenditures within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year.

Changes to MBTA Services

As of today, the MBTA will be running reduced service schedule. Keep apprised of changes in the T's services at <https://www.mbta.com/covid19>.

Unemployment Assistance Resources

Our thanks to Secretary Acosta, Director Jeffers, and Undersecretary James for the overview of both state- and federal-level supports regarding unemployment and other services.

- Legislation to waive the normal one-week waiting period so that the state can immediately begin paying benefits to persons affected by the COVID-19 outbreak is pending before Senate Ways and Means (S2598).
- You can read about steps the Administration is taking to ensure that unemployment assistance is available to those who need it at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-guidance-and-directives#businesses-&employers->.
- The WorkShare program (<https://www.mass.gov/workshare-for-employers>)
 - o Reach out WorkShare staff by calling is (617) 626 5521.

- The Rapid Response program (<https://www.mass.gov/prevent-layoffs-with-rapid-response>)
 - o Reach out to Ken Messina regarding the Rapid Response Program at ken.messina@mass.gov or by calling (617) 626-5703.

Do reach out at covid19.boz@mass.gov with additional questions. And as always, you can stay up to date on the Commonwealth's guidance and response regarding COVID-19 at <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>.

We'll look forward to our next call on Friday afternoon.

Best,
Mike

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