

Key Points for Businesses as of 3/17/2020 at 8:00am:

1. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has put together a great and comprehensive guide to COVID-19 geared directly at businesses and employers. You can find the guide [here](#). The CDC gives some excellent guidance on how to treat your employees in this difficult time. Like you, they are victims of this circumstance too. We will all need to demonstrate compassion, flexibility and creativity to pull through this. The US Chamber of Commerce also has a great resource website (open to all) that can be found [here](#).
2. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has received authorization to provide small business assistance through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. This program can provide low interest loans of up to \$2M to businesses and private non-profits. More information can be found [here](#). It's important to recognize that the state has not yet received a disaster declaration, so the EIDL program is not yet available to Illinois businesses and non-profits.
3. The State of Illinois is working to submit its disaster declaration to the federal government. This will unlock programs like the SBA loan program above and others. **But they need your help to document the impact of COVID-19 on business operations.** The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) have created a web portal that will allow you to share information they can compile into their request. You can complete the form by going [here](#).
4. Late Friday night the US House of Representatives passed a relief bill in response to COVID-19. It is expected to pass the Senate this week and be signed by the President. Details on programs will be emerging in the coming days and weeks -- and we will share them with you -- but in the meantime the US Chamber of Commerce has a nice summary [here](#).
5. Governor Pritzker ordered all bars and restaurants to close as of 9 p.m. 3/16/20. The Illinois Restaurant Association has been compiling resources and information [here](#). Their resources include a good presentation on preparing for and dealing with COVID-19 which can be found [here](#). The state will be publishing more guidelines on this matter today.
6. The Community Foundation of Central Illinois (CFCI), announced 3/16/20 the organization will begin accepting donations in response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to address emerging community needs in central Illinois. The Central Illinois Disaster Recovery Fund will accept tax-deductible donations that will be used to provide grant support to nonprofit organizations engaged in meeting emerging community needs related to the impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). An advisory committee will make recommendations to the CFCI Board of Directors about where unmet needs and funding gaps exist. Grants will then be made from the fund to help address those needs. More information [here](#).
7. We have received a number of questions regarding unemployment insurance and filing for employees impacted by COVID-related shutdowns. There is still not a lot of specific information available, but we will keep looking. You can access some information from the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) [here](#). (Warning: high traffic has caused their website to crash. You may have to try multiple times.) National Law Review does have a good summary of the House bill that was passed early Saturday morning [here](#). Note that the bill still needs to be passed by the Senate and signed by the President, both of which are expected this week.

8. The Illinois Gaming Board has ordered the suspension of all video gaming operations at licensed operations as of 3/16/20. More [here](#).
9. Manufacturing Excellence Partnership programs across the country have put information together. You can find the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC, headquartered at Bradley) [here](#). Some great information has also been put together by Impact Washington which you can access [here](#). Of particular note is information on creating a Business Continuity Plan which can be found [here](#).