



This morning's COVID-19 update brings news of the opening of the SBA Disaster Relief Loan Program, reopening of the MNsure health insurance marketplace, confirmed case updates, and more.

SBA Disaster Loan Assistance – Applications Open

Minnesota has received an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration related to COVID-19, and applications for the SBA Disaster Loan Assistance program are now open. If you are interested in applying for a small business SBA Disaster Loan, you can [click here](#) to visit the SBA website. We also published a resource guide on local lending resources, FAQ on the SBA Disaster Loan program, and other tips to help protect your business related to COVID-19. To view the guide, [click here](#).

No “Shelter in Place” Order in Minnesota as of March 23

The Governor has not issued a “shelter in place” order at this time for Minnesota. If the Governor decides to implement that policy, The MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has clarified that there will be a defined process that will allow businesses to request clarification on which businesses are “essential” and to request an exemption to the order if needed.

Uninsured Minnesotans Can Enroll through the MNsure Marketplace Starting Monday, March 23

In response to the potential growth of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, MNsure is offering a [special enrollment period](#) for eligible Minnesotans who do not have health insurance. Those who are [eligible](#) can enroll in health insurance coverage through MNsure from Monday, March 23, through Tuesday, April 21. Coverage will start Wednesday, April 1. (If you enroll after April 1 and by 11:59 p.m. on April 21, your coverage will have a retroactive start date of April 1.)

First COVID-19 Case Recorded in St. Louis County

As of Sunday, March 22, 2020, one confirmed case of COVID-19 had been reported in St. Louis County. The individual is currently recovering at home and her infection has been linked to domestic travel, not community transmission. The location of the confirmed case was not released to protect patient privacy. Those interested can view daily updates of the number of confirmed cases through the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#).

Sharing Useful Information

In a crisis, misinformation can spread quickly as people are thirsty for news and rumors spread fast. We need to counter that by letting people know exactly what's going on, and what resources are available for help. We will be working to grow this list of resources and publish it online in the coming week. Here are some links to share with the business and civic community:

- If you're a business or a worker who has **general questions** about how COVID-10 affects **business**, consult the DEED [COVID-19 Information page](#).
- If you want to know what **state government has to offer businesses so far**, check out our blog on [Helping Minnesota Businesses during COVID-19](#).
- If you're a **small business** who needs to take out a **disaster loan** from the SBA, learn how to apply here: [MN Small businesses NOW eligible for SBA disaster loans](#)
- If you're a business or a worker who has questions about **how unemployment insurance works**, consult our [Unemployment Insurance FAQs](#).
- If you're going to apply for **unemployment benefits, APPLY ONLINE**. Phone lines are jammed and have long wait times. The URL is [www.uimn.org](#)
- For information on delaying your **sales and use tax payments** see the [MN Dept of Revenue Sales and Use Tax](#) page.
- To apply for the federal **SBA Disaster Loan Assistance** program, visit [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](#)
- If you're interested in **providing volunteer support** during this time, or if **your organization is looking for support** or resources, email [events@hibbing.org](#) to be placed on the distribution list for volunteer opportunities.



- For information on the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that requires certain employers to provide employees with **paid sick leave** or **family leave** related to COVID-19, visit the [Department of Labor website](#).
- To apply for **health insurance** through the MNsure marketplace or learn more about who qualifies for the new **open enrollment** period through April 21st, [click here](#).
- To view daily updates of the number of **confirmed cases** at a county level, visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#).
- For helpful tips, business updates, and community resources, follow the [Hibbing Area Chamber Facebook](#) page.