



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE**  
**GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

Employment and Economic Response to COVID-19  
Daily Digest -- Thursday, March 19

*This digest is a compilation of information and resources related to employment, commerce and economic development issues surrounding COVID-19. There are numerous online resources for those seeking health-related information, including daily COVID-19 updates from the Oregon Health Authority at <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.*

**State guidance for small businesses** - while restaurants, bars and other establishments that offer food or beverages for sale are restricted to carry-out or delivery, the state has guidance for other types of small businesses. The state urges these businesses to assess their practices, implement strong social distancing measures, and close their doors temporarily if they cannot put the new guidance in place. The state also urges businesses to keep the health and safety of Oregonians at the forefront as they make hard business decisions. Updated and current information from the state on coronavirus can be found [here](#).

**Business Oregon has developed Business Survival Tips During a Pandemic, viewable [here](#).**

**The Oregon Insurance Commissioner's Office has created the following page for COVID-19 [here](#)**

**Oregon adopts temporary changes to [Child Care Rules](#) in response to COVID-19 state of emergency**

**Many people are contacting the Oregon Employment Department and asking if WorkSource Centers are open to walk-in customers during this time of closures and social distancing.** While the situation could change day-to-day, the centers remain open as of Thursday, March 19. Staff and customers are asked to take some simple health precautions, which includes limiting the number of customers at any given time and adhering to social distancing protocols. The Oregon Employment Department has timely information on [unemployment insurance related to COVID-19](#).

**The Oregon Employment Department also has adopted [temporary rules](#) for unemployment insurance benefits flexibility and issued a [news release](#) related to COVID-19 and layoffs, closures and unemployment insurance. Email the department with COVID-19 related employment questions at [OED\\_COVID19\\_Info@oregon.gov](mailto:OED_COVID19_Info@oregon.gov)**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) retooled to help respond to the spread of infectious disease:** Grantees may use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for a range of eligible activities that prevent and respond to the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Grantees should coordinate with local health authorities before undertaking any activity to support state or local pandemic response. For more information, visit <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Quick-Guide-CDBG-Infectious-Disease-Response.pdf>

**More on land use decisions subject to the 120 and 150 day rules in ORS 227.178 and ORS 215.427:** The statutory time limits for local land use authorities to decide applications is causing some anxiety at the local level. The state is exploring options to temporarily suspend the 120 and 150-day time clocks, though how and whether this will happen is uncertain. Meanwhile, the Department of Land Conservation and Development asks local land use authorities to contact all current development review applicants and request that they provide a written waiver of the 120 or 150-day requirement. Jurisdictions that are compelled to hold a public hearing on a land use application should consider hearings via teleconference. For more information on this issue contact DLCD's Community Services Division Manager Gordon Howard at [gordon.howard@state.or.us](mailto:gordon.howard@state.or.us).

**The Oregon Community Recovery Grant program will provide funds to nonprofit organizations in Oregon that are affected by the outbreak of COVID-19.** For questions on the program email [grants@oregoncf.org](mailto:grants@oregoncf.org).

**Oregon State Parks has a COVID-19 Response FAQ found [here](#)**

**Governor Kate Brown [announces a new order](#) to preserve surgical masks, gowns, and gloves**

**Governor Kate Brown Announces [New Executive Order](#) For Higher Education Institutions**

**The [Oregon Food Bank's Food Finder](#) website has locations of food pantries and other food assistance resources across the state.**