

A Resource Kit for Small Businesses in the Era of COVID-19



Information Current as of
March 31, 2020

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A Message From the Town Manager

Greetings Small Business Owner,

The COVID-19 outbreak has changed our community, and on a larger scale, our world, virtually overnight, confronting us with our one of our greatest health challenges in the last 100 years. Despite the many emotions that business owners and members of our community may be feeling in this moment, we can take solace in the fact that our town's forebearers, when faced with similar challenges, rose to the occasion, cared for each other, and emerged stronger than before.



Such will be the case for us.

This outbreak is a test for our community, and like any test, it is crucial that we enter it with the best information available. This is why my office has created this report, which will serve as a resource guide for small businesses and as a means for better understanding this pandemic. If you have any questions regarding this report or COVID-19, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office by phone (413-528-1619 ex 2) or by email (mpruhenski@townofgb.org). For some of these resources, COVID information may soon be forthcoming.

Thank you for your ingenuity and commitment during this trying time. Together we will persevere.

Mark Pruhenski
Town Manager
Town of Great Barrington, MA
March 30, 2020

03 Local Resources

1Berkshire

This site provides resources and information from 1Berkshire, which is monitoring developments and is gathering resources and information for county business owners.

<https://1berkshire.com/news/covid-19-response/>

1BERKSHIRE

GB Board of Health

This link provides up to date information regarding COVID-19 in the Town of Great Barrington, as well as contact information for town Health Department officials.

<https://www.townofgb.org/health-department>



Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce

This site provides information for small businesses operating in Southern Berkshire County.

<https://southernberkshirechamber.com/>



04 State Resources

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

This site provides resources and information for small businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak, such as Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Emergency Orders.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-resources-and-guidance-for-businesses>



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

This link provides guidance and directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) for various organizations confronted with this crisis. Includes information for "Businesses & Employment". For live alerts, text COVIDMA to 888-777.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-guidance-and-directives#businesses-&-employment->



MA Office of Business Development (MOBD)

This agency leverages state incentive programs, grants, access to capital, and other tools to help businesses grow and prosper. In this time of crisis, that focus has shifted to ensuring that businesses are aware of the resources that are available to help them.

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-of-business-development>



Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance

This site provides information on how to file for unemployment assistance, helping to shed light on this process during a tense time.

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-unemployment-benefits>



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Federal Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

This site provides updates on the COVID-19 outbreak and ways through which you can protect yourself, your employees, and your customers.

<https://www.cdc.gov/>



United States Small Business Administration (SBA)

This site contains opportunities for Disaster Loan Assistance and information.

<https://www.sba.gov/>



Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

This link provides information regarding possible tax benefits for businesses faced with COVID-19.

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>



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General Best Practices/ Opportunities

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

This site provides updates on how to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 in the workplace, helping to prevent exposure.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>



United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

This site provides information on how to protect workers from COVID-19 and recommends trainings and best practices.

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>



Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

This link provides information on tax filing and payment deadline extension.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/payment-deadline-extended-to-july-15-2020>



Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance Virtual Town Halls

DUA is hosting daily town hall meetings (April 1-3) taking constituents through a step by step process of achieving a successful unemployment claim and taking questions from claimants across the Commonwealth.

Sign up on their webpage.

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts-department-of-unemployment-assistance-dua-virtual-town-halls>

