



North Carolina Business Relief Resources Re: COVID-19

Updated 4-21-2020

For all general questions, call Business Link North Carolina (BLNC) at 800.228.8443. BLNC staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. BLNC staff will connect your business to the appropriate organization for assistance. All inquiries will receive a response from a confidential business counselor within three (3) business days. “Se Habla Español.”

Is your business considered an Essential Industry?

NEW Protocol for Essential Business:

Effective Monday, March 30 at 5 p.m. Governor Cooper issued [a state-wide Stay-At-Home order](#) for non-essential businesses. The lists of essential businesses are much more extensive than earlier orders. Please check the list in the link above first to see if your business is essential. If your company is essential, you do not need any type of paperwork for your employees to come to work.

If your company is uncertain whether it is essential, you may make an [essential business request](#) with the N.C. Dept. of Revenue [here](#).

If a company made a previous request to be considered an essential business, **it is not valid and you must start again.** Again, a company must ask with the **new process** in the essential business link above if the company is not sure and wants to get an official State decision. If you make a request to NCDOR, you may continue to operate until the request is acted upon.

Is your business able to pivot to manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment?

Manufacturers interested in pivoting to PPE (gowns, masks, gloves, etc.) can contact the [Carolina Textile District](#) (CTD) for help in transitioning their production to prototype and producing medical supplies during the COVID-19 crisis. They should also register their business with the NC Manufacturing Extension Partnership by clicking [here](#).



Is your business experiencing supply chain disruptions due to the impact of COVID-19?

Find the Manufacturer or Supplier your business needs at [Manufactured in NC](#):

- This [database of suppliers](#) contains every kind of thing produced in NC. Whether you're a manufacturer who wants to localize your supply chain or a business searching for packaging suppliers, you'll find exactly what you're looking for here.
- If you are a N.C. manufacturer, [please register your business with Manufactured in NC here](#). Other businesses may be looking for you!

Are you an industry that is continuing to operate?

[Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) Record Keeping Requirements for COVID-19](#)

This link highlights OSHA standards and directives (instructions for compliance officers) and other related information that may apply to worker exposure to novel coronavirus, COVID-19

[Food Safety Guidance, NC State University, Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(MEP\) Member](#)

[FAQ on COVID-19 and Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)

[Protecting Your Facility, MEP Network](#)

Best practices for protecting your facility and employees from exposure.

[Responding to Exposure in your Facility, MEP Network](#)

Serves as a checklist for what you should do if you suspect a COVID-19 exposure has occurred at your facility.

[Posters and Flyers to Post in Plant, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

Printable material to post internally and externally for continued operations.

[Manufacturing Surface Disinfectant List, Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

Information on Disinfectants to use against COVID-19

[Enterprise Risk Management, NCSU Poole College of Management](#)

Using ERM Principles to Help Navigate Risks Triggered by COVID-19



Looking for a low-interest lender?

NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery loans

In response to the unique economic challenges of COVID-19, a consortium of public, private and nonprofit partners have come together and launched an innovative recovery-lending program to support entrepreneurs like you and stabilize North Carolina's small business sector. Applicants are encouraged to [apply for the NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loans online](#).

U.S. Small Business Administration

The Small Business Administration has approved the N.C. Governor Roy Cooper's request for a disaster declaration. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in [modified and additional SBA resources](#) to help N.C. small businesses, small aquacultural businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and/or most private nonprofit organizations. [Applicants are encouraged to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loans \(EIDL\) online](#).

Paycheck Protection Program

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.

SBA EIDL Advance

The CARES Act, which provides additional assistance for small business owners and non-profits, includes the opportunity to get up to a \$10,000 Advance on an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). This Advance may be available even if your EIDL application was declined or is still pending and will be forgiven. If you wish to apply for the Advance on your EIDL, please visit [SBA.gov/Disaster](https://www.sba.gov/Disaster) as soon as possible to fill out a new, streamlined application. In order to qualify for the Advance, you need to submit this new application even if you previously submitted an EIDL application. Applying for the Advance will not impact the status or slow your existing application.

Do you need layoff aversion strategies?

Business Edge Services

919.814.0400 or Toll Free: 800.562.6333 (Choose Option 2 – Business Services)

DWS_BusinessServices@nccommerce.com

Business Edge is a series of layoff aversion strategies and activities designed to help North Carolina employers prevent or minimize job losses. Through Business Edge, workforce partners collaborate with business leaders to assess the needs of, and options for, "at-risk" firms, and to deliver services that address those needs.



Do you need to file an Unemployment Insurance claim?

N.C. Division of Employment Security

888.737.0259

If you have lost your job or been laid off, [file an Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) claim](#). New changes to the state's unemployment system have occurred due to the current impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus in North Carolina. [COVID-19 specific information is here](#). It has information for both employers and people seeking unemployment benefits.

Are state and federal agencies offering any payment relief or extended payment deadlines to me or my business?

Federal Coronavirus Tax Relief

The U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service have announced that the federal income tax filing due date is automatically extended from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020. Taxpayers can also defer federal income tax payments due on April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This deferment applies to all taxpayers, including individuals, trusts and estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers as well as those who pay self-employment tax.

N.C. Department of Revenue Special Penalty Relief

The N.C. Department of Revenue recently announced that they will extend the April 15 tax filing deadline to July 15 for individual, corporate, and franchise taxes to mirror the announced deadline change from the Internal Revenue Service. In addition to the filing extension, the NCDOR [will not charge penalties](#) for those filing and paying their taxes after April 15, as long as they file and pay their tax before the updated July 15 deadline.

Additional N.C. Department of Revenue tax relief

Secretary of Revenue Ronald G. Perry announced on March 31st that the N.C. Department of Revenue [will not impose penalties for late filing or payments of several tax types](#), including sales and use and withholding taxes, through July 15. It will also waive penalties for failure to obtain a license, failure to file a return, or failure to pay a tax that is due on March 15 through July 15.

What are the new rules regarding expanded family and medical leave for my employees?

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act requires certain employers to provide their employees with expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division administers and enforces the new law's paid leave requirements. These provisions will apply from the effective date through December 31, 2020. More details are available [here](#), including [FAQs](#).



Interested in starting a business during this challenging time?

A free online course is available, teaching the basics of starting, running, and growing a business. It is open to anyone, anywhere. The [Brian Hamilton Foundation](#)'s course covers business ideation, marketing, selling, customer service, and more. Learn how to break through the fear of failure to become your own boss. Sign up and learn more at brianhamilton.org/starter-u.

And as always, please feel free to contact [our BLNC team of business counselors](#) at 800-228-8443 with any questions you have about starting a business in North Carolina.

Looking for other helpful government resources?

N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services: [COVID-19 Recommendations for Businesses and Employers](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)

N.C. Dept. of Agriculture: [Agricultural Industry Update](#)