

COVID-19 UPDATE



CA PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS RELEASE GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYERS ON COVID-19 OUTBREAKS IN THE WORKPLACE

The California Department of Public Health has released guidance on employer responses to Covid-19 outbreaks in the workplace. This checklist is intended for use by employers experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 in their workplace. Employers should be proactive and keep in mind that identification of even a single positive case among employees may quickly develop into an outbreak. As outbreak circumstances and work practices vary, employers may need assistance from their local health department (LHD) to plan and coordinate a response to the outbreak that meets the needs of the workplace. A copy of the guidance can be found [here](#).

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS DISTRIBUTING FACE COVERINGS AROUND CALIFORNIA

County Agricultural Commissioner offices across in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture are distributing face coverings (2-ply surgical masks) to agricultural operations and businesses free of charge. As an effect of Covid-19, agricultural operations have seen a shortage of PPE materials and these face coverings will provide a means to help fill the void the industry has seen while ensuring employees are safe.

Please contact your local county ag commissioner's office to schedule a time to pick up the face coverings. For a listing a of state offices, [click here](#).

SBA PUBLISHES PPP FLEXIBILITY LOAN FORGIVENESS INTERIM FINAL RULE AND UPDATED APPLICATIONS

On June 19, the Small Business Administration (SBA) published an update to its Interim Final Rules (New IFR) to reflect changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) put in place under the new Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 (Flexibility Act). In addition, the SBA provided a new PPP Loan Forgiveness Application and Instructions as well as a new PPP "EZ" Loan Forgiveness Application and Instructions. Below are some key changes in the New IFR and the new PPP forgiveness applications:

1. New 24-week forgiveness period; existing borrowers can still elect eight-week forgiveness period
2. New PPP loans have five-year maturity period and longer covered period
3. 75/25 rule changed to 60/40 rule
4. Employee compensation cap for 24-week forgiveness period increased to \$46,154; owner compensation cap limited to \$20,833 for 24-week forgiveness period.
5. Updated PPP forgiveness application and new "EZ" forgiveness application

Click [here](#) for a copy of the updated PPP forgiveness application and [here](#) for a copy of the new "EZ" forgiveness application.

SBA'S ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS AND ADVANCE PROGRAM REOPENED

To further meet the needs of U.S. small businesses and non-profits, the U.S. Small Business Administration reopened the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance program portal to all eligible applicants experiencing economic impacts due to COVID-19 last week. SBA's EIDL program offers long-term, low interest assistance for a small business or non-profit. These loans can provide vital economic support to help alleviate temporary loss of revenue. EIDL assistance can be used to cover payroll and inventory, pay debt or fund other expenses.

Additionally, the EIDL Advance will provide up to \$10,000 (\$1,000 per employee) of emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties, and these emergency grants do not have to be repaid.

SBA's COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance

- The SBA is offering low interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses and non-profit organizations that are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19 in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories.
- These loans may be used to pay debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact, and that are not already covered by a Paycheck Protection Program loan. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.
- To keep payments affordable for small businesses, SBA offers loans with long repayment terms, up to a maximum of 30 years. Plus, the first payment is deferred for one year.
- In addition, small businesses and non-profits may request, as part of their loan application, an EIDL Advance of up to \$10,000. The EIDL Advance is designed to provide emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. This advance will not have to be repaid, and small businesses may receive an advance even if they are not approved for a loan.
- SBA's EIDL and EIDL Advance are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response.
- The SBA is also assisting small businesses and non-profits with access to the federal forgivable loan program, the Paycheck Protection Program, which is currently accepting applications until June 30, 2020.
- For additional information, please visit the SBA disaster assistance website at [SBA.gov/Disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster).