



COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus (COVID-19) has been identified. The situation is rapidly evolving and local and state public health officials are working to determine policy and share information as it becomes available. NORTEC staff will continue to keep our community updated on new information and resources as they become available.

County Public Health Resources

County Resources Public Health systems in our 11-county region are taking steps to protect the health of our community members by providing guidance that will slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, reduce the number of people infected and, most especially, protect those who are most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 illnesses. Information for each county can be found at the following links:

[Butte County](#)

[Tehama County](#)

[Shasta County](#)

[Plumas County](#)

[Modoc County](#)

[Siskiyou County](#)

[Del Norte County](#)

[Trinity County](#)

[Sierra County](#)

[Nevada County](#)

[Lassen County](#)

California Protections and Resources

There are a number of worker protections and business resources available through California state departments. A number of these resources are currently being modified at the federal and state level to respond to COVID-19. Please review the following information and resources below:

1. What can I do if my business has slowed due to COVID-19?

If COVID-19 has impacted your business or services, you can avoid potential layoffs by participating in the Unemployment Insurance (UI) [Work Sharing Program](#). This program allows you to retain your workers by reducing their hours and wages no more than 60 percent and partially offsetting the wage loss with UI benefits. This helps you avoid the cost of recruiting, hiring, and training new workers and helps your workers keep their jobs and receive some financial support with UI benefits.

2. What if I have to let go of some of my workers temporarily until business improves?

Your workers can [file for unemployment](#) benefits as long as they are unemployed and otherwise eligible. Workers who expect to return to work for you within a few weeks are not required to actively seek work as long as they are able and available to return to work and meet all other eligibility criteria. The EDD will explain the requirements to your workers during application.

3. What can I do if I have to shut down my business permanently?

If you are facing potential layoffs or plant closures, you can get help through the Rapid Response program. Rapid Response teams will meet with you to discuss your needs, help avoid layoffs where possible, and support your workers through the process. Services can include upgrades to current worker skills, customized training, career counseling, job search assistance, help with filing unemployment insurance claims, and information about education and training opportunities. For more information, please contact the nearest AJCC in your county: [NoRTEC AJCC locator](#).
[More information on the Covid-19 California WARN act.](#)

4. What if I can't file or pay my payroll taxes on time because of COVID-19?

[With the Governor's emergency declaration](#), if your business is directly affected by COVID-19, you can request up to a 60-day extension to file your state payroll reports and deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest. The written request for extension, noting the impact of COVID-19, must be received within 60 days from the original delinquent date of the payment or return. For the address to send the request, along with other information, please see the [State of Emergency or Disaster Fact Sheet \(DE 231SED\) \(PDF\)](#).

You can also call the EDD Taxpayer Assistance Center with any questions you may have about your payroll tax responsibilities at 1-888-745-3886 or (TTY) 1-800-547-9565.

5. What can I do to protect my workers from COVID-19?

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance for Business and Employers](#) includes basic precautions like proper handwashing and cleaning, as well as making sure your sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance. Visit [Cal/OSHA Guidance on Coronavirus](#) to learn more about workplace requirements.

6. Are there any financial resources available to businesses?

This can be an extremely difficult time for businesses, especially for small businesses. There are several programs that are being put together to help.

- a. U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) - Disaster Loan Assistance Congress has authorized SBA disaster loans for small businesses in states who qualify. All of California qualifies and is able to now offer low interest loans for those businesses who have suffered economic injury. The Office of Small Business encourages businesses to utilize their local SBDC network for support in applying for upcoming loan programs. To access the loan application click here: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> For business that would like assistance in completing the document, we suggest that you work with one of the small business

development centers below (see question 7). In order to meet with an SBDC advisor, please click here to easily sign up for an appointment: <https://nc.ecenterdirect.com/signup> . Please take special care to choose an SBDC Center located in the County of your business address.

- b. Other Small Business Administration Resources: Please visit the SBA <https://www.sba.gov/> for other information and resources in response to COVID-19.

7. What other resources for businesses and workers are available?

- a. **CA Employment Development Department (EDD)** EDD has a website dedicated to the resources and programs available to COVID-19 impacted individuals and businesses as well: https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus2019.htm. It is a great resource that provides information and links for those affected. More information can be obtained for the following categories:

Workers

- Sick or Quarantined [Disability Insurance (DI)]
- Caregiving [Paid Family Leave (PFL)]
- School Closures [Unemployment Insurance (UI)]
- Self-Employed

Employers

- Workplace Health and Safety
- Reduced Work Hours (UI-Work Sharing)
- Potential Closure or Layoffs (Rapid Response)
- Tax Assistance

Resources

- Employment
- Health

- b. Northern California Small Business Development Network (SBDC) The Northern California Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has various locations throughout northern California. SBDCs are nonprofit organizations that provides expert no-cost advising and low cost workshops to guide small businesses to success and accomplishment. Advisors will work with entrepreneurs and business owners to address challenges faced by businesses as they navigate COVID-19. To access information and resources please find the closest SBDC local office at the following: <https://www.norcal sbdc.org/locations>

8. Where can I find more information on the Covid19 resources for Employers and Workers?

[Additional Resources for Employers and Workers](#)

[Additional Business Resources from SBDC](#)