

WHAT WE KNOW TODAY - March 24, 2020

Please ensure to focus on yourself, your family and your employees first! You (they) cannot be replaced and safety/health is of most importance right now! [Protect yourself, family & employees.](#)

What is an Essential Business?	State of Illinois Link
What websites can I visit to get credible information that could help my small business?	Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
US SBA Small Business Resources – COVID-19	
What is the IRS doing regarding the current tax season?	(IRS) today issued guidance allowing all individual and other non-corporate tax filers to defer up to \$1 million of federal income tax (including self-employment tax) submission and payments due on April 15, 2020, until July 15, 2020, without penalties or interest. The guidance also allows corporate taxpayers a similar deferment of up to \$10 million of federal income tax payments that would be due on April 15, 2020, until July 15, 2020, without penalties or interest. Check for most current update Link
Is my small business eligible for Illinois Tax Relief?	Illinois: The state is allowing a two-month delay for tens of thousands of businesses to pass along sales tax proceeds. Link
Are there funds or loans that I may be eligible to apply?	<p>SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (Illinois counties have been formally added as of this morning – applies to profit and nonprofit)</p> <p>State Treasurer Bridge Loans (possible through local financial institutions participating) Link</p> <p>Businesses located in City of Chicago</p> <p>Facebook for Business</p> <p>NOTE: you may want to check & capture the personal and/or business credit score now to prove you were in a better position prior to the pandemic, COVID-19.</p>
How do I prepare my workplace for employee safety?	https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf
How should I handle my commercial debtors (personal or business)? (landlord,	If your payments will be impacted due to COVID-19, contact the company and specifically identify that you

<p>mortgage company, credit card company, insurance, etc.)</p>	<p>are suffering a loss of income <u>due to COVID-19</u>. Request deferment of payments, where possible. Check your lender, mortgage company, etc. online as they may have initiated assistance specific to COVID-19.</p> <p>NOTE: you may want to check & capture the personal and/or business credit score now to prove you were in a better position prior to the pandemic, COVID-19.</p>
<p>I have a contract that delivery may be delayed because of COVID-19, what should I do?</p>	<p>Contact your customer immediately and clearly identify the situation. Specifically state that due to COVID-19 a delay will occur.</p> <p>If you hold a federal contract, review your contract to identify if FAR 52.249-14 is present. Contact your Contracting Officer immediately to clearly communicate that a delay will occur due to COVID-19. March 25, 2020 there will be a free seminar specific to implications and navigating the federal contract space during a national disaster, preregistration is required- Link</p> <p>If you have a contract with a Force Majeure clause written within – protections could be in place. Link</p>
<p>What is available for my employees as a business owner?</p>	<p>Unemployment benefits may be available to some individuals whose unemployment is attributable to COVID-19. IDES recently adopted emergency rules to try to make the unemployment insurance system as responsive to the current situation as possible. Please review this link for the information to assist your employees https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-Unemployment-Benefits.aspx</p> <p>Additionally, the employee should check into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) which helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health. https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30357</p>

<p>What about utilities?</p>	<p>While we cannot give definitive answers, we are offering connections to some local utility information. This list is not all inclusive but does offer direct connection to specific response to COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Commonwealth Edison</u></p> <p><u>NICOR Gas</u></p> <p><u>Verizon</u></p> <p><u>T Mobile</u></p> <p><u>AT&T</u></p> <p><u>Xfinity</u></p>
<p>Cybersecurity for my business – what steps can I take to ensure cybersecurity protection while remote working?</p>	<p>Article we found offering useful tips: <u>Link</u></p> <p>Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) – Telework Guidance <u>Link</u></p> <p>America’s SBDC insight/guidance <u>Link</u></p> <p>Helping You Stay Secure</p> <p>As a fan of password management, I am sharing some sound advice that was recently released. Whether you use a password manager or not (<u>I am not promoting this password manager or any other</u>), this advice and insight might be useful to protect your information during these uncertain times. The company, I use, created a blog to find out more about how to <u>avoid Coronavirus (COVID-19) cybersecurity scams</u> that take advantage of the fear and confusion caused by this pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't use free public Wi-Fi hotspots, such as those provided by coffee shops or airports. They are often insecure and targeted by cybercriminals.• Instead of using public Wi-Fi hotspots, use your mobile device's personal hotspot. It's far more

	<p>secure and several mobile providers are providing unlimited data at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't connect to any unknown Wi-Fi network or accept an unknown peer-to-peer connection request.• Turn off your device's Bluetooth visibility when you're not using it and permanently disable the feature that allows your phone or laptop to automatically connect to available Wi-Fi networks. This protects your device from automatically connecting to malicious networks.• If you need to remotely access your work computer, use a virtual private network (VPN).
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[Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center \(PTAC\)](#)

Expansion through governmental contracting with guidance in selling to the local, state or federal markets.

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[Illinois Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#)

Advisors in business planning, pre-commercialization market assessment, proof of concept, assistance in the areas of management, strategic marketing, finance and operations.

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[Illinois International Trade Center \(ITC\)](#)

Expert assistance with distributor discovery and vetting, international lead generation global shipping challenges market and competitor analysis, financing options and sales and marketing strategy.

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