



## An Update from LCPC on COVID-19

LCPC's staff are all currently working from home to comply with the 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' order by Governor Scott. However, we can still be contacted via phone or email. Phone and email contacts for staff are listed at the bottom of this notice for your convenience. There's a lot to navigate and the staff have been doing the research and staying on top of all new developments affecting our municipalities. We are organizing and participating in meetings using video conferencing programs. Feel free to contact us with questions or concerns. For your information, the main sources for updated information on the response to COVID-19 can be found at the following Web sites.

[Vermont League of Cities and Towns](#)  
[Vermont Department of Health](#)  
[Vermont Department of Emergency Management](#)

### **COVID-19 Guidance for Vermont Businesses**

The Agency of Commerce has provided information if anyone has questions about whether your business meets the definition of *Critical to public health and safety*, as well as economic and national security as per Governor Scott's Executive Order, please review the [Stay Home, Stay Safe FAQs](#) and [Sector Specific Guidance](#). For additional information visit <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19-guidance>.

### **The Open Meeting Law and Elections**

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Weekly Legislative Report announced that on Wednesday, March 25, the Senate passed an amendment to H.681, a bill that addresses government operations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The amendment authorizes public bodies, including local boards and commissions, to hold meetings remotely during the crisis. It will also amend elections law, allowing for Australian ballot elections even if that is not the form of ballot the municipality generally utilizes. The House passed the bill the next day and sent it to Governor Scott. Also, during the declared COVID-19 emergency, a public body would not need to provide a physical location for an open meeting or need to have a person physically present. Read: the Amendment [Here](#) Note: Sec. 5, Sec. 6, and Sec. 8.

### **USDA Rural Development: COVID-19 Resource Webpage**

USDA Rural Development has launched a COVID-19 resource page to continuously update actions taken by the Agency to help rural residents, businesses, and communities impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Visit [www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus) for information on Rural Development loan payment assistance, application deadline extensions, and more.

### **FEMA Training Opportunity**

FEMA's Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) will be delivering a series of webinar trainings for potential Public Assistance applicants over the next few weeks on "Procurement Under Grants Conducted Under Emergency or Exigent Circumstances for COVID-19." Read more [Here](#) The next session for Region 1 is April 6 @ 9:30 am, (888)

270-9936, access code 101-7496. The trainings have a limited phone line capacity (500 per session.)

### **CARES Act Signed Into Law**

On March 27, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law to assist business owners with immediate financial needs.

The **Small Business Owners Guide to the CARES Act** provides information about the major programs and initiatives that will soon be available from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to address these needs, as well as some additional tax provisions that are outside the scope of SBA. A comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions is also available **Here**.

### **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Loan Advance**

Small business owners in Vermont are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000 to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available within three days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid if certain conditions are met. To apply for a Covid-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan click **Here**

Questions about the SBA Disaster Assistance programs? Contact SBA Customer Service Center (800) 659-2955. **SBA Disaster Assistance** Free assistance with constructing financial statements and completing application forms is available from the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC). Contact Ross Hart (802) 748-1014 **Rhart@vtsbdc.org**.

### **RCT Service Update**

Rural Community Transportation has issued an announcement to towns in the RCT service area. While COVID-19 is creating rapidly changing situations for everyone, the transportation service is still operating both fixed route bus and demand-response non-emergency medical transportation services. Some bus routes have been temporarily suspended. Read the announcement from Executive Director, Nick D'Agostino **Here**

### **Tax Due Date Extended**

Governor Scott has directed the Commissioner of Taxes to exercise his authority to provide relief to Vermont businesses that owe Meals & Rooms Tax or Sales & Use Tax until further notice. Many local businesses find themselves unable to meet the March 25, and April 25, filing deadlines due to the implementation of mitigation steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Taxpayers who are unable to meet the deadlines will not be charged any penalty or interest on these taxes for late submissions. The VT Income Tax filing due date has been extended to July 15th. For complete up-to-date tax information visit **www.tax.vermont.gov**.

### **Staff Contact Information**

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