



# COVID-19 Update

from Mayor Armondo Pavone



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## Friday, April 3, 2020 / Issue: 14

With information regarding COVID-19 continually being updated, I've decided to publish this newsletter to share what we know with the residents of Renton. In each edition our team will bring you the latest updates from around the city as well as information from state and federal officials and agencies.

Google Translation available on website. For additional translation services contact [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov).



**Many restaurants in Renton are open for to-go or delivery orders.**

### Governor extends "Stay Safe, Stay Healthy"

Gov. Inslee yesterday extended his "Stay Safe, Stay Healthy" order through at least Monday, May 4. That means the earliest businesses could re-open is May 5.

The governor indicated that while the order had bought the state time to build hospital capacity, we have not yet seen the full weight of the virus, based on modeling performed by the University of Washington. This epidemiological modeling has predicted over 1,000 deaths if we kept the order in place and significantly more if we did not. The governor said that now is not the time to lose momentum in our fight to flatten the curve and control the spread of the virus.

I know I can count on the continued cooperation of our residents to follow the order's guidelines. Remember all city buildings and facilities are closed while the governor's order is in place. Our parks and trail system will remain open, but all restrooms, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within the parks are closed. Please obey proper social distancing and do not gather in groups when walking the parks and trails.

Here's what's allowed under the order. Please remember to keep at least six feet apart.

- Grocery shopping
- Ordering restaurant takeout or to-go
- Medical appointments and pharmacy pickup
- Walking, running, biking and gardening
- Going to gas stations, food banks, banks and laundromats
- Going to work if your job is part of [essential businesses](#)
- Funerals only if at a funeral home or at cemetery gravesides. Attendees can only be immediate family members of the deceased and proper social distancing must be maintained.

What is not allowed:

- Attending weddings or religious services
- Attending or playing in sports games and practices
- Participating in any in-person leisure, hobby or social clubs
- Going to concerts, festivals, parades, theaters, museums, art galleries or fundraisers
- Working out at a gym or fitness center
- Going to barbers, nail salons or tattoo parlors

If you suspect a business is in violation of the governor's order, the state has an [online reporting form](#). If report is about an individual or private group, use the police department's non-emergency number 425-235-2121. In either instance, do not call 911.

### Support for local businesses

Earlier this week I sent a [letter](#) to local business owners directing them to resources that could help them through these tough times. As the owner of a small business myself, I understand what many of them are going through and I want to make sure they know where to find these resources and how to access them.

During my three months as mayor, I have learned that the city can take certain actions to assist small businesses, and then there are actions that are the responsibility of the state and federal governments. Several financial resources from these two entities are available as part of the Families First and CARES Act federal legislation recently adopted by Congress. The [state's resources](#) page has a section specifically for businesses and workers with information on several of these programs.

Remember that many of our restaurants all over Renton are open for to-go to delivery order. Renton restaurants open for take-out/delivery: [General Renton](#), [Downtown Renton](#), [Google Document](#). Gift cards are also appreciated. If your restaurant is not listed, please [add it](#).

### City Council to meet on Monday

I will present an update on the city's response to COVID-19 during the Renton City Council's [Committee of the Whole](#) meeting on Monday, April 6, at 5 p.m. Your health and safety are our primary concern and guides every decision we have enacted over the past month. The committee will also receive an update from Sound Transit on the plans for Bus Rapid Transit service on I-405 from Renton to Bellevue.

The regular council will convene at 7 p.m.

To comply with Gov. Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, councilmembers will be attending both meetings via videoconference. City Hall is closed; however, residents are encouraged to participate by [submitting comments in advance](#).

Both meetings will be broadcast live on Channel 21 and streamed at [rentonwa.gov/streaming](#). Residents may also call 425-430-7171 to listen to the meetings. Use code 033665# to join.

### Center of Hope moves to St. Matthews Church

Starting Monday, April 6, REACH's Center of Hope will relocate from Renton City Hall to St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave. NE. The center provides shelter for women, children, and families through its partnership with several agencies. The center will stay at St. Matthews through the end of May.

### Senior Survey

Our community services department is currently conducting a [needs assessment](#) of our senior population.

### COVID-19 Scams

Unfortunately, scammers are preying on the fears surrounding COVID-19. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) has some tips on dealing with those unwanted phone calls and emails. The state also has help with [stimulus payment scams](#).

## [coronavirus.wa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov)

The city's [COVID-19 resources](#) page is a compilation of available assistance to those struggling with the effects of this pandemic. Another great source of information is the state's [Coronavirus Response](#) page. There you can find the latest news and topic-specific links including "you and your family," "business and workers," "health care," and "childcare/K-12/higher education."

Update on city functions. **New/updated information is in red.**

### City Hall

- City Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Most services available via telephone and [online](#).
- CDC guidelines for screening employees have been implemented. Health screening questions will be asked.
- Increased frequency for disinfecting common spaces, counters and door handles in all facilities throughout our hours of operation.
- Created [COVID-19](#) page with links to information and prevention.
- Enacted a telework policy for eligible employees until further notice.
- [Prohibition on enforcement](#) of city noise restrictions on vehicles.
- COVID-19 link added to [Renton Responds](#) app.
- Our HR department is adapting to changes and we are making decisions to be responsive to COVID-19 and making sure we keep our employees safe and healthy as we continue to serve our customers.
- Mayor's [Emergency Order #2020-3](#): Supporting State Moratorium on Residential Evictions for Non-Payment of Rent.
- Don't forget to complete your [2020 Census](#).
- Mayors urge residents [to follow best practices](#).
- [March 23](#) – Mayor's COVID-19 update to City Council Committee of the Whole.
- [March 24](#) - City's response to governor's order of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy"
- [March 30](#) – **Mayor's letter to Renton businesses detailing available resources.**
- [April 1](#) – **City launches senior resources survey.**

### City Council

- The City Council will meet on Monday, April 6 at 7 p.m. Committee of the Whole will meet at 5 p.m.
- Meetings are live on Channel 21 in Renton and [streamed online](#).
- **Residents may call 425-430-7171 to listen to the meetings. Use code 033665#.**
- Submit comments to councilmembers via [cityclerk@rentonwa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rentonwa.gov) or mail to Renton City Hall, c/o City Clerk, 1055 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057.
- All subcommittee meetings are cancelled until further notice.

### Donations/Volunteering

- Puget Sound Blood Bank is short on supplies. Find a [donation event](#).
- American Red Cross [Blood Drives](#).
- Those wishing to volunteer can register with [United Way](#).
- [King County Regional Donations Connector](#) is a virtual donation management center.
- Monetary contributions can be made via Seattle Foundation [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).
- Doug Baldwin has organized food deliveries through [familyfirstrenton.org](#) and can use volunteer help.
- Renton Regional Community Foundation has launched a [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).

### Economic Development

- CED has compiled list of resources for [businesses and employers](#).
- State resources: [coronavirus.wa.gov](#).
- [Small Business Administration](#) is offering disaster assistance loan to small businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- [King County Council](#) collected information on unemployment, workers' comp, rent/mortgage, utilities, student loans, food assistance, insurance & businesses.
- Greater Seattle Partners is asking businesses to take an [economic impact survey](#).
- [March 30](#) – **Mayor's letter to Renton businesses detailing available resources.**

### Facilities/Services

- The following facilities are closed until further notice: Renton Community Center, Renton Senior Activity Center, Highlands Community Center, North Highlands Community Center, Renton History Museum, Renton Pavilion Event Center and Carco Theatre.
- Public Works, Parks and Facilities shops are closed to the public until further notice.
- Lunch program continues at [Senior Activity Center](#). Seniors (50+) can drive through weekdays and pick up a sack lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Food Banks/Resources

- City of Renton [Human Services Resources Guide](#)
- [Low-cost food resources](#) in Renton.
- [211.org](#): access point for homeless shelters, food and other related resources.
- REACH [Center of Hope and Meal coalition](#).
- Doug Baldwin has organized food deliveries through [familyfirstrenton.org](#).
- Renton Regional Community Foundation has launched a [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).
- **Sustainable Renton** on [Free Grocery Store on Monday evenings](#).

### Inspections - Building and Development Engineering

Community and Economic Development Department (CED) has been receiving questions from homeowners and contractors regarding how the city is interpreting the construction-related provisions of Gov. Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation and related guidance issued by the Governor's Office.

- CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to deem new residential and commercial construction as non-essential activities, except that construction of public projects (such as public affordable housing projects) and public components of private projects (such as utilities and streets intended for turnover to the city) are essential activities. Furthermore, CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to allow construction related to the order's list of essential activities including supply chain for goods, services, and healthcare.
- Under these interpretations, CED will continue its physical inspections associated with the following city-issued permits:
  - Building permits for occupied residential structures necessary to avoid damage or unsafe conditions;
  - Building permits for buildings that are a necessary component of the community's supply chain for goods, services, and healthcare;
  - Engineering permits for facilities intended to be made part of the city's public infrastructure. Such facilities include water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater utilities intended to be transferred to the city at completion and street improvements intended to be transferred to the city at completion.
- Although CED will not be performing physical onsite inspections for new unoccupied homes or other projects not falling into the above list, some inspections can be accomplished virtually. If you are interested in more information about virtual inspections, please contact the Building Division: 425-430-7202.

- These interpretations are valid as of March 30, 2020 under the governor's guidance in effect as of that date. Please note that these interpretations are subject to change as more information becomes available regarding the efforts to contain COVID-19 or if further guidance is issued by the governor's office.

## Mental Health Resources/Health Care

### Mental Health

- CDC: [Managing Anxiety and Stress during COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event](#)
- SAMHSA: [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health](#)
- King County: [Crisis Connections](#)
- Wash DoH: [Social Distancing and Mental Health](#)
- Seattle Times: [Community Support Resources](#)

Additionally, there are also several recommended things you can do to support yourself:

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths and stretch, eat healthy meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid excessive alcohol and drugs.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

### Health Care

- Valley Medical Center has a [COVID-19 page](#) with updates.
- [HealthPoint](#) in Renton.
- Public Health's [Community Health Access Program](#) for those without a doctor. Call 1-800-756-5437 or [CHAP@kingcounty.gov](mailto:CHAP@kingcounty.gov) for a free consultation and connection to free or low-cost medical providers and low-cost health insurance.

## Online Payments

- Business licenses, pet licenses, courts, tax and licensing and utility bills can all be paid [online](#).
- Business Licensing & Tax: 425-430-6851; [filelocal-wa.gov](http://filelocal-wa.gov).

## Permitting

- [Permit counter](#) is closed to the public until further notice. Applicants can use [online options](#) for payments and tracking applications.
- [Fees and permitting](#) waived for A-frame business signs advertising curbside pick-up.
- Permitting (General information): 425-430-7200.
- Schedule an Inspection: [Permitting Portal](#); Building: 425-430-7202; Civil/Site: 425-430-7203.

## Public Works

- Maintenance facility is closed to the public until further notice.
- **The Public Works Maintenance Services Division and Transportation Maintenance teams are working a reduced schedule of 10-hour days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.**
- **The maintenance facility is closed on Wednesdays to allow for an additional thorough cleaning.**
- **To request service or report a problem call 425-430-7400 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**
- After normal business hours, call Renton Police Department dispatch at 425-430-7500 (option #8) to request assistance from an on-call representative. If the problem is an emergency, please call 911.
- 20 MPH flashing school zone beacons disabled.
- Residents can also report issues via the [Renton Responds](#) app.
- The May 9 Spring Recycling Event will be rescheduled.
- **The June Stop 'n Swap event has been cancelled and will return in 2021.**
- Continuity of operations measures initiated to isolate water treatment operators from other employees during work.

## Recreation

### Open

- All [parks](#). However, restrooms, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within the parks are closed until further notice.
- All [trails](#) except two sections of the [Cedar River Trail](#).
- In both parks and trails, please follow recommended social distancing and proper hand washing.

### Closed

- All restrooms, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within city parks.
- All classes, events and activities until further notice.
- Registrations through May 4 will be cancelled.
- Refunds processing for March cancellations; April to follow.
- Maplewood Golf Course, driving range, pro shop and River Rock Grill until further notice. No public access.

## Renton Municipal Airport

- Offices are closed to the public until further notice. Runway and support services are operational.
- General information available on [website](#) or by calling 425-430-7471 (admin) or 206-423-3715 (maintenance).

## Renton Municipal Court

- Courts are closed until further notice and staff is working remotely.
- In-custody court hearings are no longer being held at City Hall.
- Jail calendar is heard via video conference with prosecutors and public defenders
- Work is on-going to conduct Domestic Violence No Contact Order Recalls.
- Jury service and passport service is suspended until at least April 27.
- Continuing all [non-essential hearings](#) until further notice.

## Renton Police Department

- [March 13](#) – Chief Ed VanValey updates procedures.
- Department lobby and walk up window at city hall are closed.
- Only use 911 for emergencies; Non-emergencies: 425-235-2121.
- Public Health - Seattle & King County (206-477-3977) handles complaints of crowds of 50 or more.
- School zone cameras turned off.
- [March 20](#) – Message from Chief Ed VanValey.
- [March 23](#) - Message from Chief Ed VanValey on governor's "Stay at Home Order".
- File a [police report](#)
- [March 27](#): Message from Chief Ed VanValey: "our primary role is to help educate".
- **"Stay Home, Stay Healthy" - If you suspect a business is in violation of the governor's order, the state has an [online reporting form](#). If report is about an individual or private group, use the police department's non-emergency number 425-235-2121.**

## Renton Regional Fire Authority

- [Procedures updated](#).

## Renton Schools

- [Closed until](#) at least through May 4.
- [Services are being offered](#) during their closure.

## Republic Services

- [Republic Services](#) has put into effect new temporary guidelines for waste collection procedures in the interest of safety for both the public and their drivers. All recycling and organics materials must be placed in a cart

or can; any loose, bundled, or bagged items outside of a cart or can will not be collected. Extra garbage must be placed in a cart, can, or secured in bags. Bulky waste collection and Clean Sweep collections are suspended until further notice. All collection routes are on normal schedule. Questions? Contact Republic Services at 206-777-6440.

- Republic Services will waive late fees and penalties and will not activate any service suspensions for a period of 90 days. (March 23)
- If your business has been temporarily closed as a result of the governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order you may contact Republic Services for a temporary reduction in garbage service to the minimum level of service - currently a 20-gallon cart service. Your account will reflect a credit for the pro-rated difference between the rate for the service subscribed during normal business operations and the minimum level of service during the temporary business closure. Please contact Republic Services Customer Service at 206-777-6440 to make your arrangements
- Given that many residents are currently working from home and garbage service needs may have increased, residential customers may contact Republic Services at 206-777-6440 to make any service level changes to meet their current needs. Residents are required to maintain at least a minimum, 20-gallon cart subscription for garbage.

## Restaurants

- Renton restaurants open for take-out/delivery: [General Renton](#), [Downtown Renton](#), [Google Document](#). Gift cards are also appreciated.
- Add your restaurant [to the list](#).

## Shelters

### Men's Shelters & Day Centers

- **ARISE**  
[Catholic Community Services](#). Hosted by a different Renton church every month. Includes Case Management services.
- **Congregations for the Homeless**
  - Space is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Overnight services from 7:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m. Men allowed on-site at 7 p.m.
  - 515B 116th Ave NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
(425) 289-4044
- **Day Center**  
Resource referrals, showers, laundry, meals. Open Sunday – Thursday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
  - 515B 116th Ave NE Suite 174  
Bellevue, WA 98004

### Women's Shelters & Day Centers

- **Kent Hope**  
Resource referrals, showers, laundry, meals, healthcare. Open every day 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
  - 9009 Canyon Drive  
Kent, WA 98030  
(253) 480-2325
- **The Sophia Way**  
Apply for extended stay shelter [online](#).  
Resource referrals, showers, laundry, breakfast/lunch. Open every day 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
  - 3032 Bellevue Way NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
(425) 896-7385
- **Women's Referral Center**  
Check in at Angeline's Day Center between 6-9 p.m. then transported to host locations for overnight stay. The Center offers showers, laundry, and dinner.
  - 2030 3rd Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 441-3210
- **Hospitality House**  
Opens at 6 p.m. every night.
  - 1419 SW 150th St  
Burien, Washington 98166  
(206) 242-1860

### Family Shelters & Day Centers

- **REACH**  
All for shelter/day center intake.
  - 316 S 3rd St, Renton, WA 98057  
(425) 277-7594
- **Center of Hope Day Center**  
Resource referrals, showers, laundry. Open Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
  - Renton City Hall  
1055 S Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057
  - Effective April 6: REACH Center of Hope is relocating to St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave. NE. They will be there through the end of May.
- **Mary's Place**  
Call 206-245-1026 for shelter referrals.

## Transportation

- [March 30](#) - Interactive tool for riders whose routes experienced service cuts.
- [March 29](#) - If your route was cut on March 23, are some alternative routes to consider.
- [March 21](#) – Sound Transit service change includes new route, temporary service reductions.
- [March 20](#) – Sounds Transit to suspend fares on all transit modes until further notice.
- [March 19](#) - Sound Transit to temporarily reduce service on Link light rail, Sounder trains, some ST Express routes.
- [March 18](#) - Metro plans to temporarily reduce service starting Monday, March 23 to support the health of the community.

## Utilities

- City will waive late fees and penalties and will not shut off water service for a period of 90 days. (March 23)
- Questions? Utility Bills: 425-430-6852; [rentonwa.gov/ub](#).
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE) will not disconnect customers for non-payment, will waive late fees and work on [payment plans](#) and [choosing a new bill due date](#). PSE has an [energy assistance portal](#) to facilitate access to funds available to income-qualified customers.

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## King County

- [March 31](#) – County Council approves \$2.2 million for emergency childcare for first responders and other essential workers during COVID-19 crisis.
- [March 30](#) - King County postpones payment deadline to June 1 for individual property taxpayers.
- [Don't flush trash](#) - Wipes, paper towels, and other "unflushables" can create a sewer backup in your home. Flush only toilet paper and protect your home, the sewer system, and the environment.
- [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) from Public Health-Seattle & King County.
- [March 24](#) - King County releases new health and safety guidelines to child care providers.

## State of Washington

- [April 1](#) - The state is seeking to fill shortages of specific personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection-control products to support our medical system, first responders, public health and care facilities.

- [April 1](#) – Gov. Inslee issued additional guidance on the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order related to essential businesses. It clarifies as “essential” nannies (who are deemed essential if they are in the home taking care of children of essential workers), automotive repair facilities and limited automotive sales and leasing activities, and renewable energies. The bulletin also includes guidance that recreational fishing and golf are NOT deemed essential.
- [March 31](#) – Governor and Washington State Department of Financial Institutions announce assistance for homeowners unable to make mortgage payments.
- [March 30](#) - Department of Licensing is temporarily closing all driver licensing lobbies on March 31.
- [March 30](#) – The state has set up an [online form](#) to report non-essential businesses that violate the governor’s Stay Home-Stay Health order.
- [March 27](#) - Gov. Inslee welcomes Army doctors to field hospital in Seattle.
- [March 23](#) – Governor announced a stay at home order, banning all gatherings and closing all but those businesses [classified by the federal guidelines](#) as essential. The ban will take effect on March 25 and be in place for a minimum of two weeks. The governor indicated even though the order is voluntary in nature, it is enforceable by law. Resident will be able to conduct essential business (shopping, doctor’s appointments) and restaurants cans still conduct business via to-go and delivery orders.
- [March 19](#) – Governor orders a halt to elective surgeries and dental services to reserve critical equipment for COVID-19 health care workers.
- [March 18](#)– Governor waives one-week wait for unemployment benefits.
- [March 17](#) – Governor signs bill package to support state effort combating the COVID-19 outbreak.
- [March 16](#) – Governor issues statewide shutdown of restaurants, bars and limits on size of gatherings expanded.
- [March 13](#) – Governor expands school closure/gathering ban statewide.

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## “Stay Home, Stay Healthy”

"Stay Home, Stay Healthy" is Gov. Inslee's executive order asking all state residents to stay indoors. Originally issued on March 23 for a two-week period, he extended on April 2 through May 4.

Here's what's allowed under the order. Please remember to keep appropriate social distancing of at least six feet.

- Grocery shopping
- Ordering restaurant takeout or to-go
- Medical appointments and pharmacy pickup
- Walking, running, biking and gardening
- Going to gas stations, food banks, banks and laundromats
- Going to work if your job is part of [essential businesses](#)
- Funerals only if at a funeral home or at cemetery gravesides. Only immediate family members of the deceased can attend and proper social distancing by staying is maintained.

What is not allowed:

- Attending weddings or religious services
- Attending or playing in sports games and practices
- Participating in any in-person leisure, hobby or social clubs
- Going to concerts, festivals, parades, theaters, museums, art galleries or fundraisers
- Working out at a gym or fitness center
- Going to barbers, nail salons or tattoo parlors

If you suspect a business is in violation of the governor’s order, the state has an [online reporting form](#). If report is about an individual or private group, use the police department non-emergency number 425-235-2121.

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## Federal

- [March 27](#) - Congress passes CARES Act, a \$2.2 trillion federal stimulus package to aid coronavirus relief and economic stimulus.
- [March 22](#) – President approves major disaster declaration for Washington.

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## Important Links

- [Public Health - Seattle & King County](#)
- [King County Emergency news](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Governor’s Coronavirus resources](#) (coronavirus.wa.gov)
- [Washington State Coronavirus Response:](#)
- [Coronavirus fact sheets in multi-language resources](#)
- [King County Emergency Preparedness Standards](#)
- [State Resources for Business](#)
- [Homeless Services Provider Resources](#)

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## Information for Businesses and Employees

### For Businesses

- [Stay Home – Stay Healthy Guidance for essential business](#)
- [What do I do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19](#)
- [OSHA guidance for preparing workplaces for COVID-19](#)

### For Employees

- [Employment Security Division: for workers affected by COVID-19](#)
- [ESD’s Paid Family and Medical Leave Program](#)
- [SharedWork Program](#)
- [Temporary layoffs, standby and furloughs](#)
- [Layoff Assistance](#)
- [United Way of King County: Where to get help](#)

### Financial Resources

- [U.S/ Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Assistance](#)
- [Keep Workers Safe and Healthy Fund \(Seattle Metro Chamber\)](#)
- [Washington State Department of Revenue: Business Relief During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [IRS: Coronavirus Tax Relief](#)
- [Facebook Small Business Grants Program](#)
- [Association of Washington Businesses](#)
- [Business Washington COVID-19 Business Resources](#)
- [Restore Your Economy.org: COVID-19 Resources for Economic Development](#)