



September 4, 2020

Dear Reader,

Happy Labor Day weekend! This holiday weekend, be sure to plan for [safer social interactions](#) by wearing a face covering, keeping 6 ft. distance, and not sharing food, drinks and utensils. The actions we take now can help us protect the health and safety of our community.

A special word to businesses that are participating in the Shared Spaces Program and are serving food and drinks. The weather will be nice this weekend and your customers may want to linger after they finish their meal but please keep in mind this program is not intended for customers to hang out for an unchecked amount of time like pre-COVID days. We are still operating under a Shelter In Place Order.

Below are announcements and updates for the business community. If you've missed any of our previous announcements, you can find them here. Businesses are encouraged to check [oewd.org/covid19](http://oewd.org/covid19) for new and updated information. As always, the Office of Small Business is here to help. If you have questions, please contact us at [sfosb@sfgov.org](mailto:sfosb@sfgov.org).



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Free PPE Available for San Francisco Small Businesses**

In partnership with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate, Mayor London Breed [announced](#) on Monday the large shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – hand sanitizers, surgical masks, and face shields – for small businesses. The goal in providing PPE to businesses is to save them the time and expense of procuring PPE, and to help focus and prepare them for continued safe reopening. In collaboration with local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), a one-month supply of PPE will be distributed to local businesses that are open and/or will reopen soon, while supplies last.

San Francisco small businesses interested in requesting free PPE should review the list of participating CBOs [here](#) and contact your nearest CBO. Businesses can request a 30 day supply of hand sanitizers, surgical masks and face shields. CBO partners will be picking up their shipments of PPE over the next two weeks. Organizations that have received their shipment will have contact information listed and for those organizations where contact information is not yet listed, please check back.

Click [here](#) for more information.

### **National Preparedness Month**

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM) to promote family, community and business disaster planning. This year's theme is "Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today." As we continue to cope with COVID-19 and wildfires throughout California, smart planning can help keep your business running or reopen quickly if disaster strikes. Check out the following resources:

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) has [shared resources, checklists and safety tips](#) for businesses to lessen the financial impact of various disasters that can affect your business.
- Preserve your equipment and business records by referencing this [IRS guide](#) on protecting your information before an emergency strikes.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also offers an [emergency preparedness checklist and toolkit](#).

### **SF Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Updates**

- *Permit Updates:*
  - For Over-the-Counter Permits Without Plans and Fire-Only Permits, you will need to [pre-register via Eventbrite](#). Tickets are available weekly.
  - For new applications for Over-the-Counter Permits With Plans, you can make an appointment to submit the permit application [here](#).
- *Utility Shutoff Ordinance:* With residents spending more time at home, construction work performed in residential buildings can be much more disruptive for tenants than it would be typically. Building owners planning to conduct construction work in your residential building would need to notify and prepare alternative water and/or utility sources for your tenants if the work is expected to impact their water and/or utility services. The emergency ordinance is in effect through October 31, 2020 and can be extended. For more information, visit [www.sfdbi.org/sip](http://www.sfdbi.org/sip).

### **Census 2020**

It's not too late to participate! There are less than 26 days left to do the 2020 Census and we want to make sure that San Franciscans are counted—citizens and immigrants alike. Help everyone get better representation and benefits by making sure you and your family get counted and by encouraging your employees to do the same. Every person counted brings \$20,000 in federal resources for essential programs and services over the next 10 years. Being counted ensures our fair political representation and more important, confirms that you are here and are part of America. The census won't ask about your citizenship or employment status, or about your household income. Visit [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020.

### **Funding Resources**

#### **LISC Small Business Relief Grant – Ends September 7, 2020**

LISC has been providing grants to small businesses, to help them keep functioning and remain vital facets of their local economies through this challenging period. Five rounds of the grant applications have closed and Round 6 has reopened on August 31, 2020. Applications must be submitted by Monday, September 7, 2020 at 11:59 PM ET. Please read the Grant Information and FAQs and [apply here](#).

#### **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)**

Authorized by the stimulus packages, the Small Business Administration (SBA), through Economic Injury Disaster Loans, is offering loan assistance for small businesses and nonprofits. Although the EIDL Advance Funding is no longer available, SBA will still be accepting [EIDL applications](#) to qualified small businesses.

#### **Red Backpack Fund – Reopening on September 8, 2020**

Previously shared in our newsletter, the Red Backpack Fund, an initiative started by The Spanx, will be making at least 1,000 grants of \$5,000 each to female entrepreneurs in the U.S. to help alleviate the immediate needs and support long-term recovery of those impacted by this crisis. GlobalGiving will reopen its fund application portal at 12pm ET on September 8, 2020. For more information, review the FAQs and apply at <https://www.spanx.com/the-red-backpack-fund>.



### **WEBINARS:**

#### **Sea un Negocio Ecológico Durante Covid-19 - SPANISH**

Wednesday, 9/16/20, 10AM – 12PM PT

The California Green Business Network and partners are assembling for a Spanish Webinar aimed to help businesses learn about ways to clean your business in a healthy way, save money through sustainability, and how to reduce waste to recover, build resilience, and incorporate sustainability into the years that come.

Topics include:

- Green Cleaning & Disinfecting with Pauli Ojea, coordinator of the San Francisco Department of the Environment
- Sustainability Practices that Save Money with Berenice García Tellez, Economic Sustainability Specialist
- Reducing Waste during COVID-19 with Fernando Figueroa, Head of Department of Environmental Certification and Self-Regulatory Programs

[Click here to register.](#)

**Small Biz Pro Tip: Worker Classification for Providers, Employers and Domestic Employers**

Tuesday, 9/22/20; 6PM – 7:30PM PT

Join Start Small Think Big! and Small Business Majority, SF LGBT Center, Immigrants Rising and Opportunity for their Small Biz Pro Tip Series on free legal expertise to growing business owners in California. This session will discuss the implications of AB 5 and how it may or may not impact your small business. We will also discuss the difference between employees and independent contractors, the importance of classifying your workforce during COVID-19 with special attention paid to child care providers and domestic employers. Topics include:

- State policy update on Proposition 22
- How to use the "ABC" test to determine how a worker should be classified
- How your employees are classified and what it means for your business
- Benefits to offer your workforce without impact to your bottom line

[Click here to register.](#)



**ON-GOING RESOURCES:**

Get your personal protective equipment [PPE](#) from local providers. Any business that sells PPE to SF businesses and wishes to be added to this list may contact us at [sfosb@sfgov.org](mailto:sfosb@sfgov.org).

As a reminder, please be alert about potential fraud schemes related to the economic stimulus programs. To report scams and frauds related to the SBA program, [click here](#). The Office of Attorney General also has provided information and resources related to coronavirus scams [here](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Health Orders from DPH can be found at: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-healthorders.asp>. Health Directives for business operations can be found at: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-health-directives.asp>.

All Mayoral declarations regarding COVID-19 can be found at:  
<https://sfmayor.org/mayoral-declarations-regarding-covid-19>.

For more information, you can also call 311, and for official updates, sign up for the City's alert service: text **COVID19SF to 888-777**.

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To **stay up to date** on COVID-19 related announcements and resources, sign up for our e-news at <https://sfosb.org/subscribe-small-business-e-news>.

In solidarity,

Office of Small Business



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