



April 1, 2020

Governor Kemp to Hold Press Conference at 4 p.m. Today

Governor Kemp, Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey, Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency Director Homer Bryson, and Georgia National Guard Adjutant General Tom Carden will give a briefing on COVID-19 from the Georgia State Capitol today at 4 p.m.

Tune in to watch the briefing on [Governor Kemp's Facebook page](#) or via [GPB online livestream](#).

TODAY'S UPDATES

[April 1 is National Census Day.](#)



While most of us are at home, why not take the opportunity to complete your U.S. Census form? Around the country, officials are encouraging residents to complete their census questionnaires this week. Census mailings began going out to homes earlier this month, and completing your mail-in form is the easiest way to return your responses. Households that have not returned a mail-in form may receive a knock on the door from a census worker beginning April 15 (contingent upon the state of the COVID-19 pandemic at that time), but can also choose to complete the form online as well. [Click here to visit the official website for the 2020 Census.](#)

The Census is important in determining how many representatives each state gets in Congress, and how many billions of dollars in federal funding gets spent. Schools, roads and other important things in the community will gain or lose funding over the next ten years depending on this official population tally.

Are you curious about how many people in Chatham County are responding to the 2020 Census? [Check out this interactive map of self-response rates.](#)

[Treasury Department Releases Info on Paycheck Protection Program](#)



This week, the Treasury Department released initial information for lenders and small businesses for the Paycheck Protection Program—the program that provides \$349 billion in loans for small businesses, the self-employed, and independent contractors. These loans can be converted into grants passed on an employer’s expenses.

Small businesses can begin applying for these loans this Friday, and the application is available online. To learn more, [visit the Treasury Department’s website.](#)

- A top-line overview of the program can be found [here](#)
- More info for lenders can be found [here](#)
- More info for borrowers can be found [here](#)
- The application for borrowers can be found [here](#)

Synovus Bank has also provided [this fact sheet](#) comparing the Paycheck Protection Program with the Economic Injury Disaster Loan, the SBA's second option for business assistance.

Federal Department of Labor Workplace Posting--Deadline is TODAY



The expanded Emergency Sick Leave and Expanded Family Medical Leave provisions mandated in the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act which was signed into law March 18 includes a new poster/disclosure requirement from the U.S. Department of Labor, due TODAY, April 1. [Download the poster here.](#)

Businesses should either print or post the poster and/or distribute it via email to their employees who are teleworking. If you have questions about the poster, a guide can be found [here](#). Though employers having fewer than 50 employees may apply to the Department of Labor to be exempt from providing the extended benefits, all employers should disseminate the FFCRA information as required by the new law.

DCA Launches New Resources for Georgians to Access High-Speed Internet



Governor Brian Kemp and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs [launched a new website to inform Georgians about ways to connect to high-speed internet throughout the state.](#) To support social distancing requirements, broadband providers are offering various options for Georgians to connect to the internet. By visiting [broadband.georgia.gov](#), Georgians can find locations to which they can drive for accessing WiFi around the state, made available from telecommunications cooperatives and government agencies. While many public libraries are currently closed, some are still offering limited services such as WiFi outside their buildings.

When visiting these public WiFi locations, please stay in your vehicle or otherwise follow Governor Kemp's order to keep a distance of at least six feet away from others. It is vital that all Georgians continue to follow social distancing practices to stay safe and healthy. Please be mindful of local governments' directives, which may restrict non-essential travel and social gatherings. Many of Georgia's schools are offering free WiFi connectivity to their students in their school's parking lots. To find out which schools are offering parking lot WiFi, Georgia families are encouraged to contact their local school system.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Recording of SBA Conference Call with Ashley Bell and Joseph Shuford



The Georgia Chamber hosted SBA administrator Ashley D. Bell and Director of Gov. Guaranteed Lending for Synovus Joseph Shuford yesterday to provide a detailed overview of the economic injury relief programs available to small businesses.

[Click here to watch a recording of the conference call.](#)

Special guest speaker Senior U.S. Senator David Perdue also delivered a high-level update on the CARES Act, signed into law March 27. His remarks were not included in the recording but can be found in the call's written summary. [Click here for more.](#)

[U.S. Chamber Guide to Filing for Relief Under CARES Act-- English and Spanish Available](#)



The U.S. Chamber has [created a guide](#) to help small businesses, independent contractors, gig economy workers and other qualifying individuals prepare to file for a coronavirus relief loan under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Our hope is that this guide will prove to be valuable resource for our members as they begin to take the necessary steps toward accessing the fund to keep workers on the payroll during this disruptive period.

The U.S. Chamber has also compiled an interactive map to show the aid available on a state-by-state basis. [Click here to view it.](#)

NEW: The U.S. Chamber's Coronavirus Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist is also now available for download in Spanish by visiting [here](#).

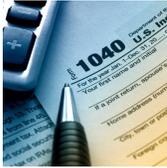
[Upcoming Conference Call: Georgia Department of Labor Expanded Rules & Regulations](#)



The Georgia Chamber's next scheduled call is for tomorrow, Thursday, April 2 at 10 a.m. and will feature Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Mark Butler. The Georgia Chamber has increased their bandwidth to accommodate more lines for the call.

[Click here for call-in information.](#)

Tax Implications of the CARES Act



Curious about the tax implications of receiving a stimulus check per the CARES Act? Barry Weins, director of tax services at Cherry Bekaert CPAs and Advisors LLP, provides a [summary of the potential implications here.](#)

Good News



There's a lot going on in the world right now, but there are plenty of reasons to be positive about the future. Check out this good news:

- [A local group is making sure that medical professionals receive hot meals](#) while they're on the front lines of the outbreak.
- [Member business Salacia Salts is creating hand sanitizer](#) and donating it to the local homeless community.
- [Local restaurants are preparing and donating excess food](#) to the community's first responders.
- John Krasinski, best known as Jim Halpert on "The Office," is [launching a YouTube channel dedicated to sharing good news](#).
- [Ford Motor Company, 3M and GE Healthcare](#) are teaming up to manufacture respirators and other needed medical equipment.
- [These sunrise photos from Disney parks](#) around the world remind us that 'There's a great, big, beautiful tomorrow' on the way.

Do you have any positive local stories to share? Send them to Info@SavannahChamber.com with the subject "Positive Stories" and we may choose yours to share with the community!

[Guidance and Resources](#)



We will update and add to the links below as new guidance and resources become available. [Click here to visit the Chamber's resource page.](#)

- [Coronavirus Digital Toolkit](#)
- [Coronavirus Guidance for Employers](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Tips for Employees](#)
- [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Small Businesses](#)
- [Coronavirus Local/State Policy Tracker](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Flyer](#)

For more info, please visit [the CDC's Guidance for Businesses page.](#)



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