



April 17, 2020

White House Issues Guidelines to States for "Reopening" America

President Donald Trump issued guidelines to states yesterday aimed at easing social distancing restrictions and reopening parts of the country.

The guidelines include three phases but won't begin until states have had 14 consecutive days of decreases in COVID-19 cases and have testing and hospital capacity to deal with potential coronavirus spikes.

Phase One suggests:

- Requiring vulnerable individuals to continue sheltering in place.
- Practicing physical distancing in public, avoiding socializing in groups of more than 10 people.
- Minimizing nonessential travel and continuing to encourage telework.
- Keeping shuttered schools closed.
- Prohibiting nursing home and hospital visits.
- Resuming elective surgeries on an outpatient basis.

Keeping bars closed, but allowing gyms to open under physical distancing and sanitation protocols.

[Read more about the subsequent phases here.](#)

HAPPENINGS

[SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin Issue Statement About Paycheck Protection Program](#)



Today, U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin [issued the following statement](#) regarding the success of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):

“The Treasury Department and SBA launched the unprecedented Paycheck Protection Program in just one week. Following its launch, the SBA processed more than 14 years’ worth of loans in less than 14 days, which will protect a vast number of American jobs.

“The PPP enjoyed broad-based participation across the country from lenders of all sizes and a wide array of industries and businesses. From its start on April 3, PPP provided payroll assistance to more than 1.6 million small businesses in all 50 states and territories. Nearly 5,000 lenders participated in this critical program, including significant lending by community banks and credit unions. Nearly 20% of the amount approved was processed by lenders with less than \$1 billion in assets, and approximately 60% of the loans were approved by banks with \$10 billion of assets or less. No lender accounted for more than 5% of the total dollar amount of the program.

“The vast majority of these loans—74% of them—were for under \$150,000, demonstrating the accessibility of this program to even the smallest of small businesses.

“The PPP provided funds to a wide variety of industries in all sectors of the economy, including construction, manufacturing, food and hospitality services, health care, agriculture, and retail, among many others. This demonstrates the broad diversity of PPP and its support for American workers across the board.

“The Paycheck Protection program is saving millions of American jobs and helping small businesses get through this challenging time. We urge Congress to protect millions more American workers and their families by appropriating additional funding to support PPP.”

Click [here](#) to view the data.

Click here to read articles about the state of the Paycheck Protection Program from [PBS](#) and [the AJC](#).

[U.S. Chamber Provides a Guide to the CARES Act for Independent Contractors](#)



If you are an independent contractor or self-employed, you may be eligible for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans/grants, SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and/or Unemployment Compensation for losses of income related to the coronavirus pandemic. [Click here for the U.S. Chamber's FAQ page and a printable guide to requesting assistance.](#)

In addition to the new [Independent Contractor's Guide to CARES Act Relief](#), we encourage you to continue utilizing and sharing the following items as you see fit:

- [Coronavirus Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist](#)
- [Temporary Paid Leave and Family Medical Leave Guide](#)
- [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) Program Guide](#)
- [Employee Retention Tax Credit Guide](#)
- [Coronavirus Small Business Guide](#)
- [Coronavirus Response Toolkit](#)

[Senators Perdue and Loeffler to Serve on President's Economic Task Force](#)



Georgia's two Republican U.S. senators, David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, have been chosen to serve on President Trump's task force that will focus on reopening the American economy.

Perdue was "involved in successful turnarounds of major American companies during his business career," his office said, noting he was an adviser to President Trump and the White House "in crafting and implementing policies" prior to COVID-19.

Loeffler is a "businesswoman and former CEO who has almost three decades of experience in the private sector," her office said, noting she is the only chartered financial analyst in Congress.

[Click here to read more from Savannah CEO.](#)

[WJCL Helping Businesses to Share Info Updates](#)



Local station WJCL is soliciting videos from local businesses remaining open during these trying times. Send a 30-second "selfie"-style video with the business name, location and what you're doing in the current challenges (for example, car-side take-out service but no dine-in, free delivery, free shipping on online orders, etc). [Click here to see an example made by Capital Bee Co.](#) Send your completed videos to the station via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or email at news@WJCL.com.

[Upcoming Virtual Conference Calls with Attorney General Chris Carr and Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black](#)



The Georgia Chamber's next conference call is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 10 a.m. and will feature a COVID-19 update from Attorney General Chris Carr. Moderated by Georgia Chamber President & CEO Chris Clark, these COVID-19 virtual conferences are designed to provide relevant and timely updates, information and insight on statewide management of this global pandemic along with resources to assist Georgians in the road to recovery.

One week from today, Thursday, April 23 at 3 p.m., the Georgia Chamber will host a call with Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black. Commissioner Black will be joined by other key leaders in the rural community to provide a COVID-19 update and outlook for this key market in Georgia's economy. Moderated by Georgia Chamber President & CEO Chris Clark, these COVID-19 virtual conferences are designed to provide relevant and timely updates, information and insight on statewide management of this global pandemic along with resources to assist Georgians in the road to recovery.

All questions should be submitted IN ADVANCE through sli.do using code #2957 to enter the forum. Please submit your questions for the call with Chris Carr by noon Monday, April 20, and for Gary Black by 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Georgia Chamber staff will work through as many as they can over the call, and do appreciate your commitment to leadership as we all work toward economic recovery following this pandemic.

[Click here for the Zoom info for both calls.](#)

[Musicians Will "Sing for Their Supper" Tomorrow on WTOC](#)



Viewers will have the opportunity to donate while enjoying the musical talents of Charles Kelley of Lady Antebellum, Kristian Bush of Sugarland, Ken Block & Drew Copeland of Sister Hazel, Edwin McCain, Patrick Davis, Josh Kelley, Joe Stevenson, Shawn Mullins, Chris Barron of Spin Doctors, Kristian Bush of Sugarland, Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket, and Scotty McCreery.

All donations made during the one-hour telethon will directly benefit area food banks, including [America's Second Harvest of Coastal, Ga.](#), as they continue to supply communities with necessary food supplies.

“Singing for their Supper” will air across more than half of the Gray TV markets, including WTOC in the Coastal Empire and Low Country tomorrow, April 18 beginning at 7 p.m.

[Click here for more info from WTOC.](#)

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 these good news stories:

- Georgia State University uncovers a [promising treatment for COVID-19](#)
- [Local business provides lunches](#) to Savannah firefighters
- Georgia Southern's [RiteCare Center receives \\$10k donation](#) from Savannah Scottish Rite Masons
- Senior Citizens, Inc. [Announces \\$7,500 donation](#) from Gulfstream Aerospace

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](#)
- Dial 311 for City of Savannah information
- Dial 211 for help from the United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Dial 1-800-Georgia (436-7442) for State of Georgia information

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

The Savannah Area Chamber is working hard to provide timely access to business resource information during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interpretation and recommendations of the information provided by the Chamber should not replace the consult of professional advisors familiar with your unique business situation. While it is believed that the content of external links is accurate and reliable, accuracy and completeness of information contained herein is not guaranteed. Users of this information accept all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Savannah Area Chamber has no liability to the user.



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