

Good Afternoon Members,

I have been fortunate to be included in many conference calls and webinars. Some things that were mentioned today, in those, are below. We will continue to keep you updated on changes as they happen.

- Today, Pritzker is extending the stay at home until April 30.
- In a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) webinar, the conversation was on Hospitality Grants. The demand is overwhelming. You are chosen in a lottery format. Last day to “enter” is tomorrow at 5:00 pm (<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/EmergencySBAInitiatives.aspx>). You will find out if you got accepted for the grant on April 4 and monies will be in your hands within two days. IL is trying to figure out if they can come up with something for those that don’t get the grants but it looks like it will still be loan related.
- DCEO website is a good source for information for IL small business loans and grants at <https://dceocovid19resources.com/>
- SBA loans will be available April 1 – will still have a few kinks so please be patient

Earlier today we sent a corrected email with information about many things, including a Gift Card Website that Jennifer Kaye from Jennifer Kaye Photography is coordinating. There was some confusion that this was a part of what Shaw Media was requesting. It is not, so I am putting that information here again. Please do contact Jennifer, as this is a wonderful collaboration.

Gift Card Purchase Website

The Geneva Chamber is working with Jennifer Kaye from Jennifer Kaye Photography, who is developing a website (one stop shop) to sell gift certificates/cards to Geneva businesses. If you would like to participate in this website, please send Jennifer the following:

1. High resolution logo
2. Link to your ordering page where you would like your customers to land.
3. If you do not have a website and would still like to participate, please send the phone number of where gift certs/cards can be purchased over the phone.

Jennifer’s email is 1000wordsphoto@gmail.com. Please send your information to her ASAP so you can be included in <https://www.genevagiftcards.com/>.

Census Day

Tomorrow is Census Day, April 1. As you know, an accurate Census count helps determine federal funding for Illinois. If your company is planning to support the census, April 1 is a good time to join the chorus of voices encouraging the general public to participate. Below are resources to help your company or organization contribute.

- [Census Day Talking Points in Light of COVID-19](#)

- [Census Day Language for an Employee Email, Newsletter or Website](#)
- Post a Message on Social Media or a Webpage:
 - Use a graphic from the [US Census Bureau](#) and [ReadyNation/Business for the 2020 Census](#).
 - [Sample Census Day Twitter and Facebook messages](#)
 - Post a video. Find examples [here](#).
 - Find more community developed resources at [strongnation.org/census](#).

There is also a collection of information, beginning below, from various sources, which I hope you will find useful.

From City of Geneva

Given the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus outbreak, Geneva residents can stay connected with the latest information provided on the [City's website](#).

The web page is updated frequently, including details on:

- The Governor's "stay at home" order;
- Refuse program service changes;
- How to pay your utility bills and estimated readings;
- Contacting City staff while offices are closed;
- Submitting building permits; and
- Resident resources;
- Temporary business accommodations and small business assistance programs.

The City also has provided links to find the latest health alerts issued by the Centers For Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health and the Kane County Health Department.

The City continues to provide public safety and essential services to the community. However, due to reduced staffing levels with some employees working from home, there may be a delay in responding to non-emergency inquiries.

From Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

In consideration of the [State's Executive Order](#), what is an essential business?

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has published guidelines and has established a hotline to help answer these questions.

The City encourages voluntary compliance. For more information, visit the [DCEO website](#) to view the [Essential Business FAQs](#) or call the Essential Business Determination Hotline at 800-252-2923.

From our Representative Lauren Underwood

Attached in this email is a FAQ on the Stimulus Package.

If you have questions that still have not been addressed, please take a look at my [Coronavirus Community Resource Guide](#), which is updated regularly and available at my website. You can also reach my office at (630) 549-2190 and (202) 225-2976 or via email through my website [underwood.house.gov](#). There is a lot of new information coming at you, and I want to be sure to get you the information that your family needs.

From Illinois Chamber of Commerce

If you are looking to donate, here are some places provided by Illinois Chamber of Commerce

ICRF

First, the [Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund \(ICRF\)](#) is a new statewide fundraising effort to support nonprofit organizations serving those whose lives have been upended by this pandemic.

ICRF will focus on filling Illinois residents' most basic needs, including:

- * Emergency food and basic supplies
- * Interim housing and shelter
- * Primary health care services
- * Utility and financial assistance
- * Supports for children and other vulnerable populations
- * Nonprofit safety and operations assistance

You can make a donation or find out more [here](#).

iBIO / IMA

The Illinois Biotechnology Association ([iBIO](#)) and the Illinois Manufacturers' Association ([IMA](#)) are partnering with the Pritzker Administration to ramp up in-state production of essential supplies. These include items such as N95 masks, gloves, gowns, ventilators, sanitizer, and more. All of these products will be used in Illinois to help our local communities.

The organizations are providing supply chain support to help connect manufacturers who are ramping up or altering their operations to provide more essential items.

You can fill out the proper forms and find additional information [here](#) or [here](#).

DCEO

Under the leadership of **Director Erin Guthrie**, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ([DCEO](#)) is also calling on businesses to donate essential supplies or help in any way they can.

For example, Ford Motor Company is partnering with other companies to expand the production of ventilators to help support the supply chain and save lives.

You can find a list of all supplies needed [here](#).

You can send a list of donation items (in original packaging) along with their current location and exact quantity to: PPE.donations@illinois.gov.

Wholesalers, suppliers, or manufacturers that already have items on hand to sell or will in the future, should contact: COVID.procurement@illinois.gov.

From U.S. Chamber of Commerce

- Spreading the word about business relief. Many businesses aren't aware of the help for them in the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The relief available to small businesses is significant, and the race is on to share the word. The U.S. Chamber is producing resources to inform businesses, like our [Small Business Guide and Checklist](#). Also, the U.S. Chamber, alongside state and local chambers, is hosting multiple virtual events and teleconferences, including a [National Small Business Town Hall](#) in partnership with Inc. that drew 5,000 attendees last Friday. Visit uschamber.com/Coronavirus for more information.
- We know the economy is at a standstill and that this "Great Pause" we are in is causing a large contraction. But the full extent of the damage is hard to measure in real-time. It takes weeks, and sometimes months, for major data series to reflect changes in underlying economic activity. Analysts, including those at the Chamber, are constantly looking for a proxy of economic activity that we can use to approximate what is going on in the economy at this very instant. Into that void the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has stepped in with its new "[Weekly Economic Index](#)." The WEI uses seven data series that update frequently to construct an index reading of current economic activity. The data are:
 - ✓ Same-store retail sales
 - ✓ Unemployment insurance claims
 - ✓ Staffing data
 - ✓ A daily survey of consumer sentiment
 - ✓ Raw steel production
 - ✓ Electricity output
 - ✓ Fuel sales

**Update on the economic impact and new data directly from U.S. Chamber Chief Economist Curtis Dubay*

- Additional Resources from U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - [Coronavirus Emergency Loans: Small Business Guide and Checklist](#)
 - [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](#).

Sincerely,

Paula Schmidt
President, Geneva Chamber of Commerce