

FW: - Daily DRA Update - Essential Businesses Update, NEW Worker Relief Fund & more

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Mon 3/23/2020 5:20 PM

To: Meghan McCalley <Meghan@beach-fun.com>

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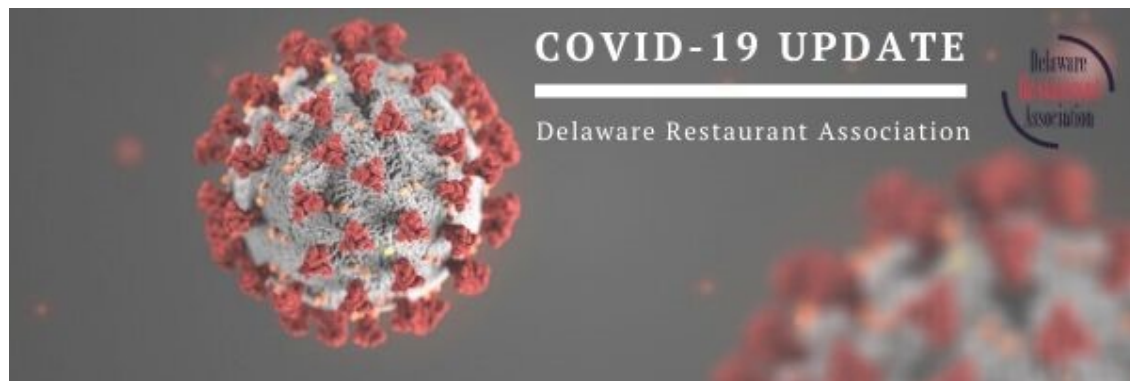
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From: Delaware Restaurant Association <carrie@delawarerestaurant.org>

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:20 PM

To: Carol Everhart <Carol@beach-fun.com>

Subject: - Daily DRA Update - Essential Businesses Update, NEW Worker Relief Fund & more



The DRA is working around the clock to continually protect Delaware's restaurant industry.

1 in 10 Delawareans work in the restaurant industry, and we're proud to serve as the center and heartbeat of our communities.

Our questions/requests to all leaders & government officials remain the same:

How can we best enact an emergency relief package for businesses and employees?

How can we get cash to those who need it most?

Today, the DRA continued to clarify the latest state of emergency declarations from the Governor, and announced a new relief fund for DE restaurant workers.

The latest news is grouped into sections below.

"And while state and national leaders debate the economic crushing of our industry, we simply cannot let restaurant workers become the casualties of the crisis. The incredible level of humanity from Delawareans has never been more evident in the first week of this shutdown. Restaurant owners are clinging onto everything they can—for their people and for their businesses. Ramped-up delivery, take-out, community tip jars and gift certificates are ramping up even if no one knows for what duration or how long they can continue. - Carrie Leishman

Please also turn to our social media pages for daily updates & news stories.
We'll announce any breaking news additionally as needed.



Please note that beginning Tuesday, March 24th all DRA staff will be working remotely in accordance with the latest State of Emergency declarations. Phones will be forwarded, but please continue to reach out via email for quickest response.

Carrie Leishman - Carrie@delawarerestaurant.org

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NEW DECLARATIONS FROM GOVERNOR CARNEY

Governor John Carney on Sunday, March 22, 2020 issued the fourth and fifth modifications to his State of Emergency declaration, **ordering Delawareans to stay at home whenever possible** and **closing all non-essential businesses in Delaware** to help fight the spread of COVID-19.

NOTE - Delaware restaurants are still permitted to offer carryout and delivery services.

Alcohol may be sold for carryout orders only.

Governor Carney Issues Stay-at-Home Order for Delawareans

*Non-essential businesses ordered
to close Tuesday, 3/24 at 8am*

*Employers with questions about essential/non-essential status:
covid19FAQ@delaware.gov | 302-577-8477*

de.gov/coronavirus

Refer to the list of essential and non-essential businesses.

Read the Frequently Asked Questions about this closure.

For questions on the non-essential business closure in Delaware, contact the Division of Small Business at COVID19FAQ@delaware.gov, or call 302-577-8477 between 9am - 4pm.

PAID SICK LEAVE - BHI WEBINAR TUESDAY 3/24

On March 19th the U.S. Senate approved and President Trump signed the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act** (H.R. 6201), which is Phase Two of Coronavirus efforts. This requires small employers (<500 employees) to offer paid sick leave for Coronavirus-related issues.

The act includes various forms of economic relief to assist families and workers who are sick, quarantined, or otherwise unable to obtain critical services. While it does include 100% reimbursement from the federal government, compensation will be in the form of a future tax credit . [Click here for a legislative brief from Saul Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr.](#)
[Click here to read the policy position paper from the National Restaurant Association.](#)

Learn more from this FREE webinar from B+H Insurance

Tuesday, March 24th 1-2pm



Join **John Boykin**, *President/CEO*; **Jen Wilson**, *Director of Group Benefits*; and **Maria Clyde**, *Director of Human Resources* via GoToMeeting to discuss the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act** and impact to your business.

Tuesday, March 24th, 2020
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM (EDT)

This is a **FREE** webinar discussion, and not legal advice. Spots are limited to the first 140 attendees, but we will record the webinar if you cannot attend.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/BHI365/bhiwebinar-familiesfirstcoronavirusresponseact>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: **+1 (872) 240-3212**

Access Code: **308-817-557**

New to GoToMeeting?

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/308817557>

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

NEW INDUSTRY RELIEF PROGRAM FOR WORKERS

Help Save the Industry that Serves Us All!

Restaurant Industry Emergency Action Trust (E.A.T.s)



The Delaware Restaurant Association, through its 501c3 Education Foundation (DRAEF) has formed the restaurant industry Emergency Action Trust (E.A.T.s) to provide immediate emergency funding to hospitality workers. The Trust, funded by private, community and individual donations, will distribute individual \$500 grants to our frontline industry employees during these uncertain times of mandated restaurant shutdowns.

The DRAEF will be building the new Trust with donations from individual donors and grants from local private foundations and corporate partners. The Beer & Benevolence Foundation, created by Dogfish Head founders Sam & Mariah Calagione, is providing an initial \$50,000 donation, with another \$50,000 donated when the fund reaches \$150,000. Their company will also donate profits from the sales of hand sanitizer the Dogfish Head Distilling Co. is currently producing for the State of Delaware to the E.A.T.s fund. Please consider a donation to help provide relief to those restaurant workers in critical need of supplemental income during the restaurant shutdowns. Many can and have filed for unemployment benefits, but many are in dire need of additional income until restaurants are allowed to reopen. 100% of all donations (tax-deductible) will go directly to the restaurant industry Emergency Action Trust (EATs), and donors will receive a letter upon receipt of their donation.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

PLEASE SHARE! If you (or a friend/coworker/employee) are a full-time industry worker who is out of work due to the recent restaurant shutdowns in response to COVID-19, [begin your individual application here](#). Please only complete one application per person. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with grants delivered beginning on April 6th. Funding will be provided in accordance with the total amount of donations received; all funding will be given directly to industry workers.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY NOW](#)

Questions? Please email all inquiries to industryrelief@delawarerestaurant.org

INFO FOR OPERATORS / 'ESSENTIAL' BUSINESSES

QUESTION - *What do I say if someone questions why my restaurant is still open (even if only for takeout and/or delivery)? How do I assure them that we're being safe/not adding to the spread of Coronavirus?*

We advise you to assure them that restaurants are full of dedicated and trained professionals- we take food safety very seriously and follow protocols every day!! Here's more from DRA President Carrie Leisman, and a fact sheet from the National Restaurant Association - feel free to repost and/or use these notices in your establishments.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As of yesterday, Governor Carney released a list of essential businesses that will be allowed to remain open during his most recent "stay-at-home" executive order. Restaurants choosing to operate with carryout and delivery only are now categorized as essential businesses. Restaurants are on the frontlines as community feeders-- providing essential meals for first responders, medical professionals and for those who may not be able to prepare food for themselves including so many of our elderly, sick or disabled citizens.

Restaurants also care for the health and safety of their employees and are professionally trained in food safety. At this time we ask you to take even more precautions to protect employee and consumer health. We urge all employees to take additional measures by completing a ServSafe FoodHandler course.

This is a course developed for all foodservice workers and can be taken online.

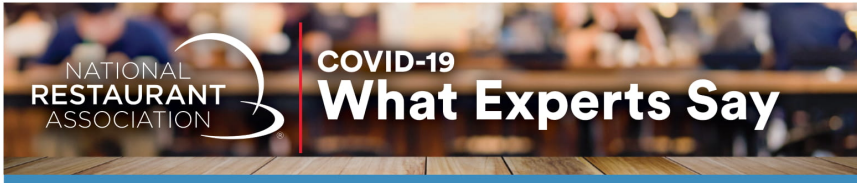
For more information go to www.servsafe.com/ServSafe-Food-Handler.

Restaurants are on the frontlines as community feeders--providing essential meals for our first responders, medical professionals and for those who may not be able to prepare food for themselves.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie Leishman".

President/CEO, Delaware Restaurant Association



America's restaurant and foodservice industry is home to **15.6 MILLION TRAINED AND SKILLED EMPLOYEES.**

Experts agree, **DINERS CAN BE CONFIDENT** that when they go to a restaurant, their food is prepared safely, served by a trained employee, and in compliance with strict health department guidelines.

“There’s no indication, health officials say, that the coronavirus can be transmitted on food. Wen notes that the virus does not appear to be orally transmitted. Rather, it is a respiratory illness spread through droplets — from a person’s sneeze, for example — that are then transmitted through the nostrils or eyes of someone else. “That means you’re not any more at risk in a restaurant than in other public places, such as on public transit or in retail stores. ‘In fact, there may be less risk, because the risk is the number of people you are in contact with and in close proximity to,’ Wen says. ‘The number of people who come into close proximity to you on a crowded bus is far more.”

— Leana Wen, MD, MSc, Visiting Professor, Health Policy and Management, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, The Washington Post, March 10, 2020

“Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food.”

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC.gov, March 12, 2020

“Coronavirus is a respiratory illness spread through droplets, from a cough or sneeze, to someone else’s nose or eyes. There’s no evidence that the illness is transmitted through food.”

— Attributed to Craig Hedberg, PhD, Professor, Division of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Minnesota, USA Today, March 11, 2020

“There may be a threat to the restaurant industry but in reality, they are the safest places other than your own kitchen.”

— Stephan Logan, M.Sc., Indigo Instruments, Modern Restaurant Management, March 10, 2020

We urge all diners to adhere to the guidelines in place by the CDC and their state and local health officials. • Revised 3/16/2020

For more information & resources, visit www.restaurant.org/covid19

[Click here to download](#)

SBA and H.E.L.P. LOANS - APPLY NOW!

A new Delaware loan program is now available to provide financial relief for restaurants, bars and other industry businesses affected by the COVID-19 shutdowns.

*** Please note that there is a \$1.5M cap on annual sales for program eligibility ***

[Please direct all inquiries/questions to business@delaware.gov](mailto:business@delaware.gov)

QUESTION - What if my business annual sales are greater than \$1.5Million?

The DRA is working on expanding the annual sales cap to allow for more businesses to take advantage of this financial assistance program. We are proposing a second tier for businesses with higher annual sales. We will keep you updated on progress.



**CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)**

**H.E.L.P.
HOSPITALITY EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM**

For hospitality industry
small businesses and nonprofits.

Up to \$10k
per business per month

For immediate, non-avoidable, non-personnel costs.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION AT
business.delaware.gov/coronavirus

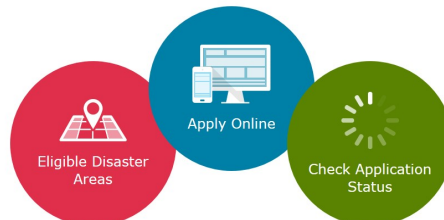
Contact us at:
✉ **business@delaware.gov**

de.gov/coronavirus

[Click here for more info & full application](#)

Disaster Loan Assistance

Federal Disaster Loans for Businesses, Private Nonprofits, Homeowners, and Renters



Applications are also now available for **Economic Injury Disaster loans** from the **US Small Business Administration**.

[Click here for the info sheet](#), or [here to begin your application](#).

EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Delaware Department of Labor has clarified the expanded unemployment benefits offered to workers displaced by COVID-19 and the restaurant industry shutdowns.

QUESTION - *If I keep an employee on payroll, but with now limited hours, can they still file for unemployment benefits?*

Yes! The DRA worked with the Dept of Labor to get benefits expanded, and employees with reduced hours can now apply for benefits. They will be asked to submit information documenting their previous hours, and their reduction (current) hours being worked.

[Read the full release here.](#)

The graphic features a dark red header with the text 'CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)' on the left and the Delaware Department of Labor logo on the right. The logo includes the text 'DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR' and the slogan 'KEEPING DELAWARE FIRST'. Below the header, the title 'SUPPORT FOR HOSPITALITY EMPLOYEES' is centered. A white downward-pointing arrow is positioned below the title. The main body of the graphic contains the text: 'Governor Carney approved the following changes to Delaware's unemployment benefits program for the hospitality industry:'. This is followed by three bullet points, each preceded by a red right-pointing triangle. The first bullet point states: 'The Department of Labor (DOL) will begin processing unemployment claims as they are received with the goal of benefits becoming available within a week.' The second bullet point states: 'DOL will allow part-time income while collecting benefits as long as employees can demonstrate their decreased hours and earnings.' The third bullet point states: 'DOL will not classify tipped employees as minimum wage earners as long as their tips are reported as wages.' At the bottom of the graphic is a dark red bar with the white text 'de.gov/coronavirus'.

*** A NOTE TO HR REPS WITHIN YOUR COMPANY ***

Per the Secretary of Labor, rather than completing individual forms for each employee registering with the unemployment office, you can send **ONE LETTER** to the office with the names and social security numbers of each employee attempting to file for benefits.

This will help the office streamline their requests for unemployment benefits
(and lead to quicker acceptances).

[Click here to send the list to the Dept of Labor/Division of Unemployment Insurance.](#)

*Please direct emails to: Carolyn.Nasser@delaware.gov, Barry.Butler@delaware.gov,
and William.Potter@delaware.gov.*

Please encourage your employees/coworkers to start an online claim ASAP.

Benefits may be available as early as next week,
if claims are started this week with expedited approval.

[Please visit the Unemployment website to register today.](#)

NEW DRA FACEBOOK GROUP

Join us online in a new forum for DRA Restaurant Members only - a great place to connect with the industry and DRA Staff.

- **Ask questions**
- **Connect with other owners/operators and staff**
- **Share tips/ideas/community projects**
- **Share specials/delivery options and carryout specials**



[Click here to join!](#)

CARRYOUT/DELIVERY SPECIALS - NOW ONLINE!

We are compiling carryout, delivery, curbside pickup and all other specials being offered by DE restaurants. We'll be promoting these specials through our social media channels, on our website, and sharing with the press. We want to promote all the services being offered to the local community by our members. [Tell us what you're offering!](#)



[Full list available soon online at www.delawarerestaurant.org/restaurantspecials](http://www.delawarerestaurant.org/restaurantspecials)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

[National Restaurant Association - COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Small Business Administration - Disaster Assistance Loans](#)

[Delaware H.E.L.P. Loans](#)

[Most Recent Delaware Updates - Governor Carney](#)

[68 TOTAL DE CASES - Delaware Health & Social Services \(DHSS\)](#)

[Restaurant Industry EMERGENCY ACTION TRUST \(fund for restaurant workers\)](#)

[Coronavirus and Food Establishments](#)

[Cleaning & Sanitation Guidelines](#)

[Unemployment Insurance Benefits \(Delaware\)](#)

[FDA Information Update on Supply Chain](#)

[Latest News from the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) - Workplace Readiness](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

March 2020

PLEASE NOTE - ALL CLASSES AND EVENTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW AND MANY WILL BE CANCELLED, POSTPONED AND RESCHEDULED. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH TO ALL WHO HAVE REGISTERED/SIGNED UP OR BOUGHT TICKETS.

Mar 19	Women of Hospitality Pop-Up	Canceled
Mar 25	HR/Membership Roundtable	Canceled
Mar 26	HR/Membership Roundtable	Canceled

April 2020

Apr 1	DRAEF Annual Fundraising Dinner	Postponed
Apr 6	ServSafe Manager Class/Exam	Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach
Apr 20	ServSafe Manager Class/Exam	H5H Training, Newark
Apr 29	DRA/DRAEF 2nd Quarter Board Meeting	Howard High School

** Please Note ** At this time the DRA will temporarily halt spending any membership renewal notices and hold all invoices until after the State of Emergency has been lifted.

Any questions, please contact the DRA at 302.738.2545



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