

Action Alert! Comments Needed to Oregon OSHA by April 2

Local businesses have borne the brunt of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Employers have been tasked with enforcing the Governor's mask mandate, enforcing the 6-foot social distancing requirements, among countless other mandates.

Now, OR-OSHA is considering the adoption of [permanent COVID-19 Workplace Rules](#) that layer new regulations on local employers nearly 14-months into the pandemic.

OR-OSHA should be providing workers and local businesses with certainty that their efforts to vaccinate and social distance are acknowledged, not creating new mandates that add costs as we work to reopen the economy.

OR-OSHA needs to hear from concerned employers and workers about the proposed scope COVID-19 workplace rules. Urge OR-OSHA to reset their approach to this pandemic. Our local employers and workers should not be further penalized by government overreach. Please also consider sending a copy of your comments to your local state legislator here: [Find Your Legislator](#)

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To submit written comments, put your letter of comments on your business letter. If possible, provide specific examples related to your business or general local business examples. You can [download talking/comment points here](#).

Submit written comments by April 2, 2021. Three options to send your comments to OR OSHA:

Email: Administrator Michael Wood: tech.web@oregon.gov

Mail: Administrator Michael Wood
Department of Consumer Business Services
Oregon OSHA
P.O. Box 14480
Salem, OR 97309

Online: Oregon State Chamber of Commerce's Action Center

[SEND YOUR MESSAGE TODAY](#)

Action Alert! Tell Congress Small Businesses Need Unrestricted Grants to Survive!

Your chamber continues to work with the nationwide Save Small Business Coalition to bring attention to our congressional leaders that many small businesses cannot take on more debt and they need grant funding; grants that provide flexibility so businesses can use the funds as they see fit. One of the goals is to help newer businesses and under-resourced businesses who have fallen through the cracks. With one click . . . okay, two clicks, you can add your voice to thousands across the country in support of our local businesses, by [sending this message to Congress!](#)

Douglas County Returns to High Risk Level Tomorrow, March 26

Good News! Douglas County returns to "high" risk level effective March 26. For updated guidance and capacity limits, please refer to the [Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart](#).

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) Application Opens April 8...Informational Webinar March 30

The Small Business Administration will begin accepting application on April 8. The SBA has launched a ["splash" page for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant \(SVOG\) application portal](#) in anticipation of application for the critical economic relief program opening April 8.

Prior to the official application opening on April 8, the SBA will host a national information webinar to highlight the application process for potential eligible applicants. The webinar is Tuesday, March 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. PDT. [Register for SBA SVOG Webinar](#).

Eligible venues can receive assistance both through the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) and the American Rescue Plan Act's SVOG program. The SVOG will simply be reduced by the PPP loan amount. The PPP loan applications have been revised to reflect this update.

The SBA has created tools and resources to help potential SVOG applicants prepare, including:

- Regularly updated [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

- [Video tutorials](#), including how to register on the System for Award Management ([SAM.gov](#)), a federal requirement to receive an SVOG
- A [Preliminary Application Checklist](#) to help you gather documents and other information that may be needed
- An [Eligibility Requirements Chart](#) to help determine qualifications

[SVOG Info](#)

[Pandemic Relief Programs](#)

Chamber Positions and Testimony on Bills in the Oregon

Legislature

A list of bills the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce weighed in on through early March on can be found in the [March/April 2021 issue of Business Perspectives](#). For the most up-to-date information and details about the bills the chamber is watching, has taken positions and links to actual testimony submitted as well as positions on matters before the US Congress, please check out our [CURRENT NEWS](#) page on the chamber website.

Reminder: 2020 Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) Returns Due April 15

A Reminder from the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Businesses with commercial activity in excess of \$1 million in 2020 must file a CAT return by April 15. Businesses with more than \$1 million in taxable commercial activity will have Corporate Activity Tax to pay. The tax is \$250 plus 0.57% of commercial activity greater than \$1 million after subtractions.

Revenue has honored good-faith efforts to comply with the CAT by businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Penalties will not be assessed for underestimated quarterly payments or for not making a quarterly payment for the Corporate Activity Tax, if businesses did not have the financial ability to make the estimated payment.

However, payment of 2020 CAT liability is due in full April 15. Businesses can, with good cause, seek an extension to file. An extension to file is not an extension to pay tax owed.

One-Time Registration.

The Department of Revenue reminds business owners that once they have more than \$750,000 in commercial activity in 2021, they have 30 days to register for the Corporate Activity Tax unless they have already registered. Registration for CAT is a one-time requirement, however, and businesses that registered in 2020 do not have to register again. CAT registrations topped more than 20,000 in its first year. That number continues to grow as new businesses begin to reach the \$750,000 threshold in 2021.

2021 Quarterly Payments.

Taxpayers expecting to owe \$5,000 or more in Corporate Activity Tax for tax year 2021 must make estimated quarterly payments. Estimated payments for 2021 are due April 30, August 2, November 1, and January 31, 2022. Returns are due April 15.

Training aids to assist with registration, calculating the tax, and making payments can be found on the [CAT page](#) of the agency's website. Taxpayers with general questions about the CAT can email cat.help.dor@oregon.gov or call 503-945-8005.

Free PPE Still Available to Roseburg Area Businesses

The Roseburg Area Chamber through a partnership with the City of Roseburg continues to provide free PPE to Roseburg businesses. The PPE available includes: 3-ply ear-loop disposal masks, washable reusable cloth masks, non-surgical KN95 masks, pump-bottle hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes and disposable nitrile gloves.

To receive the no-cost PPE, businesses should apply through the chamber's website. To apply, visit [COVID-19 Business Recovery Resource Center Library](#) or click [HERE!](#)

Still Time to Apply for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Businesses interested in a PPP loan (first or second), *particularly those unable to access PPP with a traditional bank or credit union*, are encouraged to get in touch as soon as possible. One such participating CDFI is [MoFi.org](#). You can contact your local SBA office for more information on community financial institutions offering access to PPP [HERE](#).

The current deadline for PPP applications is March 31. During a video conference with Senator Merkley on March 25 we were advised there are proposed bills to extend the current PPP application deadline by two months. The Roseburg Chamber joined the US Chamber of Commerce and chambers of commerce throughout the country to urge an extension through the end of 2021. The chamber will keep our members updated about any potential deadline extension.

If you received an initial PPP loan from a bank or credit union during the first round, please contact them regarding a second loan.

Updated PPP information and guidance can be found [HERE](#). Borrowers can apply for the Paycheck Protection Program by downloading the [First Draw PPP loan application](#) or [Second Draw PPP loan application](#) and working with a participating PPP lender through the [SBA Lender Match tool](#).

The U.S. Chamber created a new [Guide to Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Loans](#) to provide local chambers and our members with the latest information and answers to FAQs about the changes that have been made to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) Program as part of the end-of-year pandemic relief package Congress passed and which is tentatively slated to become law.

[Click here](#) to view the U.S. Chamber's new Guide to Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Loans. As the year-end federal pandemic relief package evolves and, we are confident, ultimately authorized and signed into law, we will continue to provide updates as the information becomes available.

Business Recovery Resource Center Library

Please continue to check the chamber's online "[Business Recovery Resource Center Library Re: COVID-19 Pandemic](#)," as the chamber updates its resource information at least weekly. And, please share this link with friends and colleagues. The more our local businesses are armed with information and access to resources, the stronger our recovery.

Chamber News, Programs & Updates

The Roseburg Area Chamber's 2021 "Shop Chamber & Save" exclusive member-to-member discount program flyer is [online](#).

The chamber's annual celebration of business and awards event tentatively planned for March 18 is postponed. As soon as we have a new date, we'll be sure and send out a "SAVE THE DATE!"

Missed a past issue of *Business Perspectives* or one of those "oh-so-informative" membership email blasts? No worries. They are posted on the chamber website on the [Monthly Newsletter page](#) . . . just scroll.

Debbie

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