

Oregon OSHA Files Permanent COVID Workplace Rules

On May 4, 2021, the Oregon Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA) filed permanent workplace rules related to COVID. OSHA had previously adopted temporary rules on November 6, 2020 and those rules were set to expire on May 4. [READ THE RULES](#)

The number one concern has always been public safety. Business organizations in the state have worked hard throughout the pandemic to ensure new state regulations in workplaces were fair and implementable. Below is Oregon Business & Industry's (OBI) summary of some clarifications and new provisions in the rules that differ from the temporary rules. While most of the rules went into effect on May 4 some of these new provisions will be delayed until June. OSHA has indicated the rules will be repealed when the COVID pandemic is no longer a threat to public health.

- Provides that rules will be regularly reviewed and reevaluated to determine if rules are still needed or enforcement guidance will be needed as conditions approve. First review is scheduled for this July.
- Clarifies that if an employer already conducted a risk assessment and completed an infection control plan under the temporary rules, they do not need to do so again under the permanent rules.
- Updates the cleaning and sanitization requirements to be consistent with new CDC guidance that such cleaning need only be done once a day. This is particularly helpful for businesses that run 24-hour operations.
- Directs employers to minimize employees traveling together in vehicles, where practical. Where not practical, employees must wear face coverings and outside air flow in vehicles should be optimized.
- Employers with 10 or more employees must attest that HVAC systems are functioning consistent with rule requirements.
- When employees must be absent from the workplace to quarantine because of an exposure, employers must notify them of their rights to return and any paid leave benefits provided by the employer. Note: under [new guidance](#) from OHA individuals who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic do not have to quarantine after an exposure.

Changes to Capacity Maximums for Indoor Recreation, Fitness & Entertainment

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has changed the capacity maximums for Indoor Recreation/Fitness and Indoor Entertainment Establishments. Capacity maximums are now based on a percentage of "standard" occupancy in the High, Moderate and Lower Risk categories. The maximum occupancy for indoor recreation, fitness and indoor entertainment is now:

- High Risk Level: 10% of regular maximum occupancy or 50 people, whichever is larger
- Moderate Risk Level: 20% of regular maximum occupancy or 100, whichever is larger
- Lower Risk Level: Max 50% of regular maximum occupancy

OHA's guidance chart has been updated to reflect those changes:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3461.pdf>

OHA has provided a resource on calculating base/standard/100% occupancy:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2351s.pdf>

Douglas County Moves Back Down to "High" Risk Level on May 7

After spending the last week at the "moderate" risk level, Douglas County moves back down to the "high" risk level on Friday, May 7. For details about what this means to specific business sectors, [CLICK HERE!](#)

The 15 Oregon counties that were moved to "extreme" risk on April 30 will return to "high" risk on May 7, as well. The "extreme" risk level is, once again, suspended. Future movement week data will be released on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 4th: Movement data released
- Friday, May 7th: County Risk Levels change
- Tuesday, May 11th: Movement data released
- Friday, May 14th: County Risk Levels change

Commercial Rent Relief Grants for Small Business Closes Today!

Business Oregon's second round of its grant program for building owners to cover outstanding lease payments from small business tenants behind on rent due to COVID-19 closes today.

The grants can go up to \$100,000 per each business tenant, but no more than \$3 million for each landlord. This grant program is NOT first-come, first served. There is approximately \$42 million in funds available this round (there was \$49.9 million available in round one and nearly \$65.4 million in grant application requests). Applicants not selected in round one are automatically entered into round two. Applications will be chosen by a random lottery system in any geographic region that has more applicants than funds available.

This program helps small business tenants with 100 or fewer employees. Both the business tenant and the property owner will need to participate in the application process and sign the grant agreement, but the initial application needs to be completed by the landlord.

Minor changes to round two of the grant program include, the minimum grant amount is now \$500 (reduced from \$1000), landlords can be publicly-traded businesses and sole proprietors do not need to register their business with the Secretary of State, if they are not otherwise required to do so.

For more information and to apply, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Chamber Membership Luncheon Season Passes on Sale Now!

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's 2021-22 membership meeting lunch schedule is set and season passes are on sale. The chamber's in-person membership meeting lunches are set to resume on Monday, September 20, 2021. NEVER RSVP for a chamber luncheon again! Attend membership meeting lunches with the purchase of a season pass and not only save money due to the discounted price, but even better, never worry about forgetting to make a reservation. With your season pass, it's all taken care of! Individual season passes for RACC members are \$175. A full table of eight for the entire season is \$1,400. Season passes for 2021-22 may be purchased [ONLINE HERE](#). RACC members interested in paying in advance for a full table for the whole 2021-22 season may purchase online or contact the chamber at roseburg@roseburgareachamber.org to be billed.

Mark the Calendar / 2021-22 Membership Meeting Luncheons

Monday, September 20, 2021

Monday, October 18, 2021

Monday, November 15, 2021

Monday, January 10, 2022

Monday, February 14, 2022

Monday, March 14, 2022

Monday, April 11, 2022

Monday, May 16, 2022

SBA Accepting Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) Applications

The SBA opened its RRF [application portal](#) on Monday, May 3. The application portal will remain open to any eligible establishment until all funds are exhausted.

In preparation, qualifying applicants should familiarize themselves with the application process in advance to ensure a smooth and efficient application. In addition to registering at the portal, follow the steps below. If you are working with Square or Toast, you do not need to register.

- Review the [sample application](#), [program guide](#) and [cross-program eligibility chart](#) on SBA COVID-19 relief options. SBA also added screenshots of the application portal that are available [here](#).
- Applications must be submitted in English or Spanish. SBA has documents in additional languages to help you understand eligibility requirements, fill out applications, and answer frequently asked questions. See the additional languages and materials [here](#).
- If you were unable to attend one of the webinars held earlier this week which covered program details and a demonstration of the application portal, you can watch the recording [here](#).

For more information, visit sba.gov/restaurants.

State's Landlord Compensation Fund Accepting Applications

The [Landlord Compensation Fund](#) was created during the third special session of 2020 as part of [House Bill 4401](#).

The Legislature allocated \$200 million in rent assistance to support tenants and landlords, including \$150 million for the Landlord Compensation Fund in order to provide relief to landlords with tenants who have been unable to pay rent. **Eligible landlords can apply NOW.**

Participating landlords are eligible for relief of 80% of missed rent if they agree to forgive the remaining 20% of the tenant's debt. In order to apply, landlords can use this [checklist to see what documentation is required](#).

You can find additional information on [their website](#) and in the links included below:

- [Landlord Compensation Fund](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Application Portal](#)

SBA Accepting Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) Applications

The SBA is currently accepting applications for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant. To submit an application, visit sba.gov/svogrant.

[Pandemic Relief Programs](#)

PPP Application Deadline May 31

Businesses interested in applying for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan will be pleased to learn that yesterday President Biden signed the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) Extension Act](#) into law extending the PPP deadline from March 31 to **May 31, 2021**. If you received an initial PPP loan from a bank or credit union during the first round, please contact them regarding a second loan. If this is a first-time PPP application: (1) [Use this map](#) to enter your ZIP code and find nearby PPP lenders, (2) Get matched with potential PPP lenders using the [SBA Lender Match tool](#), or (3) contact your local SBA office for more information on community financial institutions offering access to PPP [HERE](#).

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.

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.

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](#)!

[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 has been rescheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021. **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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