



We're continuing to take major steps to protect our businesses and our residents during the coronavirus crisis. Here are three quick updates.

SBA assistance: On Sunday, Governor Lamont asked the U.S. Small Business Administration to begin offering disaster-relief loans to Connecticut small businesses and non-profits. Today, the SBA approved his request. Companies can now apply for loans of up to \$2 million through a special page [on the SBA website](#). SBA also has more [valuable information for businesses](#).

Filing extensions: The Department of Revenue Services has extended deadlines for filing and payments associated with certain state business tax returns. Details are on [DRS's website](#).

Unemployment assistance: Workers directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic no longer must be actively searching for work. And employers who are furloughing workers can use the Department of Labor's shared work program, which allows businesses to reduce working hours and have those wages supplemented with unemployment insurance. DOL has [more information about these and other changes](#).

As I mentioned Friday, the state's coronavirus-response team has a [web portal with up-to-the-minute news and information](#) about the virus, its impact and how to keep yourself and others safe. You can follow the coronavirus response on Twitter ([@Covid19CT](#)) and Facebook ([@CTCovid19Response](#)).

And if your business needs assistance with SBA loans or any other DECD program, call our business hotline at 860-500-2333

As we take further actions in the days to come, I'll make sure to keep you informed.

Sincerely,
David Lehman, Commissioner
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