

REOPENING RESOURCES

[The Commonwealth's economy will complete the reopening process effective May 29th](#). This will mean all remaining business restrictions will be lifted, along with the gathering restrictions. The [mass.gov/reopening page](https://mass.gov/reopening-page) that has hosted reopening guidance and sector-specific protocols will be updated to provide guidance for full reopening this week.

MASKING GUIDANCE

Effective May 29th, the Commonwealth's face-covering order will be rescinded. The Department of Public Health will issue a new face-covering advisory consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated guidance. Face coverings will still be mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings. [Read more here.](#)

STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDER

Governor Baker will end the State of Emergency June 15th, and the Administration will work with legislative and municipal partners during this period in order to manage an orderly transition from emergency measures adopted by executive order and special legislation during the period of the State of Emergency.

RESOURCES FROM EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As Secretary Acosta reminded us last week, businesses can still take advantage of the [Work Share](#) program. WorkShare is a program that offers a smart alternative to layoffs. Employees work reduced hours while collecting unemployment benefits to supplement their lower wages.

The Commonwealth's Workforce Skills Cabinet has also launched a program called Rapid Reemployment to fund the scale-up of existing training vendors, partnering with employers and the MassHire Career Centers to train and place individuals impacted by COVID-19 for priority occupations to meet post-COVID-19 hiring demand. [Read the RFP here.](#)

Finally, the Administration [recently announced](#) that work search requirements will be reinstated for all regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants effective the week of June 15, 2021. This requirement applies to UI claimants receiving Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and those on Extended Benefits (EB). Massachusetts temporarily suspended these work-search requirements in March 2020, following updated federal guidance at the outset of the pandemic. With more than 200,000 jobs at Massachusetts employers advertised in the MassHire JobQuest, claimants are encouraged to learn more about finding employment opportunities through tools like the [MassHire Career Centers](#).

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

MOTT recently launched a photo contest, #StateOfWonder, at VisitMA.com which will showcase our great state. Participants can earn prizes. Please ensure businesses in your communities are aware of this great opportunity for residents to participate and support tourism recovery across the Commonwealth.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM – COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS

Through the Community Navigator Pilot Program, SBA will engage with states, local governments, SBA resource partners, and other organizations in targeted outreach for small businesses underserved communities. This is an opportunity for technical assistance providers and small business support organizations to access grant funding to further their reach to underserved businesses. [Read more about the program here](#). As Bob mentioned on Friday's call, SBA anticipates releasing an RFP for the program this week on this page.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PPP LOANS

Minority-owned small businesses can still access PPP technical assistance via [The Massachusetts Equitable PPP Access Initiative \(MEPPAI\)](#). These businesses should act now. MEPPAI is a coalition formed to provide timely and equitable access to forgivable federal loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration under the Paycheck Protect Program (PPP) for underbanked businesses and historically disadvantaged and underserved demographic groups, including businesses owned by women and people of color.

EMPLOYER VACCINATION PROGRAM

As you may know, the Administration has announced a [COVID-19 Employer Vaccination Program](#), which will provide employers with easy and convenient options to help their employees get vaccinated. You may read more about this program at www.mass.gov/EmployerVaccine and in the [press release](#). Interested businesses can [sign up](#) to take advantage of the program.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we move from crisis management to a fully-reopened economy, and roll up our sleeves for the work of economic recovery.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership.

Mike

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