

*The Department of Economic Development team continues to monitor the outbreak's impact on our small business community and are coordinating a variety of actions that will help assist in mitigating hardship. We are in close contact with federal and state agencies and other partners to understand what resources are available and how quickly they can be deployed to assist our local businesses. Today we will be establishing a local business response team which includes the Chamber, SBDC, Southern MD Workforce Services and our local MD Department of Commerce Representative. This team will be actively working on coordination to assess and deploy appropriate resources to the local business community.*

*Last night, Danita and I participated on a conference call with Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz and Maryland Labor Secretary Tiffany P. Robinson on state government actions taken due to the COVID-19 crisis. The call was with business and economic development leaders from around the state. They discussed new initiatives that are currently being coordinated for businesses, new rule changes to reduce burdens, and a system to help get questions answered during this time of uncertainty. We should have more information to provide on these initiatives over the coming days. What I can confirm: Unemployment bulk claims from companies can be submitted to [UI.bulkclaim@maryland.gov](mailto:UI.bulkclaim@maryland.gov). Secretary Robinson indicated that DLLR is working on extending the number of allowable weeks for unemployment. Any permitting, licensing renewals, etc. are being deferred for 30 days after the disaster declaration is lifted.*

*In the meantime, please help us encourage local businesses to keep documentation about how their business is being impacted by the virus. The U.S. Small Business Administration will be working with state Governors to provide targeted, low interest disaster recovery loans to small businesses that have been severely impacted by this situation. We anticipate receiving information specifically for Maryland in the coming days.*

*The Maryland Department of Commerce has also compiled a list of business resources in response to COVID-19 that is being updated daily (please share with your business networks):*  
<https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus>.

*We encourage all businesses to visit the County's virtual resource center, [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Coronavirus](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Coronavirus) to get the latest updates surrounding Calvert County's response to COVID-19, including any precautionary measures, guidance and closures.*

*During these concerning times, the Department of Economic Development team is here to support our local businesses in any way that we can. Please encourage businesses to reach out if they need assistance. The best way to reach us is at [info@ecalvert.com](mailto:info@ecalvert.com).*

*Thank you and stay safe,  
Kelly*

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