

Falmouth Business COVID-19 Resources

Updated: May 29, 2020

The Town of Falmouth is very aware of the disruption that COVID-19 has caused our local businesses. We want to help where we can. We invite you to reach out to Town staff with questions, concerns, and ideas on how we can assist you. In the meantime, the following list of resources may prove helpful in navigating this difficult time. These resources provide additional information to help your business recover from losses as well as best practices to protect the safety of your customers and the health of your employees

As Falmouth's businesses feel the impacts of COVID-19, please do not hesitate to reach out to Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long Range Planning and Economic Development, 699-5340, tholtwijk@falmouthme.org, for assistance, support and/or questions.

Also, please subscribe to our Town News & Announcements E-Alerts for updates related to the pandemic at: www.falmouthme.org/subscribe

If you have not already, it is important for you to be in communication with **your landlord and bank**. Below is information to assist the business community with COVID-19 and reopening questions.

INFORMATION FOR FALMOUTH BUSINESSES REGARDING REOPENING

- **Fire and Safety Guidelines for Business Reopening:** Falmouth Fire-EMS would like to share guidelines created by the National Fire Prevention Association regarding Fire and Life Safety for businesses that are reopening. The guidelines give particular attention to adjustments that might be needed for the physical configuration as well as the operational use of many buildings, including offices, restaurants, and retail stores, in order to adhere to public health guidelines or modified provisions required in response to the pandemic. [Click here for a PDF copy of the guidelines.](#)
- **Outdoor Eating and Outdoor Retail Display:** On Wednesday, June 3 at 9:00 AM, the Falmouth Town Council is expected to adopt an Emergency Ordinance to temporarily suspend certain provisions of the Falmouth Code of Ordinances relating to outdoor eating areas and outdoor retail display to assist businesses suffering economic loss due to COVID-19 in a manner consistent with the Governor's Reopening Plan. See: <https://www.falmouthme.org/town-council-town-manager/agenda-items/20200527-council-agenda-item-emergency-order>.

If you are a business owner and are interested in having an outdoor eating area and/or outdoor retail display of retail products for your business, we encourage you to complete the application form and support materials ASAP and submit those to the Community Development Department. Click either link for an application form: [Outdoor Service Form \[.DOC\]](#) [Outdoor Service Form \[.PDF\]](#)

By doing so, your application can be readily available for review by the Community Development Department and will allow permits to be issued as soon as possible with fewest delays. Please note: There is no application fee for an outdoor eating area or outdoor retail display.

For assistance in completing the application or additional information, please contact Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long Range Planning and Economic Development, tholtwijk@falmouthme.org or 207-699-5340. Completed applications should be submitted to the Community Development Department, lsangillo@falmouthme.org, 207-699-5303.

- **Submit “Open For Business” Information for Your Customers:** Businesses are encouraged to fill out [a form to share their business status and operations](#), including any accommodations made to help continue to provide goods and services to the residents of Falmouth and the greater community. This information will be shared with the public on the Town’s website.

STATE OF MAINE GOVERNMENT

- **Restarting Maine’s Economy:** <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine>
- Office of the Governor: www.maine.gov/governor/mills/
- Governor’s Executive Order Number 19 FAQs (PDF): www.maine.gov/decd/sites/maine.gov.decd/files/inline-files/FAQS-Business-Closures-Executive-Orde-Number-19-V2.pdf
- Connect Maine Provider COVID-19 Update and Resources: www.maine.gov/connectme/communities-resources/resources
- Maine Dept. of Economic and Community Development COVID-19 Prevention Checklists: <https://www.maine.gov/decd/home>
- Maine Department of Economic & Community Development (Weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST) 1-800-872-3838 in Maine/1-800-541-5872 from outside of Maine or by email at business.answers@maine.gov

MAINE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

- **Coronavirus Information** (This includes several webinars on relaunching your business): <https://www.mainesbdc.org/mitigate-coronavirus-impact-on-your-business/>
- **Maine SBDC – Portland:** 207-780-4949, 207-780-4810
- Business Advisors: Pete Harriman - peter.harriman@maine.edu Susan Desgrosseilliers - susan.desgrosseilliers@maine.edu Tom Leach – tleach@maine.edu

GREATER PORTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- **[New Rapid Response Micro Loan Program](#):** Qualifying businesses and organizations will be eligible for loans of up to \$10,000 at 0% interest for the first two years. Portions of the loan may be forgiven if businesses meet certain requirements or participate in other GPCOG initiatives.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- **Coronavirus Relief Options:** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

- Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources
- SBA Maine staff directory: <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/maine-district-office-directory.pdf>

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE (FAME)

- **COVID-19 Relief Business Direct Loan Program:** <https://www.famemaine.com/important-notice/covid-19-relief-business-direct-loan-program-nears-funding-limit/>

MAINE HOUSING

- **Rental Relief Program:** <https://www.mainehousing.org/>
- For residents of Cumberland County, contact: The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) www.opportunityalliance.org 207-553-5913, katie.wilcox@opportunityalliance.org

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- The Maine Department of Labor will begin taking applications for the new federal/state **Unemployment Insurance program for people who are self-employed** (or otherwise ineligible for traditional UI) on Friday, May 1, 2020. Note: Applications before then will be denied.
- [Video](#) from the Commissioner of Labor about this new Unemployment Insurance program.
- **Unemployment Information:** <https://www.maine.gov/labor/covid19/>

HELLO ALICE

- **COVID-19 Business Resource Center:** <https://www.covid19businesscenter.com/>
- \$10,000 grants being distributed immediately to small business owners impacted by coronavirus

PORTLAND REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- **COVID-19 Resource Page:** <https://www.portlandregion.com/coronavirus-resources.html>

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Guidance for Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.uschamber.com/coronavirus>

MAINE REAL ESTATE AND DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION (MEREDA)

- Business Webinars: <https://mereda.org/events/>

U.S. CDC

- **Resources for businesses and employers:** www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/