

# SAUK CENTRE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 21, 2020



## Top stories in this newsletter



MCCE  
In The News



MN  
DEED



UIMN  
Employers/Employees



Stearns  
County

### MCCE In The News:



**Today, the Minnesota Chamber made available a list of “best practices” for businesses to safely return to work.**

Minnesota businesses are eager to get back to work. We are ready to work with the Walz Administration and the Legislature to get our state back to full productivity and full employment as soon as reasonably possible. Business

operations can and should return to a sustainable level without jeopardizing employees' or customer safety. This summary was developed with that in mind and is applicable to most workplaces.

The Chamber's goal throughout this health crisis has been to strike a balance between safeguarding health and protecting the economy. These best practices underscore that commitment. The recommendations are gleaned from the detailed strategies of Minnesota companies still operating as deemed 'essential' under Governor Walz's executive order. Best practices can be found [here](#).

### MN DEED Information:



#### MN DEED Information:

**SURVEY FEEDBACK REQUESTED:** As Minnesota considers how best to practice social distancing in the workplace, MN DEED would like to hear your ideas. How can your business or employer – or any business or employer – best practice social distancing effectively, using CDC guidelines as your guide. Please click [here](#) to provide

suggestions and feedback.

Business owners and state legislators on Monday urged the Walz administration to consider options to allow noncritical sectors of the economy to reopen under the state's stay at home order.

The push to let workers return to their jobs with additional health and safety measures came weeks into the order and as the governor weighed whether the state would be ready to weather additional cases of the coronavirus when it is set to lift next month.

The case total and deaths count associated with COVID-19 again grew Monday, leading state officials to caution against an overly rapid return to business as usual.

State lawmakers on Monday considered a bill that would let nonessential businesses submit a plan to the Department of Employment and Economic Development as to how they could safely reopen their business and the department would have to get back to them within three days about whether they'd get the green light. Read more [here](#).

### Unemployment Information/Updates:



#### UIMN Information & Updates

◆ Overview of MN Unemployment insurance pre-pandemic and now. Click [here](#) to view the webinar video.

◆ **Q:** A common question regarding UIMN has been how it will effect the employers and will it cause their UI costs to increase?

**A:** Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order to relieve taxpaying employers of benefit charges associated with COVID-19. This means that any unemployment benefits your workers collect as a result of the pandemic will not be used in computing your future UI tax rate. Congress has also passed legislation to provide financial relief to reimbursing employers. We are awaiting additional instructions from the federal government. [Find more FAQ's here](#).

**PUA benefits for self-employed people: We expect Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits will be available for some self-employed people, independent contractors, and gig workers before the end of April.**

- If a person believes they may qualify for PUA, they should apply for regular unemployment benefits now.
- UI has [special instructions for self-employed people](#) that will allow you to qualify for PUA benefits more quickly once they become available.
- UI will post updates to the [CARES Act](#) page on the [UIMN.org](#) website as they are available.

### Advocacy & Action Needed:



#### Property Taxes – Advocacy Action Needed, and Crucial Information for Businesses

**Property Taxes:** The Sauk Centre Area Chamber has requested an extension from our county leaders in regards to property tax payment extensions. Our county officials need to hear from you and for you to advocate for action regarding the property tax payment extension. While we are

continuing to advocate at the Legislature for state action, time is running out. It will be important for counties to be able to act quickly if there is not any resolution by the state legislature. The MCCE had asked local chambers to request action by the Counties, it would also be beneficial for our county to hear from you, our businesses. Click [here](#) to see a draft resolution from Winona County. Winona provided a 60 day extension of the May 15th property tax payment for ALL taxpayers except those that have their property taxes in escrow accounts. Counties have been assessing the impact on the local jurisdictions cash flow by looking at reserve funds and determining the property tax dollars that have already been paid and the payments that come from escrow accounts. For example, Dakota County estimates that 45% of their property taxes have already been paid or will come from escrow account. Other counties are taking different approaches such as the Hennepin County draft resolution which provides for tax extension for property taxpayers with taxes less than \$100,000 and allows abatement process for taxpayers will taxes above that threshold. You can find our Stearns County Commissioners emails by clicking [here](#).

**Crucial Information for Businesses:** Information from Karen Tschida, Stearns County Emergency Operations Center Liaison - Attached you will find links for three different documents. These documents provide direction on [masks](#), [social distancing](#), and [mitigation in the workplace](#). This is crucial information for businesses to have at this time as there are many questions arising around keeping people safe in the workplace.

**\*\* BREAKING NEWS - THIS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED TO THE CHAMBER JUST PRIOR TO RELEASING THE NEWSLETTER! \*\***

**City of Sauk Centre Emergency Revolving Loan Fund (ERLF) Policy for Economic Development Related COVID-19 Impacts:** The city recognizes the need to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19 which will strengthen and diversify the economy of the City over the long term. The ERLF will strive to give consideration to assist all affected businesses within the City, including the business ventures of minority and low and moderate income persons/businesses. Here are the documents provided by the City of Sauk Centre:

[ERLF Revolving Loan Fund Policy Application—ERLF Sauk Centre Emergency Loan](#)

\*\*If you have company news, job openings, events, and more...please contact us as saukcentrechamber@gmail.com or assist in posting on our website! We'd love to make this the go-to site for all things going on and available! Please help us make that happen!

Sauk Centre Area Chamber of Commerce

Mail: 308 Oak St S, Suite 101, Sauk Centre, MN 56378 Email: saukcentrechamber@gmail.com



Business hasn't stopped at the Sauk Centre Area Chamber of Commerce; we are working as diligent as ever to continue to provide up-to-date reliable information and resources. Now more than ever, we are here to be your voice, to represent our businesses, and to be part of a robust plan for recovery.