Dear Members,

“The only constant in life is change” -Heraclitus. Read on for changes and updates:

**Responsible Restart Ohio – Changes**

After listening to many people, the Governor today reversed the mandatory mask requirement that they announced yesterday. They are still highly recommending it for protection and safety, but it is up to you as a business owner what to do with that. Here is the link to the revised standards & best practices:

- Responsible Protocols for all businesses
- Manufacturing, Distribution & Construction
- General Office
- Retail, Consumer, Service

Additionally, today the Governor announced he is working with the Ohio General Assembly to put together two task forces to look at how they can get restaurants as well as salons/barbers open safely. More to come on that.

**Chamber Digital Academy**

Join us for our next Chamber Digital Academy – this Thursday, April 30th at 1pm - As we move into the "Responsible Restart Ohio" phase, we know that many business owners have questions about what is required, what is recommended, and what they may need to know. We'll have a conversation with several local business owners who have been operating in the "COVID-19 world". What has worked for them? What have they learned? What changes are they preparing for in this new phase? Join us for this conversation! [Register here](#).

**Where Can You Get PPE?**

We've had a number of members reaching out to find out where they can find things that they will need to reopen. After conducting a survey with our businesses, we have put together the [first edition of a local PPE Supplier list](#). I'm sure this is subject to change, so we will keep updating it. I hope you will support our local businesses when possible! If your business can supply something and it’s not listed – be sure to [take our quick survey](#).

**Shared Work Ohio**

We've talked about the [Shared Work Ohio](#) program before, but as employers continue to look at their options, I thought it would be helpful to remind you about it again. This is a program offered by Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, they call it a voluntary layoff aversion program. Here’s the description: “Under a SharedWork Ohio plan, the participating employer reduces affected employees' hours in a uniform manner. The participating employee works the reduced hours each week, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) provides eligible individuals an unemployment insurance benefit proportionate to their reduced hours.”

[Here is the guide](#)  
[Here are some FAQ's](#) about the program

**Bottom Line:** This program does take some time to set up. I know we have at least one local employer using it. The advantage is that it keeps your trained employees active with your business, but if you cannot afford to keep them at full-time status it fills the gap for the employee.

**Summary of OSHA Guidance**
I know much of the focus is on the State right now and how they are looking at things, but OSHA & CDC recently released some guidance on what you should do as an employer regarding preparing your workplace for employee safety. It’s 35 pages! The US Chamber put together a 5-page summary which is worth a read here. The OSHA COVID-19 page has a lot of other information as well.

US Chamber Path Forward
I mentioned before the US Chamber Foundation is doing a series of conversations on “restarting the economy” topics. They are all recorded and can be accessed here. Past topics include testing, childcare, transportation, workplace safety. The next topic will likely be interesting to many so I thought I would share once again. Remember it will be recorded if you can’t watch live.

This Thursday at 3:00pm is the next installment of Path Forward and will feature conversations about how the COVID-19 pandemic influencing consumer behaviors with insights from McKinsey & Company, San Francisco partner Kelsey Robinson, Engagious co-founder and president Rich Thau, and University of Michigan associate professor of psychology Dr. Joshua Ackerman. Click here to register now.

#InThisTogetherOhio

Shout out to our friends at The Happy Grape Wine Bar & Bistro and Destination Mansfield for the cheery door decorations and window paintings. “The Grape” is one of many restaurants offering take-out, delivery and curbside during this time. Check out the full list of takeout options here.

How are you encouraging and helping the community? Drop me a line or a photo and I would love to feature you in an upcoming email!

Final Thoughts

You know how when you sign into Facebook, it asks you “What’s on your mind, Jodie?” – or for you, it’s your own name there? Like you, I have a million thoughts swirling through my brain all throughout the day. But this word has been dominating my thoughts lately: resilient.
I want our businesses to be resilient.
I want our people to be resilient.
I want our community to be resilient.

We are withstanding a rather earth-shaking shock right now. And it feels like it’s coming in waves. Physical health, mental health, economic security, protecting our livelihoods, etc. Change after change, after change.

We must not simply recover as a community; we must be resilient if we do not want to give up all the hard-fought gains we had achieved. Every community will not bounce back equally from this shock. I want us to be a ‘best practice’ example of a community that worked together to figure this out. And you know what? We can totally do it if we want to. The choice is ours. We must choose to be resilient leaders.

We may be starting the reopening process, but this path stretches on ahead of us for some time. At the Chamber, we’re going to be working hard to ensure that our comeback is strong. Let’s be a resilient community - by working together, supporting others, clarifying purpose, building trust, communicating clearly, and making tough decisions.

It’s an honor to be on the journey with you. #RichlandCountySTRONG

Onward!
Jodie

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President & CEO
Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development

PS – We have been widening our email list. If this is the first email you’ve received – Welcome! Here is a link to our past emails and other great resources to help your business!