



Economic Development Department  
March 23, 2020  
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Thank you for your patience  
We're all in this together  
Take our Survey: [Let us know how you're doing](#)

The city of Lakewood is providing the following information to support its existing businesses and to assist moving current development projects forward as we adjust to changes implemented in response to limiting the spread of COVID-19.

### **City of Lakewood COVID-19 Communications**

The city of Lakewood established a dedicated webpage on COVID-19 and impacts on city operations. Visit [cityoflakewood.us/covid19](http://cityoflakewood.us/covid19) for the latest information in the city, as well as for links to other organizations who are offering assistance in response to the global pandemic.

City of Lakewood **permitting and inspections** will continue (Building, Planning, and Public Works). All public facing counters are closed. You may [apply for permits online](#). Staff is also available via email, [phone](#), or by appointment. **Please be patient as we are all working hard to keep projects moving forward.**

**Pierce County is still working**, servicing Lakewood sewer permits, and may be accessed online through [Pierce County PALS](#).

[Clover Park School District](#) is offering free student meals, providing study materials online, and offering child care services for First Responder and Health Care Workers.

[West Pierce Fire & Rescue](#) continues to operate, but have closed its main lobby areas. Permitting is available on Tuesdays at Station 20, 10928 Pacific Highway SW. Contractors must call 253-983-4583 to schedule an appointment.

**Lakewood Chamber** is working to assist local businesses. Contact them at 253-582-9400. Check out their [Lakewood-Pierce County Take Out & Delivery page](#).

**The International Council of Shopping Centers** has posted [resources and information for restaurants and retailers](#).

**Local Business Information Webinars** The [Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce](#) and the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County are launching a series of regular conference calls to discuss the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation. Join the "Ongoing Business Information Webinar" every Monday, Wednesday and Friday,. These webinars will cover what is known to-date about existing and emerging assistance to companies and employees impacted by COVID-19. Meeting

times subject to change to ensure the availability of speakers and to be respectful of other important news events. Please check the website and social media for daily updates on meeting times.

### **Health and Safety Employer and Employee Resources**

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](#)

[Washington State Governor Jay Inslee website](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[Economic Development Board of Tacoma/Pierce County](#)

### **Employer and Employee Resources**

[Employment Security Department \(ESD\)](#) has programs designed to help individuals and employers during this unprecedented time.

[Shared Work - Layoff Aversion](#). The Shared Work program is a valuable business-friendly resource to help you reduce payroll and retain your skilled talent. It is confidential and there is no cost to determine eligibility, to apply and be approved. Go online to [SharedWorkwa.com](#) and learn more or call a Shared Work specialist during regular business hours at 800-752-2500. In less than 60 seconds, you will find out if you're eligible.

[Paid Family and Medical Leave](#). ESD's Paid Family and Medical Leave program can provide paid leave benefits for Washington workers who need to take time off from work due to a serious health condition or to care for a family member with a serious health condition. Certification by a healthcare provider is required for applications for Paid Family and Medical Leave due to a serious health condition.

[Rapid Response - Layoff Assistance](#). If COVID-19 disrupts a Washington business and causes a mass layoff or closure, ESD and its local workforce development board partners can respond with Rapid Response services and funding to help impacted workers get connected to unemployment benefits and re-employment services, including re-training, worker support services, and referrals to other social services.

### **Financial Assistance**

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service are providing [special payment relief](#) to individuals and businesses in response to the COVID-19 Outbreak by extending the date for paying any Federal Income Tax due April 15 (up to certain amounts) to July 15, 2020. The filing deadline for tax returns remains April 15, 2020. The IRS urges taxpayers who are owed a refund to file as quickly as possible. For those who can't file by the April 15, 2020 deadline, the IRS reminds individual taxpayers that everyone is eligible to request a six-month extension to file their return.

The federal Small Business Administration (SBA) may be able to provide assistance through the [Economic Injury Disaster Loans program](#) to businesses that have suffered substantial economic injury in an eligible disaster area. Congress approved up to \$7 billion in low-interest disaster loans

specifically to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19. These loans can help small businesses meet financial obligations and cover operating expenses. For additional information, you can directly contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 or [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Call 1-866-798-6363.

[The Washington State Department of Revenue \(DOR\)](#) can work with impacted companies that request an extension on tax filing. The law grants the department authority to extend the due date for excise tax returns. A business may request an extension from the department prior to the due date of the return, and, if granted, the business would be allowed to delay reporting and paying its tax liability. If a business needs an extension of more than 30 days, the law requires the department to collect a deposit from the business. The amount of deposit required is based on the business' reporting history and how many reporting periods are covered under the extension WAC 458-20-228 (13).

DOR may also waive penalties under limited circumstances if a business is late in paying its tax obligation. The law also grants the department authority to provide a one-time, 24 month, late payment penalty waiver if the business has not owed a late payment penalty during the previous 24 months WAC 458-20-228

DOR may also work with businesses that cannot file or pay their taxes on time if they are impacted by a declared state of emergency. Contact DOR at 360-705-6705.

[The Washington State Insurance Commissioner](#) can help answer questions about insurance coverage for damages related to COVID-19. 1-800-562-6900.

### **Utility Status and Assistance**

[Lakewood Water District](#) has closed its front office, but will continue normal operations. 253-588-4423

[Lakeview Light & Power](#) lobby will remain closed until further notice. You may make payments at the drive-thru window, online at [www.lakeviewlight.com](http://www.lakeviewlight.com), or by calling 253-584-6060. Call to get assistance for past due or disconnection issues.

[Puget Sound Energy \(PSE\)](#) Puget Sound Energy (PSED) will not disconnect customers during this time of crisis and is waiving late fees. PSE is also working with its customers on payment plans and choosing a new bill due date, and have launched a new energy assistance portal to improve access to funds available to low-income customers. The PSE Foundation, which is a nonprofit entity operating independently of PSE but helps the communities PSE serves, is donating \$250,000 to support relief efforts in the community through the Seattle Foundation, as well as donating to foodbanks to cover emergency preparations.

[Tacoma Public Utilities \(TPU\)](#) TPU provides electric, water and Click! Services and is offering a 12-week extended payment plan for residential and business customers. TPU will proactively offer the extension to its customers. In addition, TPU announced the creation of a new Emergency Assistance Program for low-income customers, funded up to \$1 million. The new program will support TPU customers whose incomes are within 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines, as established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Emergency Assistance Program will provide a utility credit of up to \$250

for eligible single-family households, usable toward TPU bills. The eligibility requirements for this new program will allow more TPU customers to qualify for bill pay assistance than under the existing Bill Credit Assistance Plan (BCAP).

[Comcast](#), which serves all of Lakewood, is taking steps to implement new policies for the next 60 days, and other important initiatives such as free WiFi for everyone, pausing their Data Plan with no additional charge, given so many people are working and educating from home, no Disconnects or Late Fees, Internet Essentials Free to New Customers to include making it easier for low-income families who live in a Comcast service area to sign-up for internet services, and News, Information and Educational Content on X1 and Flex for those with school-age students at home. Comcast has created new educational collections for all grade levels in partnership with Common Sense Media, and 24x7 Network Monitoring to support network operations.

### **Business Continuity and Resiliency**

[FEMA National Business Emergency Operations Center](#) NBEOC Dashboard is a live portal for posting questions for FEMA staff to answer. NBEOC is also hosting ongoing conference calls every Tuesday and Thursday for private sector businesses. Call-in information is 1-800-593-7177, #7963614.

[Impact Washington](#) created a how-to guide on preparation for Washington State Manufacturers.

[StartUp Washington](#) Part of the Washington State Department of Commerce, StartUp Washington has a list of information and updates as well as their startup, entrepreneur, and small business strategy programs.

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#). The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has activated its Disaster Helpdesk for Business. An information concierge is available to assist small businesses with disaster readiness, relief & long-term recovery.

[Washington Small Business Development Center](#). The WSBDC is providing advising, business resiliency information as well as daily business resilience training webinars. [Contact your local Pierce County advisor, John Rodenberg](#).

### **Ways to help**

Help your family, your neighbors, your local restaurants, your non-profits, your customers, and your community. Be creative.

Keep social distancing of 6 feet or more, wash your hands, stay home unless you have to go out.