

## **Unemployment Issues**

If you are experiencing issues with the unemployment system, please send your Name (as filed), address, phone number, e-mail address, date of birth, last 4 of Social Security #, how you filed (Paper App, Connect web site, Mobile app, or Disney Employee), your claim number (if you have it), and the issues you are experiencing to [Jeffrey Carman](#) or [Representative La Rosa](#).

You may also call the office at 407-891-2555.

**NOTE: Starting May 10th, claimants must claim their weeks in the unemployment system!**

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## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information & Updates**

The Florida Department of Health (Department) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the current outbreak of COVID-19 and is actively working to ensure that the most up-to-date CDC guidance is quickly and accurately disseminated to local partners. To see the latest case count please visit [COVID-19 page](#), the Department is coordinating with our local partners to investigate, confirm, contain and report any cases.

For information from the CDC and the World Health Organization on COVID-19, please visit:

[CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

[CDC Symptoms](#)

[CDC Situation Summary](#)

[WHO COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

## **The State of Florida Issues Updates on COVID-19**

***The COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7***

**[1 \(866\) 779-6121](#) | [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov)**

[Resources for Small Businesses](#)

[Resources for Individuals and Families](#)

[Resources for Education](#)

**Department of Equal Opportunity**

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[PUA Information](#)

[Guide For Claiming Weeks](#)

[Request To Modify Claim \(Application\) Filing Effective Date](#)

**Additional Assistance**

Constituents can also check their availability for food assistance, Medicaid, and cash assistance by visiting [Access Florida](#).

[Osceola County Resources](#)

[Polk County Resources](#)

**If you need any assistance during this time, please reach out to our office.**

Rep. Mike La Rosa - [mike.larosa@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mike.larosa@myfloridahouse.gov)

Rocky Haag - [rocky.haag@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:rocky.haag@myfloridahouse.gov)

Kayla Derrick- [kayla.derrick@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:kayla.derrick@myfloridahouse.gov)

Jeffrey Carman - [jeffrey.carman@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:jeffrey.carman@myfloridahouse.gov)

St. Cloud Office - 407-891-2555

Lake Wales Office - 863-678-4019

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS 2020 SALES TAX HOLIDAY

## \$10 or less

Reusable ice (reusable ice packs)

## \$20 or less

Any portable, self-powered light source

- Flashlights
- Lanterns
- Candles

## \$25 or less

Any gas or diesel fuel container, including LP gas and kerosene containers

## \$30 or less

Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:

- AA-cell
- AAA-cell
- C-cell
- D-cell
- 6-volt
- 9-volt

Coolers and ice chests  
(food storage, non-electrical)

## \$50 or less

- Tarpaulins (tarps)
- Visqueen, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths, and other flexible waterproof sheeting
- Ground anchor systems
- Tie-down kits
- Bungee cords
- Ratchet straps
- Radios (powered by battery, solar, or hand-crank)
  - Two-way
  - Weather band

## \$750 or less

Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage

## Always Exempt

- Bottled water (unflavored, uncarbonated)
- Canned food, including meats, vegetables, fruits, peanut butter and other nonperishable items
- First aid kits
- Prescription and nonprescription medications (all Rx and most over-the-counter are exempt)
- Baby food and formulas
- Feminine hygiene products

# May 29 - June 4

Visit [floridarevenue.com/disasterprep](https://floridarevenue.com/disasterprep)



## ***Polk CARES 2020***

Polk County's Board of County Commissioners has approved a plan that will help residents and small business owners left struggling financially from COVID-19 pandemic layoffs and business closures.

**Recent changes: Doubled the amount of funding in each tier and allows businesses who have received the PPP, EIDL or SBA Debt forgiveness to apply.**

In late April, the county received \$126 million from the federal government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant meant to provide relief to small businesses and residents who were either furloughed or laid off from their jobs. Assistance will help pay for utilities, rent and mortgages, and help small businesses to remain open or reopen. The Board allocated \$40 million for small business economic development needs, \$30 million for health and human service needs, \$30 million for community healthcare related to the coronavirus, and \$26 million for county and local government's costs and services dealing with COVID-19.

Beginning **Tuesday, May 19**, individuals and small business owners may apply online. The online application process will require residents and business owners to fill out a form, and attach verifying documentation with the application.

A call center to assist residents with questions regarding Polk County's CARES Act financial assistance will also open on **Tuesday, May 19**. Call center staff will be available from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday - Saturday. The call center telephone number will be published here when it opens.

### Individuals/Households

Individuals and/or households may apply for rent, mortgage and utility assistance. Individuals who have lost their job or income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and reside in a household with combined income of less than \$75,000 will be eligible for up to \$2,000 assistance.

On your application, you must confirm that you:

- Have not received other COVID-19 assistance for rent, mortgage or utility payments

Required Documents:

- Valid Florida ID or Florida Driver License

- 2019 Income Tax return or the most recent tax return paystubs for the past 60 days
- Proof of loss of income related to COVID-19 impacts due to health and employment (furlough, lay-off letter from employer, unemployment statement, etc.)
- Utility invoice, and/or mortgage or rent bills

### Small Business

Small businesses that can show they were impacted by COVID-19 include funding levels of \$2,000 for those who are self-employed, \$5,000 for businesses with 2 – 9 employees, and \$10,000 for businesses with 10 – 25 employees.

Small business applicants must attest they:

- Were negatively impacted by COVID-19
- Have the authority to apply for this grant on behalf of the business
- Have not received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP); Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL); or benefited from the SBA Debt Relief Program as provided under the CARES Act
- Will use the grant funds for authorized business expenses only
- Will apply for a Polk County Business Tax Receipt if not registered with the Polk County Tax Collector
- Plan to resume normal operations after emergency guidelines are lifted
- Shall cooperate with Polk County or appropriate officials for grant auditing purposes

Required Business Documents:

- W-9, DBA, Employer ID Number, or Social Security number for sole proprietors
- Valid photo ID
- Copy of active state business registration from Florida Division of Corporations
- W3 Summary or IRS Form 941 prior to February 15, 2020
- Information to estimate your company's average monthly expenses for wages, business utilities, and commercial lease (or mortgage interest) before February 15, 2020

Both funds will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis until the allocation is gone. The county has until December 30, 2020 to use this grant. The allocated funds to both small businesses and individuals do not have to be paid back.

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

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## COVID-19 Testing Sites - Florida

Drive-Thru Testing sites available are listed by county. Each walk up site can test up to 200 individuals per day. You can [access the list here](#).

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[For Homebound Seniors and Adults Disabilities in Osceola County](#)

[Osceola County Food Pantry Locator](#)

[Polk County Food Pantry Locator](#)

[Polk County School Lunch Pickup Locations](#)

[Osceola County School Lunch Pickup Locations](#)

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## Additional Ways to Apply for Reemployment Assistance

As many Floridians do not have access to a computer at this time, Governor DeSantis has instructed DEO to make paper Reemployment Assistance applications available for Floridians.

- CareerSource locations across the state will be providing paper applications and assisting Floridians with submitting their Reemployment Assistance applications. Visit [www.CareerSourceFlorida.com](http://www.CareerSourceFlorida.com) for information and center locations.

- FedEx is offering free printing and mailing of Reemployment Assistance paper applications at over 100 storefronts across the state.
- Applications can be downloaded at [www.FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19). Once the application is complete, individuals should mail them to: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, P.O. Box 5350, Tallahassee, FL 32314-5350.

Additionally, to make it easier for Floridians to receive Reemployment Assistance, Governor DeSantis waived:

- The waiting week, so individuals can claim their very first week of Reemployment Assistance.
- The work search and work registration requirements so individuals filing for Reemployment Assistance are not required to register in Employ Florida or submit information on a biweekly basis regarding the employers that they contacted each week while the state mitigates the spread of COVID-19.

**To read the full Press Release, click [here](#).**

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[PUA Information](#)

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# Florida Farm to You

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is working to connect Florida producers with consumers and businesses to purchase Florida products. With restaurants and foodservice businesses closed due to COVID-19, agricultural producers across the country have struggled to sell perishable products like fruits and vegetables.

The [Florida Farm to You commodities list](#) is updated daily with Florida-grown products including tomatoes, watermelons, lettuce, blueberries, oysters, chicken, tilapia, and more.

By emailing [FLFarmToYou@FDACS.gov](mailto:FLFarmToYou@FDACS.gov), Florida farmers can have their available products listed. Buyers, food banks, and consumers can directly connect with growers selling these products using contact information on the list.

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## **Florida Schools Offer Free Meals to Students during Extended Coronavirus Closures**

To find a school near you, click the link [here](#) and search your city.

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## **Virtual Resources for Students and Parents**

Below are virtual resources to help keep their kids educationally and socially stimulated and engaged in civics, history, arts, culture and science

### *Finding Florida*

This activity book introduces us to Morgan, who takes children on a guided journey through the Sunshine State with loads of fun and activities along the way. Whether it's coloring in Pensacola, connecting the dots in Tampa or filling in the blanks in the Florida Keys, students will learn various aspects of our state's history and government as they turn each page. It's important to note that this activity book is geared towards



elementary school-aged children

*Life as a Lawmaker*

This activity book challenges Florida's middle school-aged students to imagine themselves as a member of the Florida House of Representatives, entrusted with creating state laws that improve the lives of their constituents. Whether by balancing the daily schedule of a state representative, completing a word search on legislative lingo, or drafting a bill to address an issue in their community, students will learn various aspects of the legislative process and gain a unique perspective of life as a lawmaker as they work their way through the book. By the end, readers will have all of the necessary tools to become a more active participant in the creation of our state laws.

House Chamber Murals

Christopher M. Still's artwork is an incredible resource for students to learn about the history of Florida. The ten murals that are found in the Florida House of Representatives Chamber depict our state's historic and natural beauty. On this page of our website, you can click through each of the murals and find detailed descriptions of each painting.

**Virtual or Interactive Florida Museum and Park Tours:**

Dry Tortugas National Park

Virtually tour Fort Jefferson, dive in a coral reef, and explore a ship wreck

Flagler Museum

Exploring the Flagler Museum's rooms virtually

Florida Historic Capitol

Look at interactive floor plan or take an audio or video tour

Florida History in 3D

Digital 3D gallery of artifacts from Florida's historic Spanish Plate Fleet disasters

Florida Panhandle Shipwreck Trail

Videos and information of Florida's underwater historical resources in the Florida panhandle

Kennedy Space Center

Explore the launch point for a generation of space exploration via Google Street View

Mission San Luis

A virtual 360 degree tour of Florida's Apalachee-Spanish Living History Museum

Museums in the Sea

Underwater tours and images from Florida's underwater historical resources

statewide

National Naval Aviation Museum

A virtual tour that provides an immersive look at aircrafts used in Naval Aviation

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

A virtual 360 degree tour of the rooms of the Main House plus a virtual walk through the gardens

Interactive App (includes several walking tours throughout the state)

Florida Stories found on the Apple Store and Play Store

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## Local Calendars

Lake Wales - [Event Calendar](#)

Frostproof - [Events Calendar](#)

St. Cloud - [Events Calendar](#)

## Happy to Help

As your State Representative, it is my privilege to assist you with any issues you may be having with any government agencies. Please feel free to reach out to my District Offices and we will do all we can on your behalf to help you resolve any problems or challenges that you or your company are facing.

[Rocky Haag](#)

Legislative Aide

[Kayla Derrick](#)

District Aide

[Jeffrey Carman](#)

District Aide

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