COVID-19 Resources
For Businesses Preparing to Reopen

North Carolina employers are closely following the governor's direction on how and when it is appropriate to reopen for business. But it won't be business as usual for some time, as companies implement new measures to protect their workers and the public from spread of the virus. Companies are turning to a number of resources to help prepare for and manage reopening. The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina lists some of those resources below, emphasizing that businesses always need to follow protocols set by the governor and local and state health officials.

For general questions, call Business Link North Carolina (BLNC) at 800.228.8443. BLNC staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4. p.m., to connect your business to the appropriate organization for assistance. All inquiries will receive a confidential response from a business counselor within three business days. "Se Habla Español."

- **The Governor's Three-Phase Plan.** This May 5 press release updates the governor's stay-at-home order, including allowing North Carolina to move into Phase 1 of easing certain coronavirus restrictions.

- **N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.** Business can find the latest information on COVID-19 in N.C. by visiting the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services website. The site includes links to specialized advice for specific industries including meat and poultry processing and others.

- **Protecting Your Business from COVID-19.** This guide from the National Institute of Standards and Technology can help businesses prepare for the impacts of COVID-19 and protect their facility and employees from exposure.

- **CDC Posters and Flyers for Your Business.** This link provides free downloadable materials you can print and display in your workplace. They were developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support COVID-19 safety recommendations and are available in multiple languages.

- **EPA Information on Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website provides helpful information that includes a list of disinfectants that meet EPA standards for use against the virus.

- **Responding to a COVID-19 Exposure at Your Business.** Businesses can download this checklist of what to do if they suspect a COVID-19 exposure has occurred at their facility. The advice is based on CDC recommendations. Business should be sure to refer to North Carolina state recommendations as well.

- **OSHA Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has developed the 35-page "Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19," which can be downloaded here.

- **OSHA Record-Keeping Requirements for COVID-19.** This link highlights OSHA standards and directives (instructions for compliance officers) that may apply to worker exposure to COVID-19.

- **CDC's "Plan, Prepare, and Respond" Site for Businesses:** This CDC website offers many helpful links, including updated guidance to help prevent workplace exposure, a page answering common questions from businesses, and more.

- **Guidance for Restaurants.** The NC Restaurant and Lodging Association has provided this guide on best practices and procedures for restaurants preparing to reopen.

- **Operation Open Doors Checklist for Retailers.** The National Retail Federation has issued a checklist for reopening, encouraging restaurants to work with their legal and financial advisers to adapt recommendations to their specific circumstances.

- **NC Retail Merchants Association Website.** This website updates regularly to provide industry-specific information for North Carolina retailers managing operations during COVID-19, including webinars, signage to display, details on requirements vs. recommendations and more.

- **U.S. Food and Drug Administration Food Safety Website.** The FDA's Food Safety and Coronavirus Disease website has a wealth of information regarding food safety for consumers as well as businesses and workers in farming and in food production, processing, and retail settings.

- **U.S Department of Agriculture Website**. The USDA website has a list of frequently asked questions related to COVID-19, operations of the USDA's Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service and more.