

This document was initiated by the staff and co-chairs of the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council. It was created to serve the purpose of sharing vital information and resources. Though sparked by the COVID-19 global pandemic, it is our understanding that the widespread impacts of the virus is a symptom of a larger system. Given this, it is our hope that this document can also be a space to plan for the future and shift power to individuals and groups at the frontlines of this work

Get COVID-19 updates sent to your phone. Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 to receive free text alerts from [@PHLPublicHealth](#).

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health announced activation of the Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline. The Helpline can be reached by calling 1-800-722-7112. The Helpline, free and available 24/7, is a resource that anyone in the Greater Philadelphia area, including the public and healthcare providers, are encouraged to use to help answer all of their questions about the COVID-19 coronavirus.

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Announcements

*** This section is reserved for local updates. Where possible, include a Call to Action like “share this information w/ your friends” and label it as ACTION to catch other people’s attention. (You can copy and paste ACTION when needed).**

General citywide mandates

Check <http://phila.gov/covid-19> for latest information

Businesses

- [Clarification on Stay At Home Order & Business Activity 3/22](#)
 - The City issued a new [Business Activity and Stay at Home Order](#) detailing restrictions on business activity, personal activity, and congregation in Philadelphia in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. These new restrictions take effect Monday, March 23, 2020, at 8 a.m
- [City government updates restrictions on business activity + business and worker relief efforts](#)
 - Only essential commercial establishments can remain open as of 3/16/20, click link above for complete list which has been updated to reflect latest orders of Gov Tom Wolf + City of Phila mandates
 - Non-essential City government operations halted, includes closure of City gov’t buildings
 - **ACTION** If you are a business owner and would like to receive information about business relief programs please email business@phila.gov.
- [City announces two avenues for businesses to share information & request support](#)
 - Contact the business service hotline to get answers to any questions: 215-683-2100 or email business@phila.gov
 - Complete a brief survey to report COVID-19 related impacts in [中文](#) (Chinese), [English](#), [Español](#), [Français](#)
 - **ACTION** Share with local small businesses!

Healthcare

- [Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline](#) launched by Philadelphia Department of Public Health
 - Call 1 800-722-7112. It’s free, available 24/7, and staffed by healthcare professionals. The public and healthcare providers are encouraged to call to get answers to questions about COVID-19 including risks and risk factors, testing resources, recommendations for social distancing, and more
- Breastfeeding Support
 - Pacify App providing breastfeeding support via tele-lactation will be launched by The Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health/PDPH
 - This support will be available 24/7 when it launches. **ACTION** Contact Isaac.Lief@phila.gov for the date the app goes live.
 - The breastfeeding workers at the Health Centers are also doing telephone/video chat support Monday-Friday. **ACTION** Contact:
 - Galissa Jones, CLC (267) 474-3752
 - Ana Tapia, CBC: (610) 203-9840 (*bilingual breastfeeding support in English and Spanish*)
 - Ta’Hirah Williams, IBCLC: (267) 506-4118

Schools, childcare, employers

- [City announces updated Meal Sites for children & youth, no ID required](#)

- Beginning Monday, March 23, families can pick up meals at 80 locations. **Please note the new schedule and locations.** Meals are available from 9 a.m. to noon only. **ACTION** Share this information
- [YMCA is offering Childcare Relief Program](#) to hospital workers and other essential staff
 - Available Monday through Friday, 6:00 am -6:00 pm for children 6 weeks-12 years of age (ages vary per location)
- [Youth Service Dashboard](#): intended to inform young people, their families, and their service providers about what youth-serving public service programs are open and accessible during the novel coronavirus crisis in Philadelphia (starting March 16, 2020). All attempts will be made to update this list each day between 8:00am - 10:00am. However, it is our recommendation to always navigate to the designated link or organization's website for the most up-to-date information. **ACTION** Share this information.
- [Childcare \(paid and volunteers\) for healthcare workers](#)
- [YEAH Philly](#) is working to ensure the immediate needs of our teens and communities are met during this time. Take a look at what we're doing in response to the growing pandemic and making sure our teens stay supported and connected. **ACTION** Share this information.
- [Philly School District Announces School Closings starting March 16](#)
 - Families are encouraged to visit www.philasd.org for an updated list of services provided throughout the city, including meals and recreational opportunities.

Laws and regulations

- [Information & Resources for Workers Impacted by COVID-19](#)
 - Discusses sick leave, unemployment, workers comp, utilities relief, and resources for those seeking employment and those seeking to hire
- [Learn more about your rights to sick leave here](#). Employers with 10 or more employees are required to provide paid sick leave, and employers with nine or fewer employees must allow unpaid leave.
 - **ACTION:** Share this information via social media and especially to friends and family who work in the food industry. Here are infographics in English ([for workers](#), [for employers](#)) and Spanish ([for workers](#), [for employers](#)). PDFs can be found [here](#).

Utilities & other services

- Housing / Rent
 - [Legal evictions can not be carried out until April 6](#) because the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has ordered all courtrooms in the state to close and it is illegal to evict someone without a court order. No word yet on whether the eviction moratorium will be extended.
 - [City of Philadelphia extends deadlines for property tax and some business tax](#)
 - Helen Gym suggests [moratorium on evictions, foreclosures, residential tax liens, and utility cut-offs](#) in the event of a major coronavirus outbreak. 3/12
- Business PECO
 - [PECO suspends shut-offs and late fees till May 1](#)
- Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
 - [PUC Prohibits Utility Terminations. Consistent with Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency Related to Covid19](#)
- PWD
 - [PWD is suspending water service shut offs and restoring water service through May 15th](#)
- Internet Service Providers
 - [Comcast Internet Essentials available for 2 free months for new customers who qualify](#) - including those w/ SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, etc. To sign up, applicants can simply visit www.internetessentials.com. The accessible website also includes the option to video chat with

customer service agents in American Sign Language. There are also two dedicated phone numbers 1-855-846-8376 for English and 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

- PPA (Philadelphia Parking Authority)
 - [PPA will make the following changes starting 3/17/20:](#)
 - Stop enforcing meters, kiosks, and residential time limits
 - Maintain enforcement of safety violations like double parking, blocking crosswalks, and loading zone violations
 - Close offices between 3/17 - 3/30
 - Reschedule hearings slated from March 17 - 27 - new dates will be sent through mail
 - New guidelines around booted / towed vehicles - check link for specifics
 - Waived convenience fees for online payments
- Elders
 - [The Emergency Fund For Older Philadelphians](#)
 - To receive assistance, eligible seniors must be referred by recognized social service agencies or the clergy. Checks are issued directly to the fuel company, pharmacy, food store, etc. to assure that the needed goods or services are provided.

Information & Research

*** This section is for sharing where to find informational resources**

Where to find information

- Social Media
 - Philly We Rise shares updates on their [website](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).
 - [@PHLPublicHealth](#) - Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health twitter
- City of Philadelphia
 - Get COVID-19 updates sent to your phone - Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 to receive free text alerts from Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health
 - [The City of Philadelphia has compiled a list of resources](#) about COVID-19 including: the latest information, frequently asked questions, health impacts for children and people who are pregnant, and more
 - [Find free meals and safe spaces for students while schools are closed](#)
 - [Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline Opened by Health](#)
 - The Philadelphia Department of Public Health today announced activation of the Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline. The Helpline can be reached by calling 1800-722-7112. The Helpline, free and available 24/7, is a resource that anyone in the Greater Philadelphia area, including the public and healthcare providers, are encouraged to use to help answer all of their questions about the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Best practices / guidelines

- [City of Philadelphia collection of Guides and Resources for Coronavirus](#)
 - Includes information like who should get tested a where, guides for businesses when an employee has tested positive for Coronavirus, help in settings with limited personal protective equipment
- Businesses and nonprofits
 - [Planning guidance for businesses and nonprofit organizations](#), created by the City of Philadelphia

- Urban Ag
 - [Resources for Urban Agriculture](#) (Growers and Service Providers) created by New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
 - PA Dept. of Agriculture Recommendations: [Farmers Markets and On-Farm Markets](#)
- Restaurants
 - https://www.servsafe.com/ServSafe/media/ServSafe/Documents/Coronavirus_COVID-19_Info_TipsforRestaurants.pdf

How to plug - in

*** With respect to existing efforts in the Philadelphia area, this section is reserved for sharing calls to action as well as avenues for folks to request and provide support. Where possible, include a Call to Action like “share this information w/ your friends” and label it as ACTION to catch other people’s attention. (You can copy and paste ACTION when needed).**

Opportunities to get and share resources

- Restaurant Workers
 - [Restaurant Opportunities Center \(ROC\) United's collection of national and city/state resources](#)
 - [Relief Funds for Restaurants, Bars, and Food Service workers](#)
 - Includes hospitality workers, bartenders, food service delivery
- Mutual Aid
 - Neighbors helping Neighbors: ACTION: [Request](#) & [Provide](#) resources. Contact: tblj1234@gmail.com
 - In this hard, confusing and distressing moment, it's extremely important that we are reaching out to our friends, families, neighbors and community members. It's especially important for those of us who are able to provide support to those who are at a greater risk — the elderly, the immunocompromised, those with chronic illnesses, those with little to no access to health care. It asks that neighbors share what ways they are able to help others during this time, whether that be by buying groceries, picking up prescriptions, providing transportation or directly donating. If you are interested in taking part, we invite you to fill out the survey here. (Sourced from Philly We Rise)
- Groceries & Food
 - [City announces meal sites for youth and adults](#)
 - Starting Monday, 3/30, free food is available for anyone who needs it. You can pick up one box per household, and that will last up to five days. We're working to add locations, so check back often.
 - Neighbor-based grocery delivery
 - Fishadelphia would like to leverage their mini-networks of neighbors all around the city (generated through their new porch pickup system) to support those who might be in need at this moment or in the near future. ACTION: To explore or request neighbor-based grocery delivery and other local support, check-in with them on [twitter](#).
 - MANNA provides temporary, medically tailored meals for individuals with a serious illness AND an acute nutritional risk. Referral form can be found at www.mannapa.org
 - City Vendors and Partners have food they want to move through volunteers or deep discounts:
 - From US Foods: As of 2:20pm on 3/18, we have about 800 cases of 9648460 Fresh Apple Slices 100/2 oz, that have an expiration code of 4/1. Looking to move. Have any needs anywhere in Philly? Contact Molly.Riordan@phila.gov

- Giordano Garden Groceries [Fresh Essentials](#) food box (\$35/box)
 - Free delivery for Philadelphia, Conshohocken, and Southern New Jersey. Includes a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole milk, eggs, butter, nuts, seeds, and dried fruit. Order via email: Giordanogardengrocers@gmail.com or phone: 215-389-6500
- Chef Maria Mercedes Grubb has been providing free meals for people in food service industry. IG @undergrounddiningclub **ACTION:** Share with your network
- Young Chances Community Kitchen is providing meals (fresh and frozen) to over 100 families in the Grays Ferry area. Contact: youngchancesfoundation@gmail.com
- The Common Market is offering farm fresh boxes to community organizations assisting in the relief efforts- please contact kmccrea@thecommonmarket.org for more information
- **ACTION:** Share with your network, donate and/or sign up a family who needs meals: On Point Bistro in Point Breeze is coordinating a “Buy a meal for a neighbor” program. Those who wish to contribute towards the cost of meals can Venmo @onpointbistro with “Buy a meal for a neighbor.” All meals go to families in the Point Breeze/Gray’s Ferry Area. Send Mallory Lopez (owner/operator of OPB) the families that you think could use a meal. If you are a family that could use some support, please don't hesitate to nominate yourself! [Mallory may be contacted through Facebook via the Point Breeze Business Association.](#)

Volunteer + Local mobilizations (phone calls + other planning & strategizing opportunities)

- Help Philly Restaurants donate food and reduce food waste
 - “We know that this is a difficult time as restaurant operations have been limited to take-out or halted completely due to the COVID-19. To keep food out of the trash and make sure it reaches people in need, surplus food can be donated via Food Connect.” **ACTION:** Restaurants! Use the Food Connect App at <http://www.foodconnectgroup.com/> on your phone or visit their website for safe and fast curbside pickup for safe and fast curbside pickup of surplus food. **ACTION:** Check out the [Social Media Toolkit](#) for draft messaging to share with your networks. Or use the [email template](#) for draft messaging
- [Volunteer for a shift w/ Philabundance](#)
 - “Due to COVID-19, we’ve had 200+ volunteers cancel their shifts this month. PHLB office staff have stepped up to pack food boxes like these for our senior citizens in need. **ACTION:** If you’re healthy & interested in volunteering sign up at bit.ly/38ZXPns”
- Volunteer to be a volunteer driver w/ Share Food Program
 - Volunteer to drive and complete home deliveries of senior boxes and other goods to the most vulnerable populations. Must be able to commit at least one 2-hour shift per week and must be willing to use a personal vehicle. **ACTION:** Contact volunteer@sharefoodprogram.org
- Volunteer with Philly Food Rescue as a Food Rescue Hero
 - We have issued communications to our volunteers, urging them to stay home and refrain from volunteering, if they are sick or believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19, which means some volunteers had to step down from rescuing food. The health and safety of everyone in our community, especially the most vulnerable, is our top priority, as it always has been.
 - **Action:** If you are healthy and interested in volunteering, please download the Philly Food Rescue app in your device app store. Help transport food safely in less than an hour in your own neighborhood. [Android link](#) , [Apple Store link](#), or call: 267-218-4800

Petitions, legislation, and other short + long-term advocacy

- [Front Line Food Workers Need Protections NOW](#)
 - **ACTION:** Send letters: [Front Line Food Workers Need Protections](#)
- [Tell Congress: Include Immigrant Families in the Stimulus](#)
 - **ACTION:** This stimulus can and must be directed to the people who are most directly affected, including those who have lost jobs and hours and front line workers. It must include us all. Call your members of Congress now to demand all people, regardless of immigration status, are included in the stimulus. Enter your information to take action now!
- Philadelphia Workers' Demands during COVID-19.
 - Philly Workers for Dignity has drafted [this letter](#) calling on the city of Philadelphia to protect its workers during the outbreak. It demands that the city: provide free tests and treatment to all, including undocumented workers; expand paid sick leave to every worker and ensure it lasts the duration of the quarantine period; reimburse lost wages through a tax on corporations; and enact a moratorium on evictions, foreclosures, and layoffs. Additionally, the letter calls attention to the wealth disparities in our system and the readiness of the government to support the businesses while leaving the low-wage workers at the bottom of the system to fend for themselves. **ACTION:** Join them in demanding dignity, safety and protection for all our workers by [signing-on](#). (Sourced from Philly We Rise)
- Health in City Jails
 - [Philadelphia Police Dept. changes policy around jailing for "low-level criminal offenses" 3/17/20](#)
 - Certain crimes will no longer automatically result in detention. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw has instructed the department to immediately halt arrests including all narcotics activity, theft, burglary, prostitution, stolen automobiles, vandalism, and certain economic crimes. Police will also temporarily stop enforcing bench warrants to individuals who fail to show up for court.
 - [Philadelphia organizers are calling on local officials to take action before a COVID-19 outbreak](#)
 - A number of local organizations have raised the alarm on the health risks of the coronavirus spreading to city jails. Jails across America have been criticized for [poor healthcare practices](#) — this includes reports of incarcerated people being denied treatment during emergencies. Due to the intensely close quarters that people occupy in jails, if an outbreak happened it would be extremely hard to contain. To lower risk, Marc Stern, formerly with the Washington State Department of Corrections, has recommended that jails consider releasing people and lowering the number of people held. They are demanding that the city enact a moratorium on incarceration and start to release currently incarcerated people. **ACTION:** Read their letter to local officials [here](#). (Sourced from Philly We Rise)
 -

Financial support

- "Land-to-Sea Mutual Aid Fund,"
 - Fishadelphia has just opened a "Land-to-Sea Mutual Aid Fund," which will be used to support student, customer, and harvester families whose livelihoods have been affected by events related to COVID-19. You can contribute through Fishadelphia's [website](#) or venmo ([@fishadelphia](#)). **ACTION:** donate.
- Donate to Food Not Bombs Solidarity
 - "Food Not Bombs Solidarity is continuing to feed people, including 4 shelters." Cashapp \$FNBSolidarity
- FINANTA is offering express loans for entrepreneurs affected by the CORONAVIRUS and other emergencies. Funds can be used for most business needs, including but not limited to working capital,

inventory, equipment, and supplies. Contact FINANTA at 267-236-7030 for English and 267-236-7019 para Español for additional information or to apply. **ACTION:** Share this information with small businesses and entrepreneurs, especially groceries/independent food providers - but open to all. FINANTA has a flier available to share: email Kersy Azocar (kersyazocar@finanta.org). (Flier [here](#).)

- From \$5,000 to \$15,000
- * No closing fees
- * Less than a week from application to closing
- * Flexible payment terms and up to 24 month amortizations
- * Must be in business for at least 2 years
- * Must have acceptable credit
- Restaurant Opportunities Centers United is providing resources and financial assistance to restaurant workers impacted by the coronavirus crisis: <https://rocunited.org/relief/>
- CLOSED: [LISC/Verizon Small Business Recovery Fund](#). **Deadline to apply is Saturday, April 4, 11:59 p.m. ET. Info webinar TODAY 4/1 at 1 pm.** There will be a webinar in Spanish on Thurs. 4/2 at 2 pm. (Contact Rachael Viscidy at RViscidy@lisc.org (based in Philly) to learn more)

Alternative ways to pass the time

*** “Social distancing” doesn’t mean an end to all social interaction! Let’s share ways we can continue to stay tuned in and supportive of one another**

Virtually

- [Staying connected during social distancing](#)
- [Support groups use technology during social distancing](#)
- [50 tips for social distancing](#)
- [Travel the world from the comfort of your home: Virtual museum tours](#)

In person

- [5 ways to help your community while social distancing](#)

Meditation

- Headspace being offered free for all healthcare providers: <https://www.headspace.com/covid-19>

Lessons learned

*** Examples from other cities we can learn from**

- [Detroit suspends water shutoffs over Covid-19 fears](#)
- [Arkansas-based, Young Investment Company LLC tells restaurant owners to pay employees instead of rent](#)