Updates from members of the Coordinating Council of Broward
Updated April 2, 2020

Updates from:

Aging & Disability Resource Center
Broward County
Broward municipalities
Broward Health
Broward College
Broward County Public Schools
Broward Sheriff’s Office
211 Broward
CareerSource Broward
CDC
ChildNet

Children’s Services Council
Dept of Children & Families
Early Learning Coalition
FEMA
Florida Dept of Health
Memorial Healthcare System
State of Florida
United Way
US Small Business Admin

For the latest updates, visit FloridaHealth.gov, email COVID-19@flhealth.gov or call the FDOH Call Center at 866-779-6121. The Dept of Health has created a Community Action Survey and is encouraging Floridians to complete it.

Broward County issued Emergency Order 20-01 on Sunday, March 22nd, Emergency Order 20-02 on Monday, March 23rd and Emergency Order 20-03 on March 26th providing clarification and guidelines for the Shelter in Place: Safer At Home policy.

COVID-19 Call Center Operations
The Broward County Call Center is assisting the Florida Department of Health in Broward County in answering public questions about COVID-19, including conducting over-the-phone pre-screenings to determine eligibility for testing. The new COVID-19 Call Center number is 954-357-9500. The COVID-19 call center will accept calls from 8AM to 8PM, 7 days a week. IMPORTANT: Broward County’s 311 Call Center continues to operate separately, during normal business hours of 8:30AM to 5PM Monday through Friday. Please do not direct members of the public to call 311 for COVID-19 questions, or promote calling 311 on your COVID-19 websites. All COVID-19 inquiries should be directed to 954-357-9500.

Broward Community Feeding Initiative App to find food distribution locations in Broward County

Useful Links for Job Seekers
Reemployment Assistance benefits are available to Floridians. Eligible individuals include those who have lost their job through no fault of their own, are quarantined by a medical professional or a government agency, laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period by their employer, or caring for an immediate family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19. Reemployment Assistance benefits, formerly known as Unemployment Compensation, can be filed online. Before applying, it is recommended that you review the Reemployment Assistance Handbook and Claimant Guide. Individuals may apply online or download the Florida Reemployment Assistance paper application available in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole. Please

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www.CCBroward.org

PO Box 4640 Fort Lauderdale, Fl 33338
954-507-7156
sandra@npobroward.org
note that paper applications could potentially take longer to process than completing an online application. For more information please click here.

For Floridians who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, there are resources available to help them get back to work. The State of Florida is seeking individuals with leadership skills, creativity and dedication to their fellow Floridians, and individuals who recognize the professional development opportunities and achievements possible through state service.

Useful Links for Employers

CDC’s Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s Short Time Compensation program for employers.
The Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program is available to small businesses and nonprofits that have been severely impacted by COVID-19. These targeted, low-interest loans of up to $2 million can provide vital economic support to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue during this time. The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses, with fewer than 500 employees, to keep their workers on the payroll. The Small Business Administration (SBA) program provides eight weeks of cash-flow assistance through 100 percent federally guaranteed loans. The SBA will partially forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest or utilities. The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program provides short-term, interest-free working capital loans that are intended to “bridge the gap” between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer term recovery resources. The Black Business Loan Program (BBLP) offers alternative lending solutions to Florida-based black owned small businesses by providing short-term loans and technical assistance. Visit FAMU Federal Credit Union or the Miami Bayside Foundation for loan program information.

Florida Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC)
Small Business Administration (SBA)
U.S. Department of Treasury
National Entrepreneurship Center (NEC)
Prospera
U.S. Chamber of Commerce | Coronavirus Emergency Loans: Small Business Guide and Checklist

Governor Ron DeSantis announced the activation of the Business Damage Assessment survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida’s local business operations. Surveys submitted by small businesses can be used to access the Small Business Administration’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan, made available for COVID-19 through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. For inquiries or assistance with the survey, businesses can contact Emergency Support Function 18.

U.S. Small Business Administration announced that small businesses located in the State of Florida adversely impacted by COVID-19 can now apply for disaster loans. For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA is offering Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the Coronavirus. SBA

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Resource Partners information. SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to $2 million in economic assistance to help small businesses overcome the temporary loss of revenue resulting from the disaster. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. To apply, visit the SBA Disaster website. For additional information, please contact the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339).

President Trump’s National Declaration of an Emergency opened up eligibility for the FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) program and simplified forms and application processes – allowing applicants (State, local, tribal, governments and eligible nonprofits) to apply directly through the PA website.

COVID-19 Testing Sites - Testing will be limited only to individuals who meet the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which have been broadened as the virus has spread:
- Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions who have fever, cough or any type of respiratory distress.
- Any people — including healthcare workers — who within 14 days of symptom onset had contact with a suspected or confirmed coronavirus patient.
- Any people with history of travel from an affected area or an area with community spread.

Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston’s Krupa Center, 3250 Meridian Parkway, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Potential patients should call the Cleveland Clinic Florida appointment center at 954-659-5951 to be scheduled for a test. Callers will be screened by a nurse who will determine whether the caller meets the federal testing criteria.
The Florida National Guard, in partnership with Memorial Healthcare System at C.B. Smith Park 900 N. Flamingo Rd., Pembroke Pines from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call 954-276-4680 in advance to pre-register for a screening.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) and CDC are working to help families as they deal with the added stressors associated with COVID-19. We know that the lack of resources, disruptions to income, and access to health care and child care create added stressors for the vulnerable population we serve. Children away from the structure of school and day care who are around caregivers under greater stress are more likely to experience abuse, and behavior problems may increase.

Broward Health is committed to protecting our patients, visitors and caregivers from the possible spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). In an abundance of caution, visitation will be suspended until further notice. Postpartum maternity patients are allowed one visitor during the established visiting hours of 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Active labor patients may have one labor coach present at all times. Pediatric and NICU patients are allowed one parent or guardian at a time per 12-hour shift (7am - 7pm, 7pm - 7am). Patients at the end of life will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. These visitors will continue to be screened for cold, fever or flu symptoms and infrared thermometers will be used to take the temperature of anyone entering the facility. No visitors who are ill or are visiting patients with COVID-19 may enter the hospitals. We understand the importance of contact with loved ones, and we encourage patients to utilize technology to facilitate virtual visits via FaceTime on iPads or iPhones, Skype and WhatsApp video calls. Guests should expect a question-based screening to ensure they meet current visitor criteria.
Memorial Healthcare System is diligently monitoring the development of COVID-19 (2019 novel Coronavirus) and taking all appropriate and necessary precautions for the safety and well-being of our community. We are working closely with local and state officials. We remain vigilant and continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Florida Department of Health guidelines. Those feeling under the weather and wondering if their flu-like symptoms could be related to coronavirus can now be examined by a doctor from the privacy of their homes at no cost. MemorialDocNow, the online application from Memorial Healthcare System, doesn't require insurance and the free telehealth offer is available through April 30. Physicians can diagnose, write prescriptions as needed, and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To avoid the service's usual $59 charge, users should enter "MemorialCares" when prompted for a coupon code.

Visitor Guidelines: No visitors are allowed, unless there is a special circumstance at all Memorial hospital locations. Exceptions include the spouse or significant other of a delivering mother, or one guardian with a pediatric patient. Elective surgeries will be restricted at all Memorial hospitals. Patients should call their physician's office to find out if their surgery has been delayed. In an abundance of caution, all public classes have been cancelled. If you are unsure about the status of a class or event, please contact the organizer or check the events page on our website (www.mhs.net)

Broward County Public Schools ALL schools are closed through May 1, 2020.
Impact of school closures on students’ academics
Update on state testing and other requirements
Food and Nutrition Services for Students and Families
Childcare Program Application, Service available for BCPS essential staff and BCPS families of first responders and medical personnel.

Comcast has launched program enhancements to help students access the Internet during the Coronavirus crisis. Low-income families in Comcast service areas who sign up as new customers can receive 60 days of complimentary internet, access to more than 200,000 hot spots nationwide, and an increase in internet speeds from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps for all Internet Essentials customers. For questions please visit internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376 for English or 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

Aging and Disability Resource Center- Seniors age 60 and over as well as individuals who live with them who are spouses or caregivers, and individuals with disabilities 18 and over are eligible for free emergency meals during this COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible recipients can apply for the meals by calling 954-745-9779, the ADRC Helpline, or email us at communications@adrcbroward.org. Any nonprofit who wants to recommend someone can also email me directly at mathertaylor@adrcbroward.org. Please include the person’s name, address, phone number, and email. In addition, any senior needing a health and wellness call can request one at the same phone number and email address. Our telephone reassurance program, ConnectingWithU, will provide seniors with a safe and friendly person to connect with each day. These calls will also help us to ensure our seniors are healthy and safe and allow us to check up on them to address any unmet needs.
The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services offices have been closed to the public until April 19. The Department is working in collaboration with other state and local officials to ensure the safety of their employees and community. View Commissioner Fried’s current Emergency Orders in effect. FDACS has also partnered with 2-1-1 to activate a text line and call center open 24/7, which families can contact to find free meals for children under 18 during the current COVID-19 school closures. This follows the Department’s recent activation of the Summer BreakSpot children’s meal locator website. Floridians can now text FLKIDSMEALS to 211-211 to find their closest participating Summer BreakSpot location. You can also call 2-1-1 to speak with a live operator 24 hours a day for additional locations.

Broward Sheriff Office All public events sponsored by BSO are postponed until further notice. Members of the public are encouraged to visit sheriff.org for the latest information on BSO activities during this public health emergency. You are also encouraged to follow BSO via Twitter @browardsheriff, Facebook @browardsheriffsoffice or Instagram @browardsheriffsoffice. Members of the public can also download the SaferWatch app for public safety updates.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) is limiting the amount of person-to-person contact by temporarily closing its store fronts and lobbies. The fastest way to make changes or check on the status of your benefits is by using the Self-Service Portal. You can apply or reapply for benefits, report changes including your mailing address, upload documents to your account, check the status of your application and benefits all by using the Self-Service Portal. The following options are additional resources to assist you during this temporary closure:
Returning Documents: If you need to return a document, you may drop off the document in the secured drop box located outside this facility. This drop box will be checked each day Monday-Friday. Documents dropped off after 5 p.m. will be dated received the following day. You may also fax documents to 1-866-886-4342 or mail them to the following address: ACCESS Central Mail Center P.O. Box 1770 Ocala, FL 34478-1770
Applying for Assistance, Checking your Case Status, or Reporting Changes: Please call our customer service center at 850-300-4323 for telephonic service (TTY 1-800-955-8771) or visit the Self-Service Portal for assistance with the SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid programs. Paper applications are located outside of this facility for your convenience and can be returned as described above.
Completing your Interview: Customers are required to complete an interview to receive benefits. Complete your interview by telephone at 850-300-4323 (TTY 1-800-955-8771).
Ordering an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Card: Customers can order an EBT card, get information about EBT transactions, or report an EBT card as lost or stolen at the Self-Service Portal or by calling 1-888-356-3281. If you have trouble understanding English or need help communicating with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Economic Self-Sufficiency Program, please call (850) 300-4323.

A federal waiver to temporarily increase all Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients’ benefit amounts to the maximum monthly allotment based on household size has been submitted. DCF is actively working to implement increasing benefits to the maximum monthly allotment based on household size for the months of March and April. Clients can expect to receive their additional March funds as early as April 3, 2020. For April, if you are a client that receives your regular benefit between April 1-7, you can expect to receive your benefit on April 8. If you are a client that receives your regular benefit after April 7, you can expect your additional benefit to be included as a part of your regularly scheduled benefit allotment. Additionally, any new households approved for food assistance will receive additional benefits within a week of
being approved for benefits. Please note, customers who are already receiving the maximum allotment will not receive an increase. A chart illustrating maximum benefit for household size is provided below for your reference.

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<th>Benefit Amount</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$355</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$1,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Person</td>
<td>$146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact DCF’s Customer Call Center at 1-866-762-2237 or 850-300-4323 for more information.

**Recertification Extension**

To ensure Floridians can safely access SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid benefits, DCF has implemented a six-month recertification extension for individuals and families scheduled to recertify in April or May. Extending the recertification period, allows the state to ensure the continuity of, and safe access to, SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid benefits during the current public health crisis and periods of social distancing. For more information regarding Florida’s benefit programs during this time or to check the status of your recertification, please contact the customer call center at 850-300-4DCF or log into your MyACCESS account here.

Following guidance and approval from the Florida Department of Children & Families and the federal Children’s Bureau, ChildNet has begun using video technology platforms to conduct most of its required monthly home visits with children but have required that case managers now conduct such visits weekly. We have also prioritized our entire caseload based on the level of current safety concerns and are still requiring in person contact with those children who fall into categories that reflect heightened concerns. These visits are conducted only after first screening the home for the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. These visits, too, are also supplemented by weekly video visits. Following an Administrative Order from the Florida Supreme Court, court ordered parental and sibling visits are also being conducted via video platforms.

**Broward College** transitions faculty & staff to work from home. Classes are cancelled through March 22 and will transition to remote learning beginning March 23. Field experience courses, labs, (i.e., health science clinicals, teacher education) and law enforcement academies are also suspended. All events are canceled until further notice. **For advising information and online scheduling** students are encouraged to reach out directly to their professors for questions related to their courses. **STUDENT LOANS** Coronavirus and Forbearance Info for Students, Borrowers, and Parents:

**United Way** Due to concerns for public safety in regard to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), United Way of Broward County has postponed our Magnolia Luncheon, Behavioral Health Conference and Rising Above
Stigma event. All other public events for the foreseeable future have been cancelled. We are committed to our contractual relationship. Therefore, we intend to continue fulfilling our financial obligations to you with some possible slight modifications to ensure timely invoicing and payment. Please note the following:

- **If you are on a Unit Based Contract** we will be splitting the remainder of contract balance into 1/4th. Meaning each month, March-June you will invoice a fourth of your remaining balance. Staff will be setting up a new unit in SAMIS titled “COVID-19” that you will allow you to invoice each month.

- **If you are on a Cost Reimbursement Contract** your UWBC Director/Program Officer will be reaching out to you to discuss the best way for you to draw down your remaining balance. In some cases, it may be continuing to bill as you have been during this contract period.

We would like to ensure that we have an agreed upon arrangement that works for you and for UWBC. As we always say, “We are partners with you in this journey”. If you have any immediate questions please do not hesitate to contact your CI Director and/or Program Officer. We will let you know when and if there are any SAMIS modifications to your contract in the system.

Additionally, we would like to invite you to complete this survey to help us gather best practices on how your agency is planning to stay viable and function during this difficult time.

**Early Learning Coalition**. The Office of Early Learning (OEL) in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition of Broward, are committed to minimizing the fiscal impact to providers and families. Commissioner Corcoran strongly recommend school readiness and voluntary prekindergarten programs adhere to the CDC’s guidance for higher-risk populations by limiting students and employees to no more than 10 people convening in a single occupied space, therefore breaking students into groups as necessary, maintaining social distancing best practices and proper hygiene. Yesterday, Governor DeSantis held a press conference and DOE subsequently issued a press release detailing efforts to include:

**For Early Learning Programs:**
- Ensure that all SR and VPK providers receive their funding – which means we will pay/reimburse for additional child absences when the provider is open and for those that occur during temporary closures.
- Eliminate all requirements for remaining child screenings/assessments or provider program assessments for the 2019-20 program year.
- Extend timelines for provider improvement plans, reports and VPK calendars.

**For families:**
- Suspending termination of SR eligibility.
- Extending the timelines for redetermination of SR eligibility.
- Waiving parent copays/fees for SR families (*The ELC is waiting to hear back from OEL if there is a criterion for waiving parent copays/fees*).

**Career Source** has examined options to continue providing services to customers remotely given the growing concerns about the COVID-19 coronavirus. All staff can be reached on their office lines, which are being forwarded to their remote location. The following is a list of strategies bring implemented:

a) Allowing customers to complete on-line work registrations and orientations.

b) Allowing customers to complete timesheets and other documents and text, email, photo-imaging or fax them to us.

c) Conducting appointments via telephone.

d) Providing additional virtual access to our e-learning and assessment tools.
e) Assessing our ability to deliver workshops on-line.
f) Working with employers who have scheduled on-site recruitments to determine if we can conduct the events as “virtual” recruitments.
g) Assessing staff’s capacity to work remotely in the event our offices close so that we can continue providing services to job seekers, customers and employers, (e.g. face time, texting and photo-imaging.)
h) We have also requested the state consider allowing flexibility for mandatory customers.
i) Scheduled conference calls with our training and youth providers to learn if they are putting alternative plans to classroom programs such as on-line so we can jointly plan on how it will impact our customers.

211 continues to provide uninterrupted crisis and information & referral services. Call center and all other staff are working remotely and will do so for as long as needed. Call volume has spiked significantly, and wait times for general I&R services are longer. Please encourage callers to use the call-back feature to receive an automated call back rather than waiting on hold. Crisis calls continue to be routed as a priority and are answered first. Most incoming calls at this time are directly related to COVID-19, with financial assistance and food being the predominant needs. We continue to make daily safety reassurance calls to seniors who live alone, many of whom are experiencing increased levels of anxiety. Please email rvazquez@211-broward.org if you know of any seniors who can benefit from a free, daily call to check on their safety and well-being. Registrations for new clients are being accepted.
The 211 data team is aggressively researching and updating available resources. Most agencies have made changes, and some services have been suspended. You can search online for the most up-to-date information. Agencies with changes to their services, operating hours, etc. should complete this change form and email it to 211data@211-broward.org. Agencies can also email the information to the same email address without completing the form. You can also Contact Sheila Smith and remember to Dial 2-1-1 for help.

Children’s Services Council All staff are now working remotely. If they choose not to or cannot work for personal reasons, they can use vacation time. If they are sick, they will use sick time. Everyone has lots of tasks that can be done from home but we will also give work credit for any community service activity. On Thursday the Council agreed to invoke the Disaster Billing Guidelines which are designed to allow providers to draw down their contract so they can continue to pay staff and their bills. CSC program staff will be communicating the specific procedures to the Providers this coming week. We have also fast tracked procedures for online billing which should be in place before the next round of invoices are due. We continue to work with the community to ensure that children are fed during this time and we will continue to research and blast out any information to help parents and children cope during this stressful time.

Broward Municipal websites for Coronavirus updates

Broward County Property Appraiser
Broward County Records, Taxes and Treasury Division
Coconut Creek
Cooper City
Coral Springs
Dania Beach

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www.CCBroward.org
Davie
Deerfield Beach
Fort Lauderdale
Hallandale Beach
Hillsboro Beach
Hollywood
Lauderdale by the Sea
Lauderdale Lakes
Lauderhill
Lighthouse Point
Margate
Miramar
North Lauderdale
Oakland Park
Parkland
Pembroke Park
Pembroke Pines
Plantation
Pompano Beach
Southwest Ranches
Sunrise
Tamarac
West Park
Weston
Wilton Manors