

COVID-19 Update: July 24

Reminders: All previous bulletins and other resources listed at www.gpcovid.com. Send any questions to bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org.

Regional Metric Dashboard

In the revision to the Restore Illinois plan, the state was broken down into 11 separate regions (vs. the previous four regions) for the purpose of tracking progress regarding coronavirus. Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties are in Region 2 (North Central); Mason and Logan counties are in Region 3 (West Central). IDPH has created a dashboard to track metrics like positivity, hospital admissions and hospital capacity. This is updated daily. You can see the dashboard [here](#).

America's New Business Plan - Online Town Hall

Entrepreneurs, economic development leaders and regional policymakers are invited to speak about how to collaboratively strengthen entrepreneurship, startups, and innovation in an effort to rebuild Greater Peoria's post-COVID-19 economy. In partnership with a wide variety of local organizations and institutions, the Peoria Innovation Alliance will be facilitating a discussion centered around four topics: Funding, Opportunity, Knowledge, and Support. The webinar is Thursday, July 30 at 5 pm via Zoom. Registration is free but required. Click [here](#).

Bradley Senior Consulting Project Applications Accepted Through July 31

The Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Bradley University is currently looking for established, for-profit companies interested in participating in the "Senior Consulting Project (SCP) Program" during the Fall 2020 semester (August 26 – December 16). This program is one of the oldest business assistance programs at Bradley and is provided to the client at no charge. Teams of senior-level business students spend a semester working, in a consulting capacity, on problems faced by central Illinois businesses.

Each semester approximately 15-20 projects are completed. Every project includes a detailed industry and competitor analysis as well as a survey that is administered by the students on your behalf. Each project also includes a customized element selected by you. More details [here](#).

Debt Relief for New SBA-Backed Loans

As part of coronavirus debt relief efforts, the SBA is paying six months of principal, interest, and any associated fees for current and new SBA-backed loans disbursed before September 27 in the agency's most popular loan programs (7(a), 504, and Microloan). Note: If you're seeking a loan to cover fixed assets such as furniture, real estate, machinery, equipment, construction, and/or remodeling, you may need to have information to your lender by August 7 for the loan to be processed in time.

Learn more about starting or growing your small business with an SBA-guaranteed loan and start the process now to take advantage of six months of debt relief [here](#).

Illinois Unemployment Insurance Benefit Form Information

Due to the volume of unemployment insurance claims resulting from the pandemic, the Illinois Department of Employment Security will be unable to mail employers the quarterly Statement of Benefit Charges (for taxable employers) and Statements of Amount Due for Benefit Charges (for reimbursable employers). These are known as BEN-118 and BEN 118-R forms. The [Illinois Department of Employment Security](#) will be sending out two notices to employers on July 22 and August 10 asking them to sign up for a MyTax.Illinois.Gov account so that they can view

statements from the Second Quarter 2020. Please be aware that the first notice is incorrect in that it states that an employer may only get the statements electronically. The second notice mailed on August 10 will provide instructions for receiving a paper copy of the statements through the mail. Employers may access these forms on their [MyTaxIllinois accounts](#) or they can request a paper copy of the form. Employers will be able to view the statements, along with instructions and a protest form, on their account starting on August 14, 2020. Here is a [copy of the IDES notice](#) and a [letter from IDES](#).

Gov. Pritzker Extends Eviction Moratorium Another Month

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker is giving more time to those behind on rent or mortgage payments. He's extending a ban on evictions through August 22. A moratorium was set to expire at the end of this month. NPR news story [here](#).