Good morning. As we all begin to assimilate to our new normal under the COVID-19 crisis, I wanted to provide you an update on Pennsylvania State Government’s response to the coronavirus and to provide you a few links to useful information you may find valuable in the days ahead.

The Pennsylvania House passed temporary rules Monday allowing members to vote remotely, essentially putting the 203-member body on an indefinite work-from-home policy as cases of the coronavirus continue to increase.

On 3/16, Governor Wolf strongly urged non-essential businesses across the state to close for at least 14 days to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Non-essential businesses include public-facing industries such as entertainment, hospitality, and recreation facilities, including but not limited to community and recreation centers; gyms, including yoga, barre and spin facilities; hair salons and barber shops, nail salons and spas; casinos; concert venues; theaters; sporting event venues and golf courses; retail facilities, including shopping malls except for pharmacy or other health care facilities operations.

Essential services and sectors include but are not limited to food processing, agriculture, industrial manufacturing, feed mills, construction, trash collection, grocery and household goods (including convenience stores), home repair/hardware and auto repair, pharmacy and other medical facilities, biomedical and healthcare, post offices and shipping outlets, insurance, banks, gas stations, laundromats, veterinary clinics and pet stores, warehousing, storage, and distribution, public transportation, and hotel and commercial lodging.

The Governor has also ordered that all restaurants and bars close their dine-in facilities to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Businesses that offer carry-out, delivery, and drive-through may continue to do so.

DCED offers working capital loans that could be of assistance to businesses impacted by COVID-19. Resources and information will be posted to http://dced.pa.gov/resources as they become available.

Link to Pennsylvania Department of Labor COVID-19 page for unemployment insurance updates

Link to Pennsylvania Department of Health COVID-19 page

Other Helpful COVID-19 Information Links

CDC Resources for Businesses and Employers

OSHA Guidance for preparing workplaces

United States Small Business Association Guidance for Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance Loans
In response to economic impact of COVID-19, the United States Small Business Administration will offer up to $2 million in disaster assistance loans to small businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Late last week, President Donald Trump announced up to $50 billion in low-interest loans for small businesses around the United States. There is no limit on the number of loans available in each state; the $2 million limit applies to each eligible business. For details, click here.