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[Online Version at FloridaBusiness.org](https://www.floridabusiness.org)

**COVID-19 Business Resource Center: [VolusiaBusinessResources.com](https://www.volusiabusinessresources.com)**

**SMALL BUSINESS REOPENING GRANT STILL AVAILABLE** – Qualifying businesses with a physical, brick-and-mortar location in a commercial or industrial space in Volusia County may be eligible to receive a one-time Reopening Grant Program grant of \$3,000 for businesses that have 25 employees or less or \$5,000 for businesses that have between 26 and 50 employees. The grant is made available to help small businesses recover from the negative financial consequences resulting from the COVID19. Since the inception of the grant program, more than 2,100 grants have been approved totaling \$6.6 million awarded. Funds are still available. [Brick-and-mortar businesses should review the grant criteria and apply online.](#)

**HOME-BASED BUSINESS GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE** – Qualifying home-based businesses that are located in Volusia County and have up to 50 employees may be eligible to receive a one-time grant of \$1,500 to help them recover from the negative financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and relaunch their Volusia County business. [Review the complete list of grant criteria details and apply online.](#)

**VOLUSIA COUNTY QUARTERLY ECONOMIC UPDATE** – Prior to the disruption of COVID-19, the Volusia County Economic Development Division provided free quarterly community briefings, known as “Q” meetings, to present the most recent economic indicators and trends that impact our county’s economy. To minimize the spread of COVID-19, these briefings have been canceled; however, the compilation of quarterly data is still generated. The 2020 first quarter report included average annual wages, number of establishments and employment levels by industry super sectors, labor market conditions for Volusia County and municipalities, commercial and residential new construction building permit trends, and COVID-19 related small business assistance program loans awarded at the state and federal level. [Check out the 1Q-2020 Q Book update on Floridabusiness.org.](#)

**CDC FAQs ON REDUCING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN WORKPLACES** – Building on its Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers and Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Workers, [the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) has provided answers to frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) of particular interest to employers and business owners. The FAQs address how to reduce the workplace spread of COVID-19. The topics include keeping employees who interact with customers safe, the difference between cloth face coverings and PPE, recommended frequency of employee hand-washing, handling and storage of cloth face coverings, and the best way to screen employees for COVID-19 symptoms.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OFFERING VIRTUAL INTRODUCTIONS FOR U.S. EXPORTERS** – The U.S. Department of Commerce’s (USDOC) Virtual Introduction service provides U.S. companies with a virtual introduction via conference call or email to a foreign buyer/partner they have pre-identified. To be eligible, you must be an export-ready U.S. company seeking to export goods or services of U.S. origin or that have at least 51% U.S. content. Subject to Small Business Administration eligibility guidelines, the fee for the Virtual Introduction service is \$30 per introduction for small companies, \$70 per introduction for medium companies and \$90 per introduction for large companies. To learn more about the service, contact USDOC Senior International Trade Specialist [Mindi Hertzog](#).

**AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION TIPS ON COPING WITH COVID-19 STRESS** – COVID-19 is presenting new and unique challenges to workers and employers alike. Daily living routines are disrupted, causing added anxiety, stress and strain – physically, mentally and financially. To help counter these challenges to mental health, the American Psychiatric Association Foundation Center for Workplace Health offers a [resource with practical tips on taking care of our mental health and well-being](#). Tips include keeping a regular schedule, staying healthy, getting creative on connecting with others, getting fresh air and staying informed.

**CLEANING PRODUCT SUPPLY CHAINS STRUGGLE TO MEET DEMAND** – As reported at [supplychaindive.com](#), the disinfectant and cleaning product industry has ramped up production but cannot radically move the output meter in a short timeframe. Challenges include unprecedented demand by consumers and institutions, limits to production expansions due to the industry’s just-in-time supply chain method, an overwhelmed EPA, and difficulty in procuring needed chemicals and product containers.

**NIelsen AUDIENCE REPORT: WITH MORE TIME AT HOME, WORK DAYS AND MEDIA HABITS MERGE** – As reported by [a recent Nielsen Insight](#), the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the day-to-day lives of nearly every consumer the world over. In the U.S., the country’s quarantine forced many to bring the office home, effectively blurring the lines between work, life and leisure. According to Nielsen’s [Total Audience Report: Work from Home Edition](#), two-thirds (66%) of U.S. remote workers reported to have started working from home since the coronavirus outbreak.

**NEWS ITEMS WANTED!** – Please send your business news items to [Joanne Magley](#). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.