March 16, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Dear Business Partners,

Sarasota County’s priority is to provide the most up-to-date, impactful business information available. Sarasota County wants your business to endure minimal interruption during this time. Health and government officials are working together to maintain the safety, security, and health of the community. Small businesses are encouraged to do their part to keep their employees, customers, and themselves healthy.

**COVID-19 Important Business Information:**
On March 12, 2020 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. The survey, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin. The Business Damage Assessment Survey can be taken online.

For the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 in Florida, please visit the Florida Department of Health’s dedicated COVID-19 webpage.

**COVID-19 Key Links:**
- **Centers for Disease Control:** The Centers for Disease Control continues to update guidance on COVID-19.
- **Enterprise Florida:** The Official Economic Development Organization for the State of Florida.
- **Florida Chamber of Commerce:** The Florida Chamber of Commerce is an organization devoted to the advocacy of private businesses in the State of Florida.
- **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:** The state and federal programs administered by DEO help support local businesses, engage talented job seekers and enhance our state’s diverse communities.
- **Florida Small Business Development Center:** State designated as Florida’s principal provider of business assistance, the Florida SBDC provides tools and expertise to help Florida’s small businesses succeed.
- **Manasota SCORE:** Is a non-profit resource partner of the Small Business Administration.
- **Sarasota County Government:** COVID-19 county related efforts.
- **Small Business Administration:** The SBA is a United States government agency that provides support to entrepreneurs and small businesses to plan and respond.
- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce:** The largest business organization representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. They count on the chamber to be their voice in Washington, D.C.

We will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

Sarasota County Department of Governmental Relations