



April 3, 2020

[Constituent Services](#)

Contact: 561-998-9045

Coronavirus FAQs

Dear Neighbor,

Keeping you updated and informed during the coronavirus pandemic is my top priority. On Wednesday, Governor DeSantis issued a “Stay-at-Home” order for Florida for the rest of April, recognizing the importance of staying at home to slow the spread of coronavirus throughout our county and state. Please follow this guidance closely and stay home – except for essential services and necessary fresh air – to help protect yourself and your community from the spread of this disease.

Join me this afternoon for a Facebook live Q&A with Dr. Brent Schillinger from the Palm Beach Country Medical Society. We’ll be answering some of your most frequently asked health-related coronavirus questions, and giving you resources and tools to keep yourselves safe during this crisis. At 2pm EST [click here](#) to watch the livestream.

We are all in this together, and it is more important than ever that we all follow [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance](#) to stop the spread of the coronavirus in our community. Please continue to wash your hands often, disinfect frequently used surfaces, and practice social distancing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I've lost my job or my hours have been reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic. Can I get unemployment benefits?

Yes. Go to <https://connect.myflorida.com> or call 1-800-204-2418 to apply. Those who are eligible will be able to get up to \$275 per week for up to 12 weeks in state unemployment benefits, as well as an additional \$600 per week for up to four months in federal benefits.

I'm having trouble getting through to Florida's unemployment benefits website. What should I do?

This is a frequent complaint due to the large number of applicants. The Governor's office is in charge, and they told us they are working urgently to improve the site. I will continue to press the issue.

I am self-employed or an independent contractor. Do these benefits apply to me?

Yes, thanks to a new federal law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Go to <https://connect.myflorida.com> or call 1-800-204-2418 to apply.

My small business is suffering as a result of the pandemic. What resources are available to me?

There are a number of different opportunities. The new [Paycheck Protection Program](#) provides assistance to employers to maintain their payroll and expenses during

this public health emergency. These will be available retroactively from Feb. 15, 2020.

Beginning on April 3rd, businesses can go to a participating SBA 7(a) lender, bank, or credit union, apply for a loan, and be approved on the same day. These loans feature eight weeks fully forgivable funds to cover payroll, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

Small businesses are also eligible to apply online for immediate relief through [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) for an advance of up to \$10,000 within three days, and [Emergency Bridge Loans](#) to help bridge the short-term gap in resources available. [Subscribe to SBA emails](#) for updates on available webinars and other resources and [click here](#) for more information on other resources available to small businesses.

I heard the government will be sending checks to people. How do I know if I qualify and when will I get my payment?

If you make \$75,000 (\$150,000 for married couples) or less per year, you will receive a payment of \$1,200, with an additional \$500 per child (16 and under). This payment decreases as incomes increase and stops entirely at \$99,000 (\$198,000 for married couples).

Payments will be issued by the IRS via direct deposit and will be based on your 2019 tax returns. If you have not filed for 2019 yet, then it will be based on your 2018 filing. If the IRS does not have your bank account information on file there will be an opportunity to submit this information to the IRS online. If you do not typically file a tax return, you will likely need to file a simple tax return to receive the

economic assistance (the IRS instructions will be available [here](#) soon).

I'm on Social Security. Will I still get a stimulus check?

Yes. Everyone is eligible for the payments as long as they have a social security number and meet the household incomes limits listed above. This includes Social Security beneficiaries (retirement, disability, survivor) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. You will receive this money the same way you receive your Social Security payments.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

As always, I encourage everyone to follow the [CDC's best practices](#) and rely on the [CDC](#), [Palm Beach County Health Department](#), and [Florida Health Department](#) for the most accurate and up-to-date information on confirmed cases.

Please also consider registering to vote-by-mail for the upcoming elections [here](#).

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to my office in Boca Raton or D.C. by calling the numbers listed below. For regular updates, follow me on social media @RepLoisFrankel or sign up for my newsletter [here](#).

Sincerely,



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