

From: Ashland Chamber of Commerce <info@visitashland.net>
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To: officemgr@visitashland.com
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Recap of webinars and information that is very important regarding the new Family & Medical Leave act!

WMC COVID-19 Webinar - Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), its trade association partners and local chambers hosted an update call with Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. The call detailed the state government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and updated how the business community is being impacted. The call featured updates from numerous industry-specific trade associations as to how COVID-19 is impacting their sectors of the business community.

- [Click here to listen to the full webinar.](#)

WMC COVID-19 Update: U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher & Industry Reports

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), its trade association partners and local chambers invite you to a business coalition update call with U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher. The call will detail federal government's legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and update you on how the business community is impacted. The call will also feature updates from numerous industry-specific trade associations. **(Friday, March 27 at 10:00AM)**

- [Click here to register for the webinar](#)

We have attached FAQ's for the Safer at Home and want to reiterate that there is no need for documentation to travel to essential businesses. It is highlighted in the area.

<https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/COVID19/Safer%20at%20Home%20FAQ%203.24.20.pdf>

U.S. DOL Invites Stakeholders to a National Online Dialogue on Paid Family and Medical Leave and Paid Sick Leave

On Wednesday, March 18th, President Trump signed into law the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). This law requires employers to provide paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave due to COVID-19.

The FFCRA provides that employees of covered employers are eligible for:

- ***Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick time at the employee's regular rate of pay where the employee is unable to work because the employee is quarantined and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis; or***
- ***Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick time at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay because the employee is unable to work because of a need to care for an individual subject to quarantine, or to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable and/or the employee is experiencing a substantially similar condition as specified by the Department of Health and Human Services; and***
- ***Up to an additional 10 weeks of paid family and medical leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay where an employee, who has been employed for at least 30 calendar days, is unable to work due to a need for leave to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable.***

The FFCRA applies to employers with 1-499 employees and requires no minimum days of employment before an individual qualifies. Any individual who works for a small business employer would qualify. However, the U.S. Secretary of Labor has the authority for good cause to issue regulations that would exclude health care and emergency responders from the definition of "eligible employees." He can also exempt small businesses of less than 50 employees from leave to care for children if childcare or school is cancelled, because something like that could threaten the viability of their business. The department's Wage

and Hour Division (WHD) will administer and enforce the paid leave provisions of the FFCRA. The provisions will apply from their effective date through Dec. 31, 2020.

The U.S Department of Labor is hosting a national dialogue to help employers and workers understand their rights and responsibilities under the FFCRA. During this national dialogue the public, including employers, workers and their advocacy groups, can participate in a national online conversation through Sunday, March 29th, 2020. **We encourage all of our Small Business Members to weigh in and make sure their voice is heard as guidelines and exemptions will be written that could impact your company. Please [register to participate](#).**

[Click here](#) for the full Department of Labor news release

BUSINESS UPDATES

Please continue to email information regarding your business to info@visitashland.com as we will continue to update the [website](#) and Facebook pages. We will continue to work with our state and federal agencies via webinars and remote meetings to keep everyone updated on the latest information that will assist businesses and employees.

SUPPORT YOUR SMALL BUSINESSES

Check out our One Stop Gift Certificate Shop on our E-commerce page at visitashland.com. Many people are home from work and receiving a paycheck, and very concerned about our small businesses that have been severely impacted. Providing a one-stop shop for folks to show support of our small businesses and purchase gift cards will hopefully help some of you in this crisis situation. These are certificates for the individual businesses. This is a work in progress so please be patient and keep checking back. If you don't see your business and would like to be listed on our Chamber Store site, please email info@visitashland.com. <https://shop.visitashland.net/15-chamber-store>

CHAMBER HOURS

In an effort to limit our people to people contact, the Ashland Area Chamber of

Commerce will close the office. We want to assure you that one of our highest priorities is the health of our staff, customers and the well-being of our community regarding COVID -19. If you need anything, please call our office; we have remote access to the phone lines 715-682-2500. If you need chamber dollars reimbursed, please email Mary at info@visitashland.com and we can take care of that as well.

Other news

Income tax filing deadline moved to July 15 from April 15

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has announced that the deadline for filing U.S. income taxes has been moved from April 15 to July 15. Mnuchin tweeted Thursday morning that at President Donald Trump' direction, "we are moving Tax Day from April 15 to July 15. [Click here to learn more](#)

WHO officials say at least 20 coronavirus vaccines are in development in global race for cure

The World Health Organization is working with scientists across the globe on at least 20 different coronavirus vaccines with some already in clinical trials in record time — just 60 days after sequencing the gene. [Click here to learn more](#)

VOTE

Important time for Americans to vote. If you intend to vote in Wisconsin, please go to "myvote.wi.gov" and request that an absentee ballot be sent to you.

[Treatments for COVID-19: Drugs being tested against the coronavirus](#)

Other Links

- [Ashland Area Development Website during Covid-19](#)

- Updated action letter from Xcel Energy. Please note the 3rd and 4th bullet point.
- Travel Advisory for Ashland County
- Travel Advisory for Bayfield County



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