



## COVID-19 Resources For Businesses Preparing to Reopen

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North Carolina employers are closely following the governor's direction on when and how it will be appropriate to reopen for business. But it won't be business as usual if employers are to protect their workers and the public from spread of the virus. Companies are turning to a number of resources to help prepare for reopening. The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina lists some of those resources below, emphasizing that businesses always need to follow protocols set by the governor and local and state health officials.

**For general questions, call Business Link North Carolina (BLNC) at 800.228.8443.** BLNC staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4. p.m. to connect your business to the appropriate organization for assistance. All inquiries will receive a confidential response from a business counselor within three business days. “Se Habla Español.”

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- **The Governor's Three-Phase Plan.** This [April 23 press release](#) outlines the governor's stay-at-home order, including plans for lifting restrictions in three phases once the data show that key metrics are headed in the right direction.
- **N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.** Business can find the latest information on COVID-19 in N.C. by visiting the [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#) website. The site includes links to specialized advice for specific industries including [meat and poultry processing](#) and others.
- **Protecting Your Business from COVID-19.** [This guide from the National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) can help businesses prepare for the impacts of COVID-19 and protect their facility and employees from exposure.
- **CDC Posters and Flyers to Post in Your Business.** This [link provides free downloadable materials](#) you can print and display in your workplace. They were developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support COVID-19 safety recommendations are available in multiple languages.



- **EPA Information on Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19.** The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website](#) provides helpful information include a list of disinfectants that meet EPA standards for use against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- **Responding to a COVID-19 Exposure at Your Business.** Businesses [can download this checklist](#) of what to do if they suspect a COVID-19 exposure has occurred at their facility. The advice is based on CDC recommendations. Business should be sure to refer to North Carolina state recommendations as well.
- **OSHA Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has developed the 35-page “Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19,” which [can be downloaded here](#).
- **OSHA Record-Keeping Requirements for COVID-19.** [This link highlights](#) OSHA standards and directives (instructions for compliance officers) that may apply to worker exposure to COVID-19.
- **Virus Mitigation Strategies for Communities.** This [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) document](#) covers mitigation strategies for communities with various levels of local transmission of COVID-19, including a section on what workplaces can do.
- **Guidance for Restaurants.** The NC Restaurant and Lodging Association has [recently provided this guide](#) on best practices and procedures for restaurants preparing to reopen.
- **Operation Open Doors Checklist for Retailers.** The National Retail Federation [has issued a checklist](#) for reopening, encouraging restaurants to work with their legal and financial advisers to adapt recommendations to their specific circumstances.
- **U.S. Food and Drug Administration Food Safety Website.** The FDA’s [Food Safety and Coronavirus Disease website](#) has a wealth of information regarding food safety for consumers as well as businesses and workers in farming and in food production, processing, and retail settings.
- **U.S Department of Agriculture Website.** The [USDA website](#) has a list of frequently asked questions related to COVID-19, operations of the USDA’s Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service and more.