

The Sonoma Index-Tribune

OUR 140TH YEAR SERVING SONOMA VALLEY

Sonoma Valley, California ■ SonomaNews.com

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Business

■ STRICTLY BUSINESS ■

Help for local businesses and employees in light of COVID-19

Business news from in and around Sonoma Valley

Grocery delivery: Instacart is offering new customers a discount. (Instacart works with Sonoma's local Lucky store, Glen Ellen Market and a couple others depending on where you live). Use promo codes "fruit100" or "snacks100" to save \$10 off orders of \$50 or more for your first 10 orders or first two weeks. [instacart.com](https://www.instacart.com).

Local loans: The Sonoma Chamber has a list of local lenders who can help struggling small businesses, and La Luz is offering micro-loans for some small businesses located in Sonoma Valley, with a primary focus in the Springs communities. For more information, contact Mayra Mizrahi at mayra@laluzcenter.org.

Federal loans: Federal low-interest disaster loans available for California businesses. The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering California businesses that have suffered from coronavirus up to \$2 million in loans at 2.75-3.75 percent. Businesses can apply here at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/. Facebook is offering

business grants at facebook.com/business/grants.

Unemployment: There is partial wage replacement available to people who are technically still employed but aren't getting the hours they're used to. Workers can apply through the State of California's Employment Development Department. Workers who plan on returning to their current employers within a few weeks don't have to actively seek new work to qualify for benefits. How much money you get depends on your previous wages and can range from \$40 to \$450 per week. The one-week unpaid waiting period has been waived. edd.ca.gov/unemployment.

Other financial help: Eater.com has created a list of nonprofits and other grassroots organizations nationwide working to help restaurant and bar workers affected by COVID-19. See the list online at eater.com.

County Help: The Sonoma County Economic Development Board has created a Coronavirus Business Resource Guide that is a comprehensive list of local, state and government resources



Sonoma's new Dirty Girl Donuts is selling donuts for takeout only while supplies last each morning from the former Massage Envy storefront.

and benefits for businesses and employees affected by the emerging situation. There is also a new hotline (in English and Spanish) at 707-565-4667 specifically to answer questions about how businesses are affected by the shelter-in-place order. The resource guide is online at sonomaedb.org/Business-Assistance/Business-Assistance-Coronavirus.

Community help: The

community can help by supporting local restaurants. Restaurants can still provide takeout, delivery and drive-thru services, so ordering out is one way to support them.

Another way to support local businesses is to purchase online gift cards to use at a later date. And when you are at the local market, purchase Sonoma Valley wines, beers and spirits.

Local company making national news: Sonoma valley's Prohibition Spirits was first out of the gate to offer spirits-based hand sanitizer sprays, and they made it on the national news, including Forbes and Bloomberg. They have added additional scents including Pina Colada and Lemon Drop Martini but are challenged in getting it to locals. They are now offering online ordering and drive-through pickup at their distillery at 21877 Eighth St. E. from noon to 3 p.m. weekdays.

Business tip: If your business is closed due to COVID-19, and you haven't already, call your business insurance broker to ask what type of business interruption insurance you have. Courtesy of Haeuser, Valluzzo & Piasta.

Bike repair: Teen Services' Operation Bicycle on Highway 12 is open for repairs and sales, but without teen assistants. Their bikes are a perfect way to get outside in the fresh air and get places without using public transportation.

Email business news to managingeditor@sonomanews.com.