

Merced Office
1205 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 724-2100

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE INVESTMENT



David Mirrione - Director
www.worknetmerced.com

Los Banos Office
800 7th Street
Los Banos, CA 93635
(209) 710-6140

Dear Business Owner,

A pandemic like COVID-19 has profound impacts on our workers and businesses, and Worknet Merced County is working to support those who may lose their jobs and employers whose businesses will be impacted. Funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Worknet Merced County is the organization that provides workforce development services to the county, and is housed in the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment. We have an appointed Workforce Development Board consisting of community leaders of which a majority are business owners or key business decision makers. This Board is the designated entity to oversee and direct our services, which includes services for those who are laid-off, who have difficulty finding jobs, or who are youth who are disconnected from education and employment. As part of our services, we connect to businesses to ensure that they are able to hire people who will help businesses grow and to ensure that businesses in the county are aware of the services that the county, state, and federal government provides to assist them as needed.

There are many resources for businesses to get through this difficult time. Some of these resources include:

- California Employment Development Department's COVID-19 Employer Resources page, which provides information for workers and employers on tools and resources for the crisis: https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm
- Small Business Administration COVID-19 Guidance and Loan Resources for small businesses: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
- SBA Disaster Assistance for California Small Businesses Impacted by the Coronavirus: <http://www.oesnews.com/sba-offers-disaster-assistance-to-california-small-businesses-economically-impacted-by-the-coronavirus-covid-19-2/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance for businesses, which outlines strategies to prevent workplace exposures: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Worknet Merced County has contracted with a statewide leader in advocacy for employers, the California Employers Association, to host a Human Resources Hotline. This service is available to all employers from Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm. It is operated by a trained professional who can give advice on questions regarding any HR issue you might be facing, such as potential layoffs, leave issues, or others. Please call (888) 906-0041 to get help with the Human Resources issues that you have questions about.

Attached, you will find valuable information from the Employment Development Department (EDD). In regards to the Work-Sharing Unemployment Insurance Program benefits individuals whose wages and hours have been reduced due to the current concerns across the state.



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The Worknet Merced County Rapid Response team can assist you with your workforce needs to help avert layoffs. If your business is experiencing changes to your workforce, reduction in force, layoffs, or closures, please let us know, and we can help. For more information, please contact our Business Service Team at (209) 724-2100.

In general, Merced County is working to keep you informed of Coronavirus as the situation evolves, and we invite you to see our dedicated site by going to the county's website at <http://countyofmerced.com/coronavirus> for the latest updates.

Thank you,

David Mirrione
Assistant County Executive Officer, Merced County
Director, Workforce Development Board of Merced County

