

PPP Replenished

A nearly \$500 billion coronavirus aid package passed the U.S. Congress and was signed into law on April 24th. The bill includes an additional \$321 billion for the popular Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and also included an additional \$60 billion for the tapped-out Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) fund, administered by the Small Business Administration. The remainder of funds were designated for hospitals and national coronavirus testing.

The PPP loan was a key component of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which became law on March 27. The CARES Act provided \$349 billion for initial funding to guarantee PPP loans for small businesses through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) that equal up to 250% of a company's monthly payroll (capped at \$10 million), which can be used to cover payroll, mortgages, rent and other specified expenses. The PPP program began on April 3, but the initial amount funded by Congress was not enough to address the large numbers of small businesses taking advantage of the program.

Some Minnesota Counties Grant Tax Deadline Flexibility

In response to the economic hardship facing businesses across the state a number of counties have moved to delay penalties or interest on property tax payments that would otherwise have been due on May 15th. Hennepin, Ramsey, Olmsted, Crow Wing, and Winona counties have all eased deadlines around property taxes to provide flexibility to struggling businesses and other counties are considering similar moves.

The issue was discussed this week in the House Tax Committee where Chair Paul Marquart (DFL –Dilworth) explained that he prefers a county-by-county approach rather than a one-size fits all policy from the state. Counties have different types of property tax bases and allowing them to individually act in a way that makes sense for their specific situation is the preferred approach from the Legislature. This approach means businesses should review what county action has occurred or is being contemplated regarding property tax payment options in the county your business is located.

Unemployment Benefits for Self-Employed and Contract Workers

Thanks to a new federal program, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), unemployment benefits will soon be available for people who are self-employed and contract workers. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is working with the U.S. Labor Department to get a new system up and running so these payments can be made.

In the meantime, self-employed and contract workers should follow the steps outlined [here](#) (Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window) to apply for Unemployment Insurance [here](#). (Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)

The UI system will likely deny your application, but DEED will flag your account and follow up with you when the PUA program is ready at the end of April.

Webinar: How Professional Restorers Deal with "Disinfecting" Vehicles – COVID-19 Special

Recognizing that the industry is seeking appropriate responses and practices, the Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) has scheduled a webinar at **12:00 Noon, CST on Tuesday, April 28th 2020**, to learn from professional restorers experienced in restoration, decontamination and infectious disease control.

Click here to register for the free webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_877fyHmOTE2rQR1R8UIcxA (Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)

Ford/Lincoln: Coronavirus Recommended Disinfection Procedure

Ford Motor Company has released Coronavirus Recommended Disinfection Procedure Summary for collision shops repairing Ford/Lincoln vehicles. It could certainly serve as a useful reference for any shop – collision or mechanical – when repairing any vehicle. The information can be found here:

<https://application-ford-fordcrashparts.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus-Recommended-Disinfection-Procedure-Summary2020.pdf> **(Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)**

The document refers to recommended disinfection products, which can be found here:

<https://application-ford-fordcrashparts.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/2020-Coronavirus-Recommended-Disinfection-Products-Commercial-Consumer-Products.pdf> **(Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)**

Return to Work Guidelines

This week, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce released a list of “best practices” for businesses throughout the state to safely return to work. The information, applicable to most workplaces, was developed with the idea that business operations can and should return to a sustainable level without jeopardizing employees’ or customer safety.

We thought this information may be helpful to members as you prepare your shops for the new “normal” that we’ll all likely be living until a treatment or vaccine is developed for COVID-19.

The information can be found here:

<https://www.mnchamber.com/sites/default/files/MN%20Chamber%20Best%20Practices%20edition%201.pdf> **(Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)**

Free Customized Door Sign

AASP Preferred Provider, Autoshop Solutions, is offering shops a free, customizable door sign. It takes seconds to create, customize, and download a unique PNG graphic that can be used to communicate changes to business operations, including business hours and service offerings, such as online appointment scheduling and payment, pick-up and delivery service, special discounts, and more. This resource is accessible on the [Autoshop Solutions website](#). **(Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)** Thanks, Autoshop!

Connect With Other Shops

The Zoom Mech XChange and BS Sessions have proven to be a popular way for members to connect with each other. The sessions have been informative and inspiring, with members sharing their experiences and advice for dealing with the multitude of changes and challenges that have come their way during this crisis. At members’ request, follow-up programs have been scheduled as follows:

Collision members, attend the [BS Session](#) **(Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)** on May 6th.

Mechanical members, attend the [Mech XChange](#) **(Press Ctrl key and click to open in a new window)** on May 7th.

Both programs are scheduled from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Note: This content and analysis is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Please consult your legal and financial advisors for detailed information before taking any action.