



Hello city of Franklin. My staff, City Council and I want to keep you informed on the COVID19 Pandemic. We are asking you not to panic, but take this seriously. Public health and safety is our top priority.

One week ago Governor Holcomb invoked an executive order for all Indiana residents, to stay home for two weeks from all non-essential activities. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) commissioner reported regular vehicle travel is down 41%. I am asking all Franklin & Johnson county residents to think about what's essential and non-essential when you leave your home.

The Franklin schools, Franklin Recreation Center, and Active Adult Center are closed until May 1st. We will re-evaluate after May 1st and look to state officials for direction.

Dr. David Dunkle and his staff at Johnson Memorial Health recently opened their new emergency wing. This new wing is dedicated to COVID19 patients. Thank you to all health care workers and first responders.

Franklin's biggest asset is our people. We have an outpouring number of people who want to donate during this time of need. The City of Franklin, Franklin Community Schools, and several local churches are working alongside Kim Smith with

Senior Services to make sure our senior population is fed. The City will provide a location at 180 South Jackson St. to bring donations of food and other items. Eric Rose will help organize volunteers for delivery of the items. There will be more information about these efforts a little later. If you or your organization would like to start gathering items - we are in need of hand sanitizer, face masks, eye protection, and cleaning supplies. These are items needed for volunteers to ensure their safety and the safety of our vulnerable population. The City will keep updated information on their website at Franklin.IN.Gov. If you have questions about volunteering or information found on the website, please contact Communications Director – Tara Payne at tpayne@franklin.in.gov.

One of the churches in Franklin has made sure children in need from Franklin Community Schools have food through at least the end of April. A group called “Better Together” is working on an online platform to address mental health and keeping people virtually connected during this time. I truly appreciate all of the people stepping up in our community to help one another.

Carol Phipps with the Inter Church Food Pantry is also in need of donations and volunteers. PLEASE email Carol if you can help.

Our small businesses make Franklin a unique destination. If you’re a small business owner, you’re probably wondering who is eligible for small business loans in the economic stimulus

package President Trump recently signed into law, and how do you apply. Most important, an 8 week covered period does not have to be paid back. Any business with less than 500 employees is eligible for the loan. All states and territories are eligible. Self-employed individuals, independent contractors, and sole proprietors are also eligible.

The total amount of money going in the fund is \$349 billion. The loans are federally-guaranteed (meaning there is no interest on the loan), and tax-free. All loan payments are deferred for one year.

The amount any small business is eligible to borrow is 250 percent of their average monthly payroll expenses, up to a total of \$10 million. As I stated earlier, a portion of the loan is forgivable, meaning it doesn't have to be paid back, during what is called an eight week covered period. This amount is intended to cover 8 weeks of payroll expenses, employee health care, interest on mortgages, rent, utilities, and debt payments are included. This 8-week period may be applied to any time frame between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020. If the crisis continues longer than expected, the law can be amended and the time period extended.

Priority will be given to businesses in under-served and rural markets, including veterans and members of the military community, women, socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and businesses that are less than two years old.

More than 1,000 lending agencies will be participating in the program. You can apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) at any lending institution that is approved to participate in the program through the existing U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) lending program and additional lenders approved by the Department of Treasury. This could be the bank you already use, or a nearby bank. There are thousands of banks that already participate in the SBA's lending programs, including numerous community banks. You do not have to visit any government institution to apply for the program. You can call your bank or find SBA-approved lenders in your area through SBA's online [Lender Match](#) tool. You must apply by June 30th, 2020. Small businesses are the backbone of the Franklin community. I want each and every one of you to survive this crisis. Please don't delay, contact your bank to apply.

If you are a Franklin area resident, small businesses need you now more than ever. Find a way to help if you're able to. You can purchase gift cards, keep your subscriptions and memberships, make an online purchase. Keep an eye out on social media for the creative ways small businesses are adapting.

Please contact our Community Development Department for additional information regarding small business loans. Krista Linke at klinke@franklin.in.gov or Dana Monson at dmonson@franklin.in.gov.

If you have been laid off due to COVID-19, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development website (in.gov/dwd) has everything you need to know about how to file for unemployment insurance benefits. There is a very helpful COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Frequently Asked Questions button. This will answer many of your questions about who is eligible to apply. There is another button to click to view recently recorded webinars on YouTube that are very informational. Do not delay in filing your claim. You should file the first day you are unable to work. Remember, all physical offices are closed, and all unemployment claims must be filed electronically from a computer or smart phone.

I hope you have found this information helpful. Stay positive and practice social distancing. We will get through this together. We will be stronger and closer than ever before. Franklin will always be the best place to live, work, and play for a lifetime.