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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

# SENATOR TOM SHERMAN

DISTRICT 24 NEWSLETTER

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## Updates

In anticipation of COVID-19 reaching its peak in New Hampshire, I have been working closely with the towns of District 24. Last week I met on online platforms with District 24 town officials. These meetings promote communication between state delegation and local administration. We share helpful information among all of the towns and always leave the meetings with a lengthy action item list. Due to their success, these meetings will occur weekly with all towns for the foreseeable future.



**Dr. Sherman on call**

## Small Business and Unemployment Resources

**There have been several initiatives in both the public and private sectors to help both individuals and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic:**

**Eversource** is providing help to small businesses. In normal operations, small business customers get up to three months for bill payment arrangements. To support small business customers through the COVID-19 crisis, Eversource is offering a \$0 down payment and a 12-month payment arrangement, with the first payment not due until June 1. Call them if you need this assistance. Their contact number is 844-273-7760.

For those eligible under **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**, the state portion of low earners' payments will increase from a minimum \$32/week to \$168/week. The \$600 that one can receive from the federal government is in addition to this figure. The \$600 per week federal unemployment just passed by Congress should have begun to be added to most individual's weekly benefits for all weeks claimed. However, it is unclear at this time whether this benefit will be available to self-employed; the federal government has not yet issued specific rules covering this. Congress also extended unemployment by 13 weeks, for a total of 39 weeks.

## Those who can collect unemployment benefits in New Hampshire now include:

- If your employer temporarily closes due to COVID-19.
- Individuals that need to self-quarantine or are directed to quarantine at the instruction of a healthcare provider, employer or government official.
- Individuals that need to care for a family member that has COVID-19 or is under quarantine. Individuals that need to care for a dependent because of school closures, child care facility closures or other similar types of care programs.
- Self-employed individuals that are temporarily unable to operate their business because of any of the above listed situations will also be eligible.

To apply for these benefits visit, <https://www.nhes.nh.gov/> or call 603-271-7700. Please note call times are currently very long as many individuals are applying for benefits, however, all calls are answered.

## Additional Small Business and Unemployment Resources

The **NH Work Share Program** enables employers to temporarily reduce their workforce in a particular unit, shift or company 10% - 50% and avert a layoff. They can then recall the employees when business increases. To learn more about this program visit <https://www.nhes.nh.gov/nhworking/stay/index.htm>, and to submit a Work Share Application visit <https://nhuis.nh.gov/employer/employerLogin>.

The **NH Department of Revenue Business Tax (BPT and BET)** relief allows 98% of taxpayers to file and pay for tax year 2019 by June 15th without penalties or interest. Safe harbors were created to ease complications associated with the federal tax day extension. To learn more visit [https://www.nheconomy.com/NHEconomy/media/NH-Economy/03-30-20\\_DRA\\_COVID-19-Tax-Relief\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.nheconomy.com/NHEconomy/media/NH-Economy/03-30-20_DRA_COVID-19-Tax-Relief_FINAL.pdf)

Business loan programs administered by the **NH Business Finance Authority (BFA)** include small-business loan guarantees, the Capital Access Program, the Guarantee Asset Program, and the Working Capital Line of Credit Guarantee. In addition, the BFA offers finance programs designed to help local or regional economic development organizations recapitalize or expand to stimulate business movement to the state. To view, and apply to NH BFA programs visit <https://nhbfa.com/>.

**If you have lost your workplace healthcare benefit, you may apply for the ACA.**  
They have extended the application period: [consumerservices@ins.nh.gov](mailto:consumerservices@ins.nh.gov)

**The NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs** is providing assistance to businesses affected by COVID-19 through custom and personal input from their Business Retention specialists. Contact your local specialist, **Mark Laliberte**, at [mark.laliberte@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:mark.laliberte@livefree.nh.gov).

Starting April 3, 2020, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for and receive loans to cover their payroll and other certain expenses through existing SBA lenders.

Starting April 10, 2020, independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply for and receive loans to cover their payroll and other certain expenses through existing SBA lenders. You can apply through any existing SBA lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating. Visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) for a list of SBA lenders

## DISTRICT HEROES

*In a time of crisis, most of do our best to reach out and help our family members, friends and neighbors. There are some whose actions demonstrate exemplary imagination, courage and compassion. Each week I would like to give special recognition to our own "District Heroes":*

Seabrook's police officers saved a domestic abuse victim's life by fearlessly capturing their perpetrator after a foot chase pursuit. Read more:  
<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20200327/seabrook-chief-officers-saved-domestic-violence-victimrsquo-s-life>

Rye local teen **Joey Martson** began printing 3D masks for local first responders when he learned that there was a shortage. He told reporters, "I'm going to keep on making them and as I make them, I'll deliver them in groups to fire departments in Portsmouth and Rye and also different hospitals." Read more:  
<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20200331/rye-teen-3d-printing-masks-for-first-responders-health-care-workers>

# COVID-19 Information

**Precautions to avoid transmission of COVID-19:** <https://bit.ly/3aJnEdv>

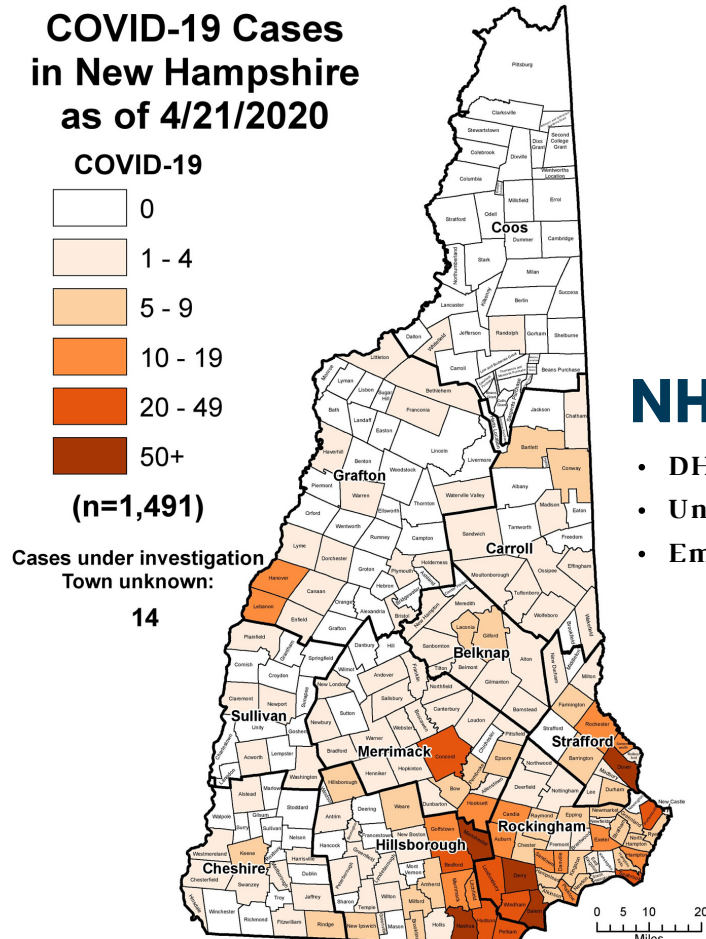
- Stay home unless have to go out on essential business (per Governor's Executive Order)
- Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds or apply alcohol-based hand sanitizer after any contact with others and several times during the day
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay at least six feet away from other people
- Cover coughs or sneezes with the inside of your elbow

## Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Less common – diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain

## What to do if sick or any of the above symptoms

- Call your primary care doctor
- Call 2-1-1



## NH COVID-19 Hotlines

- DHHS COVID-19 Hotline 2-1-1 or 603-634-3388
- Unemployment Assistance Hotline 603-271-7700
- Emergency Daycare System 855-393-1731

# NH COVID-19 Websites

- **NH DHHS COVID-19 Home Page** <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>
- **Gov's Emergency Orders** <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/index.htm>
- **COVID-19 NH Business Resources** <https://www.nheconomy.com/covid19>
- **Emergency Order #17 Essential Business List** <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/documents/emergency-order-17.pdf>
- **SBA Disaster Assistance** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- **NH PPE Supplies Needed** <https://www.nheconomy.com/ppehelp>
- **NH Employment Security - Unemployment Filing** <https://www.nhes.nh.gov/>
- **NH Responds Health Professional Volunteer Sign Up** <https://nhresponds.org/>
- **Nonprofit Volunteer Sign Up** <https://volunteernh.org/>
- **\$50M Hospital Relief Fund Applications** <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/media/pr/2020/03232020-healthcare-relief-fund.htm>
- **New Hampshire Hospitality Employee Relief Fund** <https://www.nhlra.com/new-hampshire-hospitality-employee-relief-fund.html>
- **Explanation of Public Health Monitoring and Movement Restriction Terms** <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/documents/terms.pdf>
- **Emergency Responders - Unprotected Exposure Guidelines** <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/documents/unprotected-exposure-guidance.pdf>
- **CDC Situation Summary** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **World Health Organization** [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## ABOUT SENATE DISTRICT 24

District 24 includes Seabrook, South Hampton, Newton, Kensington, Hampton Falls, Hampton, North Hampton, Greenland, Stratham, Rye and New Castle.