



# CONGRESSMAN MIKE KELLY

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Dear Neighbor,

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania took the fight against COVID-19 to the next level Friday when Governor Wolf ordered the closure of all businesses he deemed not essential to sustaining life. This abrupt decision created confusion in the Commonwealth both for employers and employees. Businesses and workers need resources to take the steps to comply and survive during these unprecedented times.

The governor has created waivers for which businesses can apply. More information on that process is below.

## **Resources for Dealing with Governor Wolf's Business Closure Order**

First, information on the governor's order can be found here: [All Non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania to close physical locations as of 8:00 p.m. today to slow spread of COVID-19](#). A list of "non-life-sustaining businesses," as defined by the governor, [can be found here](#).

The governor is granting some exemptions to this order.

- [Waiver Process for Keeping Physical Locations Open Form](#). For more information, email the Dept. of Community and Economic Development (DCED) at [RA-dcexemption@pa.gov](mailto:RA-dcexemption@pa.gov).
- DCED also established an email address for questions from businesses that will close under the order: [ra-dcedcs@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dcedcs@pa.gov).
- **Please note that the state has informed us that businesses may not operate while they wait for a determination on their waiver.**

Many have asked if I can change this order or fight against it. As a small business owner myself, I empathize with the difficulty this order poses, but as your federal Representative, I have no jurisdiction over Pennsylvania state policy. **To make your views known and advocate change, you should contact the governor's office and your representatives in Harrisburg.**

## Federal and State Tax Information

The IRS and the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue extended the personal tax filing deadline by 90 days to July 15.

- [Tax Day now July 15: Treasury, IRS extend filing deadline and federal tax payments regardless of amount owed](#)
- [Pennsylvania Extends Personal Income Tax Return Filing Deadline to July 15, 2020](#)

**This does not mean that if you file now, your refund will be delayed. If you are owed a refund, you are encouraged to file your taxes when you are ready.**

## Social Security Benefit Suspension and other Scams

The Social Security Administration is warning beneficiaries that unscrupulous people are trying to take advantage of seniors during this pandemic: [Inspector General Warns Public About New Social Security Benefit Suspension Scam](#).

### A few crucial reminders on Social Security:

- Social Security is [continuing benefit payments](#) even though offices are closed.
- **Any communication you receive (U.S. mail, email, phone calls, etc) indicating that your benefits are under threat because of coronavirus is a scam!**
- Please report any such communications to Social Security: [Report Social Security Scams](#).

Other Tips on how to keep yourself safe from fraud during the coronavirus pandemic:

- [FCC COVID-19 Consumer Warnings and Safety Tips](#)
- [FBI sees rise in fraud schemes related to COVID-19](#)
- [Department of Justice COVID-19 Fraud](#)

If you think you've been the victim of fraud, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via email at [disaster@leo.gov](mailto:disaster@leo.gov)

## False Information that Contributes to Panic

During times like these, bad information spreads like wildfire.

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established a web page dedicated to addressing various rumors spreading throughout our communities: [Coronavirus Rumor Control](#).

## Food Supplies and Courtesy to Neighbors

Because of panic, some people are hoarding food and supplies unnecessarily. In doing so, they are preventing others from accessing everyday items and making it harder for stores to keep shelves stocked with essentials people rely on. Now is a time to work together and be courteous to our neighbors, so please buy only what you need for a week in groceries and cleaning supplies. [American food supplies are strong](#). **Let's take the time to thank grocery store employees, truckers, and warehouse workers for laboring around the clock to get us what we need.**

# Update on Congressional Action to Support Americans

The U.S. Senate continues working on a third coronavirus legislative package that will provide direct support to American workers and small businesses. **Many have asked about how and when they will get stimulus checks and the amount they will receive.** That will be in the legislation under negotiation, which must pass the Senate before coming to the House of Representatives. I will update you on this soon.

Sincerely,



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

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