



May 20, 2020

[Gov. Kemp and State Officials to Give Update on COVID-19 Tomorrow at 4:30 p.m.](#)



Source: [Gov. Brian P. Kemp, Office of the Governor](#)

Governor Brian P. Kemp, along with other Georgia public health and safety officials, will give a COVID-19 update from the Capitol tomorrow, May 21 at 4:30 p.m. The briefing will be live streamed on [Facebook](#) or [Georgia Public Broadcasting](#).

[SBA and Treasury Release Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Application](#)



Source: [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

Late last week, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, released the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness Application along with detailed instructions for the application process. The form and its instructions walk borrowers through the steps and criteria needed to apply for

forgiveness of their PPP loans, consistent with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Borrowers can also soon expect the SBA to issue regulations and guidance to further assist borrowers as they complete their applications, and to provide lenders with guidance on their responsibilities.

The form and instructions include several measures to reduce compliance burdens and simplify the process for borrowers, including:

- Options for borrowers to calculate payroll costs using an "alternative payroll covered period" that aligns with borrowers' regular payroll cycles
- Flexibility to include eligible payroll and non-payroll expenses paid or incurred during the eight-week period after receiving their PPP loan
- Step-by-step instructions on how to perform the calculations required by the CARES Act to confirm eligibility for loan forgiveness
- Borrower-friendly implementation of statutory exemptions from loan forgiveness reduction based on rehiring by June 30
- Addition of a new exemption from the loan forgiveness reduction for borrowers who have made a good-faith, written offer to rehire workers that was declined

The PPP was created by the CARES Act to provide forgivable loans to eligible small businesses to keep American workers on the payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. The documents released today will help small businesses seek forgiveness at the conclusion of the eight-week covered period, which begins with the disbursement of their loans. To apply for forgiveness of your Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, you (the Borrower) must complete the application as directed in the instructions, and submit it to your Lender (or the Lender that is servicing your loan). Borrowers may also complete the application electronically through their Lender.

[Click here](#) to view the application and instructions.

## Georgia Improves Ranking to 21st in Total US Population Tested for COVID-19



Source: [Gov. Brian P. Kemp, Office of the Governor](#)

Governor Brian P. Kemp announced this week that Georgia now ranks twenty-first out of fifty-four states and territories on the current percentage of total population tested, up from forty-sixth one month ago. Among states with more than five million residents, Georgia ranks eighth out of twenty-three states. Georgia has tested 3.3% of its total population for COVID-19 with 364,289 tests completed. On Friday, May 15, the state announced that it surpassed 300,000 tests, increasing the number of reported tests by more than 64,000 over the weekend.

Read full story [here](#).

## Please Join the “100,000 Strong” Webinar Hosted by SBA’s Ashley D. Bell and Tip “T.I.” Harris



Source: [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

On Wednesday, May 20 at 6p.m. Ashley D. Bell, SBA Regional Administrator and Entrepreneurship Policy Advisor for the White House Opportunity & Revitalization Council and Tip “T.I.” Harris, rapper, entertainer, and entrepreneur will kick off a call for minority entrepreneurs across the South. The 100,000 Strong call will highlight resources available to small business owners in the wake of COVID-19; protecting jobs and continuing economic growth.

Savannah Chamber members are invited to join the call by [clicking here](#).

## Georgia Marks Lowest COVID-19 Positive Hospitalizations Since Early April



Source: [Gov. Brian P. Kemp, Office of the Governor](#)

Governor Brian P. Kemp announced yesterday that Georgia reached its lowest number of COVID-19 positive patients hospitalized since hospitals started reporting data to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) on April 8. See data [here](#).

With 986 COVID-19 positive patients currently hospitalized, Georgia has seen an approximate 12% decrease over the last week with 1,125 patients hospitalized on May 12, and a 34% decrease from 1,500 patients hospitalized on May 1. See data [here](#).

"Our hospitalization numbers continue to show encouraging signs in our fight against COVID-19, but we must remain vigilant in our efforts to combat this virus," said Governor Kemp. "I continue to ask Georgians to practice social distancing, follow the advice of public health officials, and protect the elderly and medically fragile."

For the Georgia Department of Public Health Daily Status Report, [click here](#).

[Georgia Chamber Call with Georgia DOT and Georgia Ports Authority, May 21](#)



Source: [Georgia Chamber](#)

Members are invited to join the Georgia Chamber on Thursday, May 21 at 2 p.m. for a virtual town hall featuring Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurry and Georgia Ports Authority Executive Director Griff Lynch. The Georgia Chamber ask that questions be submitted in advance by tomorrow, May 20 at noon. To submit, use code #2957 and [click here](#). Learn more [here](#).

Please click [this link](#) to join the webinar.

Due to increased security measures, a password is now required to access these virtual conferences.

Please use password: 723763

Telephone - Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656

or +1 301 715 8592

or +1 312 626 6799

or +1 669 900 9128

or +1 253 215 8782

or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 883 0566 7720

Password: 723763

International numbers available, [click here](#).

[Local Businesses Pledge to be Savannah Safe](#)



Mayor Van Johnson, the Savannah Area Chamber and other community partners introduced the Savannah Safe pledge initiative last week to rave reviews. To date, more than 543 Savannah area businesses have taken the pledge. Savannah Safe pledge initiative is a voluntary program challenging area business to commit to following the CDC and FDA COVID-19 sanitation and safety guidelines. Businesses are asked to log onto SavannahSafe.com to take the “Savannah Safe” pledge, where they will be categorized by business type - like restaurants, accommodations, retail, professional, etc.

Participating organizations will then be e-mailed posters for display in their physical locations and on their digital platforms pledging that they are “Savannah Safe.” Consumers and visitors will be able to check SavannahSafe.com for listings of businesses that have made the commitment to keep our community healthy and protected from the spread of COVID-19. For a list of Savannah Area Chamber members who can help in the printing of Savannah Safe materials like posters, pull-up banners and decals, [click here](#).

This partnership is in conjunction with: City of Savannah, Savannah Area Chamber, Visit Savannah, Visit Tybee, the Tourism Leadership Council, the Metropolitan Savannah Hispanic Chamber, the Greater Savannah Black Chamber of Commerce, the Savannah Downtown Business Association, City Market and Buy Local Savannah and others.

To take the Savannah Safe Pledge today, [click here](#).

[Join Visit Savannah’s Summer Travelzoo Promotion](#)



Visit Savannah has teamed up with Travelzoo, a global travel deals publisher with 30 million members worldwide, to promote our region and help drive more visitors to our destination this summer and fall. We will have a Featured Destination page on their website launching in June which will be promoted on their media network through August. The promotion includes:

- Standalone Savannah emails to 2 Million Travelzoo Subscribers
- An additional 20,000 clicks to Savannah's offer page
- 4,115,000 standalone emails promoting affordable flight offers to Savannah from topflight markets which include links to Savannah's special offers within the emails
- This will reach more than 4 million Travelzoo Subscribers!

Visit Savannah's partners have the opportunity to submit an offer for consideration to be included on this dedicated page. Offers must be received by May 28, 2020.

Please note that not every offer will be approved, and incomplete offer submissions will not be reviewed. Space on the page is limited, but we encourage you to fill out this [Google form](#) with your best offer. If you have any questions, reach out to your existing TravelZoo client team or Travelzoo destinations producer Randi Redmon at [redmon@travelzoo.com](mailto:redmon@travelzoo.com).

Previous Travelzoo campaigns have proven very successful at driving incremental visitors to the Savannah region. In other words, having an offer on Travelzoo at this time could significantly impact your chances of benefitting from this promotion, so don't miss out!

There is NO COST to participate for Chamber members.

[Guidance and Resources](#)



We will update and add to the links below as new guidance and resources become available. Click here to visit the Chamber's resource page.

- [Coronavirus Digital Toolkit](#)
- [Coronavirus Guidance for Employers](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Tips for Employees](#)
- [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Small Businesses](#)
- [Coronavirus Local/State Policy Tracker](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Flyer](#)
- [Money Magazine's Best Loans of 2020](#)
- [Worksource Georgia Provides Guide for Employment Assistance](#) - For companies and individuals looking for employment and training resources due to COVID-19, Worksource a program offered through the Technical Schools of Georgia had produced a new guide
- Dial 311 for City of Savannah information
- Dial 211 for help from the United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Dial 1-800-Georgia (436-7442) for State of Georgia information

For more info, please visit the [CDC's Guidance for Businesses page](#).

The Savannah Area Chamber is working hard to provide timely access to business resource information during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interpretation and recommendations of the information provided by the Chamber should not replace the consult of professional advisors familiar with your unique business situation. While it is believed that the content of external links is accurate and reliable, accuracy and completeness of information contained herein is not guaranteed. Users of this information accept all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Savannah Area Chamber has no liability to the user.





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