



**GREATER BOSTON  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

**March 24, 2020**

**COVID-19 INDUSTRY UPDATE**

Good Morning,

Governor Baker's [emergency order](#) went into effect today at noon, closing all "non-essential" businesses and advising Massachusetts citizens to stay at home until April 7. To reiterate our main messaging from yesterday, this order will not apply to hotels or restaurants. Hotel employees are on the Governor's [designated list](#) of essential employees, and restaurants and bars can continue to offer take-out and delivery service as long as they adhere to social distancing protocols. For our hotel partners, if you are considering closure please keep us updated. We have a running list of property closures that will help us to ultimately approximate the profound economic impact that our industry has suffered in 2020 and beyond. This list will not be shared with the public.

Yesterday the Boston Globe [published a helpful article](#) covering the sectors and types of employees that would continue to operate during the period of the emergency order. The BBJ has also shared a [resource guide](#) for Massachusetts businesses to reference. Furthermore, our friends over at Holland & Knight have established a [COVID-19 Response Team](#) that is sharing updates, insights and information on an array of topics, including [insurance coverage issues](#). H&K has also pulled together a [helpful document for restaurants](#) trying to understand key guidelines while navigating through the COVID-19 crisis.

While we are still waiting for Congress to pass comprehensive rescue and relief legislation, Washington has enacted the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#). This bill will go into effect on April 2 and includes [important provisions](#) for small and mid-sized businesses to be aware of, in particular the section entitled "Prompt Payment for the Cost of Providing Leave."

**The GBCVB is now involved in a very important collaboration.** We are working with Partners Healthcare and our member hotels to find accommodations for the front line medical workers that are tirelessly and selflessly combatting this virus day and night. If you are a hotel partner interested in donating any beds please [connect with me directly](#), we have a handful of hospitals looking to participate in this partnership.

We continue to seek creative ways to promote our partners during these trying times. Our #DineInBoston campaign has generated some nice engagement across social media channels and we are constantly enhancing our dedicated page for restaurant take-out and delivery services. In addition to these efforts, we urge you all to learn about the [Restaurant Strong Fund](#) and to consider contributing. The Fund is spearheaded by the Greg Hill Foundation and Samuel Adams to drive awareness and raise funds to those restaurant employees hardest hit by this crisis. The Fund will provide grants to full-time restaurant employees in Massachusetts whose lost wages were needed for basic living expenses and to care for their families. And please continue to promote the [Rally for Restaurants](#) initiative that encourages people to purchase restaurant gift cards.

This week part of our team has been focused on enhancing our “virtual experiences” content. We are compiling lists, [writing blogs](#), and have built a [landing page](#) to promote these experiences. If you have a virtual experience, or really any kind of podcast, webinar, or other digitally-based offering, please [share them with us](#) so that we can include on our evolving page and push out through blogs and social posts.

Stay strong Boston, we are here to help however we can. We are here for you.

Martha