

Talking UP

Economic Development UPdates

University Place
WASHINGTON

June 2020

We're UP and At It

The City of University Place Economic Development department is launching a "We're Open, Welcome Back to UP" campaign that will provide free 18"-by-24" window cling signs to local businesses.

There are four unique designs, all of which support the message that U.P. is open for business with taglines such as "We're UP and At It" and "We're back, UP!"

The window signs are currently in production and should be ready for distribution in about two weeks.



With Pierce County now in Phase 2 of the Governor's Safe Start program, retailers, restaurants, hair and nail salons as well as fitness facilities can now reopen as long as they continue to follow specific guidelines for their businesses regarding limited capacity and physical distancing.

The window signs are one of several efforts the City of University Place has taken to help the business community respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 shutdown, including the [City Council's planned distribution of CARES relief funds this summer](#). Watch future issues of Talking UP and Headlines, the City's bi-weekly newsletter, on plans for the allocation of those funds.

Build Your Business Emergency Kit

Although many people have emergency kits in their homes, every business should also have at least one emergency kit on hand for every location at which it operates. Over the last few months, we've learned the value of having cloth masks and hand sanitizer, but according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, there are other key items that every business emergency kit should include:



American Red Cross First Aid Kit

- A battery-powered commercial radio plus a radio that can receive weather alerts from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- Water, specifically one gallon of water per person per day for drinking and sanitation.
- Food, including at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food to cover the needs of the number of employees on site.
- Can opener.
- Flashlights, extra batteries and basic tools (screwdriver, hammer, multi-purpose knife and shovel).
- Portable cellphone chargers and cords.
- First aid kit with enough supplies (bandages, antiseptic lotions, eye wash, etc.) to treat the number of employees on site.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust masks or cotton t-shirts for filtering breathing air.
- Hand sanitizer and/or moist towelettes for sanitation.
- Extra clothes (sweatshirts, sweaters, etc.) and blankets.
- Cash (if the power goes out, ATMs will not work).
- Copies of important records such as insurance policies, employee contact and identification information, bank account records, supplier and shipping contact lists and other priority documents in a waterproof, fireproof portable container. Store a second set of records at an off-site location.

Every business should also consider any supplies that may be unique to its industry or sector. For more details, visit [FEMA's emergency preparedness website](#) and the [Small Business Administration's emergency preparedness page](#).

Another Step Toward Recovery

This Friday's edition of the special COVID-19 weekly updates to the business community will be the last. Launched on March 27 and distributed electronically every Friday since, the updates were meant to provide the local business community with the latest news on resources available to them as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown.

"Now that we are in the reopening phases, we are finding that we are getting less information from federal, state and county sources, so we have decided the updates will only be sent out when there is critical, time-sensitive information to share with our businesses," says Becky Metcalf, economic development project specialist. She points out that earlier this week the City sent out information about a [special grant program to help Pierce County businesses recoup some of the costs associated with meeting safety requirements for reopening](#).

With the discontinuation of the weekly updates, businesses are reminded to check the City's [special COVID-19 business information page](#) which will continue to be updated with any relevant business information from outside sources.

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