On 3/25/20, Governor Murphy signed into law Senate, No 2304, which expands the scope of the State’s temporary disability insurance (TDI), so that workers may obtain TDI or Family Leave Insurance (FLI) benefits by expanding that law’s definition of a “serious health condition” for which a worker may obtain the benefits, either for the worker’s own condition in the case of TDI benefits, or for the condition of a family member of the worker cared for by the worker in the case of FLI benefits.

In summary, the new law declares that during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, Commissioner of Health, or other public health authority, a “serious health condition” includes an illness caused by an epidemic of a communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to a communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of a communicable disease, which: 1) in the case of FLI benefits, prompts the issuance by a public health authority of a determination that the presence in the community of the worker’s family member in need of care by the worker, would jeopardize the health of others; or 2) in the case of FLI or TDI benefits, results in the recommendation of a healthcare provider or public health authority that a worker, or a family member of the worker in need of care by the worker, voluntarily undergo self-isolation or self-quarantine as a result of suspected exposure to a communicable disease because the presence in the community of that worker or family member would jeopardize the health of others.

The law also eliminates the current one-week waiting period for disability benefits in the indicated epidemic-related cases. The law further modifies the Family Leave Act (FLA) so that the rights to reinstatement to employment provided to workers by that act are applied to the epidemic-related cases, and modifies P.L.2018, c.10 (C.34:11D-1) so that the earned sick leave provided by that law is provided in all of the epidemic-related cases accordingly.

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Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Requiring Child Care Centers Close on April 1 Unless Serving Children of Essential Workers

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed Executive Order No. 110, directing all child care centers in New Jersey to certify by Friday, March 27, that they will solely serve as
emergency child care centers for the children of essential workers. Child care centers that do not certify that they can and will exclusively care for these children of essential workers must close by Wednesday, April 1.

“Essential personnel are a vital part of our response and limiting child care to solely these individuals will assist in flattening the curve of COVID-19 cases, as well as provide our front-line workers with the critical services they need to get through this emergency,” said Governor Murphy. “A lack of child care cannot be a barrier for our essential employees, and while these workers commit themselves to our New Jersey family, we will commit ourselves to protecting their families.”

“Safe, dependable childcare has always been a necessity for working families,” said New Jersey Department of Children and Families Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer. “It is even more crucial now for parents working in professions deemed essential during this public health crisis. The state’s response to, and recovery from, the Novel Coronavirus really hinges on the skills and ability of our dedicated first responders and essential personnel. We need to do all we can to help them do their jobs without the worry and distraction of losing safe childcare options.”

“In this ongoing emergency, child care providers and staff who care for the children of essential workers are vitally important to our children and to the State’s response,” Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson said. “We thank the entire child care workforce for their dedication and commitment every day, and especially during this difficult time.”

Among the directives, the Governor’s executive order directs:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, in consultation with the Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Human Services, and Health, shall implement a plan permitting access to emergency child care services for the children of “essential persons.”

- In order to be designated as an Emergency Child Care Center, any person or organization, requesting permission to stay open or resume operations on or after April 1, 2020, shall submit the certification form to the Commissioner of Children and Families for approval by Friday, March 27, 2020. If the certification form demonstrates that it will provide child care services exclusively to “essential persons” during the school closure period, and that it will follow all applicable emergency child care standards, the Commissioner shall authorize it to remain open or resume operations as an emergency child care center.

- Any child care centers, including those as defined in this executive order, that fail to timely certify shall be closed to the public as of Wednesday, April 1, 2020, and remain closed through the school closure period. Centers shall receive notice of the Commissioner of Children and Families’ certification decision by Monday, March 30, 2020.

- Child care centers, for purposes of this order, include entities providing care on a regular basis for children aged 0-13, including licensed child care centers.

- For purposes of this order, essential persons shall include, but not be limited to: 1) Health care workers, including staff working in health care facilities and in
community-based services including home health and behavioral health; 2) law enforcement personnel, fire and emergency services personnel, and staff at correctional facilities; 3) individuals employed at emergency child care centers operating on or after April 1, 2020; 4) staff working for entities that provide essential social services, including, but not limited to, group home and shelter staff; 5) essential government employees who are unable to work from home, including child protection services workers, child welfare workers, foster care workers, unemployment compensation processing staff, and public health employees; and 6) certain critical workers, as defined by the Commissioner of DCF, at essential retail businesses, as defined in Executive Order No. 107 (2020) and subsequent Administrative Orders. The Commissioner of DCF shall have the authority to make changes to this list.

The order will take effect immediately.

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American Red Cross Critical Need for Blood and Platelets:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/

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New Website, BaskingRidgeTogether.org, Provides Local Business Information During COVID-19

BASKING RIDGE, NJ – There’s a new website available for the latest information on local businesses: www.baskingridgetogether.org The Basking Ridge Business Alliance (BRBA) is launching “Basking Ridge Together” to support Bernards Township and surrounding areas during the challenges of COVID-19. The idea of the site is that, together, local businesses and the community can help each other during this difficult time. Residents want to stay home or near to home for all of their consumer needs. And local businesses are significantly challenged due to restrictions on operations. This new site helps meet the needs of the community and local businesses by providing the latest information on:

• Which businesses are open?
• What products or services are available?
• What are current hours of operation?
• Is pickup or delivery an option?

The site also provides other ways to support local businesses, including links to purchase gift cards from local businesses. Ryan McCloskey, BRBA President, says, “This is a difficult time for everyone. It’s also a time when local businesses can help provide valuable products and services to the community. We hope our new site is a helpful resource to the community.” Local businesses are encouraged to complete the form on the website to provide their latest information. The website is updated daily. “We expect to add a number of businesses to the site over the next couple of weeks.” explained McCloskey. “We also sincerely appreciate the support from the community to help spread the word about the new site.” For more information, go to www.baskingridgetogether.org
The Basking Ridge Business Alliance is a non-profit organization of local business people and residents. Our mission is to focus on helping businesses and the community work together, nurturing positive growth and interaction, and to preserve those unique qualities that make Basking Ridge a very special place in which to live and work.

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U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION:

All counties within the State of New Jersey; the contiguous Delaware county of: New Castle; the contiguous New York counties of: Bronx, New York, Orange, Rockland and Westchester; and the contiguous Pennsylvania counties of: Bucks, Delaware, Monroe, Northampton, Philadelphia and Pike

Application Filing Deadline: December 18, 2020

Disaster Loan Assistance Available:
Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) – Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

Credit Requirements:
- Credit History – Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to SBA.
- Repayment – Applicants must show the ability to repay the loan.
- Collateral – Collateral is required for all EIDL loans over $25,000. SBA takes real estate as collateral when it is available. SBA will not decline a loan for lack of collateral, but SBA will require the borrower to pledge collateral that is available.

Interest Rates:
The interest rate is determined by formulas set by law and is fixed for the life of the loan. The maximum interest rate for this program is 3.750 percent.

Loan Terms:
The law authorizes loan terms up to a maximum of 30 years. SBA will determine an appropriate installment payment based on the financial condition of each borrower, which in turn will determine the loan term.

Loan Amount Limit:
The law limits EIDLs to $2,000,000 for alleviating economic injury caused by the disaster. The actual amount of each loan is limited to the economic injury determined by SBA, less business interruption insurance and other recoveries up to the administrative lending limit. SBA also considers potential contributions that are available from the business and/or its owner(s) or affiliates. If a business is a major source of employment, SBA has the authority to waive the $2,000,000 statutory limit.
Loan Eligibility Restrictions:
Noncompliance – Applicants who have not complied with the terms of previous SBA loans may not be eligible. This includes borrowers who did not maintain required flood insurance and/or hazard insurance on previous SBA loans.
Note: Loan applicants should check with agencies / organizations administering any grant or other assistance program under this declaration to determine how an approval of SBA disaster loan might affect their eligibility.

Refinancing:
Economic injury disaster loans cannot be used to refinance long term debts.

Insurance Requirements:
To protect each borrower and the Agency, SBA may require you to obtain and maintain appropriate insurance. By law, borrowers whose damaged or collateral property is located in a special flood hazard area must purchase and maintain flood insurance. SBA requires that flood insurance coverage be the lesser of 1) the total of the disaster loan, 2) the insurable value of the property, or 3) the maximum insurance available.
Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. Applicants may also call SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Verizon helps eliminate worry for customers during time of great need:
https://www.verizon.com/about/news/verizon-helps-eliminate-worry

Governor Murphy asks that residents that have vacation homes at Jersey shore not go there. Shore towns not prepared for influx during off season.

Governor Murphy Suspends All Elective Surgeries, Invasive Procedures to Preserve Essential Equipment and Hospital Capacity:

Somerset County seeking donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/Home/Components/News/News/3671/

Please see attached link for all information and concerns pertaining to COVID19
https://covid19.nj.gov/
NJ 2-1-1, the statewide help and referral center, is available to the residents of New Jersey to provide assistance with unmet needs and health and human service resources. For general information, testing, and basic needs, dial 211 or text your zip code to 898-211. For alerts and updates specific to COVID-19, text NJCOVID to 898-211.

**Basking Ridge Stop & Shop remains open daily from 6-7:30 AM for people over the age of 60.** Please respect and observe this store policy.

**PLEASE DO NOT HOARD SUPPLIES FROM LOCAL STORES.** There is no information giving any indication that there will be a shortage of food or supplies in the grocery stores. Please have consideration for your neighbors.

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