



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.

GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL TO BE RELEASED NEXT WEEK

[The Texas Tribune](#), the [Statesman](#), and several other media outlets are reporting that TEA Commissioner Mike Morath, in a call with Governor Abbott and state lawmakers, said students will be returning to school in the fall. According to a spokesman for the TEA, school districts will not be required to mandate students wear masks or test them for COVID-19 symptoms. School districts will be able to offer instructional alternatives for students. The agency is expected to release further guidance early next week.

UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 13

According to the [DOL's weekly unemployment claims report](#), initial data shows 1,508,000 claims for the week ending June 13; this continues the trend of declines in applications. The national unemployment rate was 14.1%; which remains unchanged from the previous week. Nationwide insured unemployment for the week of June 6 was 20,544,000; which is a decrease of 62,000 from the previous week's revised level.

According to the [report](#), Texas saw some of the largest decreases in initial claims the week ending June 6 (-17,001). TWC is also reporting on state numbers, including claims by industry and county, [here](#).

TEXAS TO REINSTATE WORK-SEARCH REQUIREMENT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Texas Workforce Commission decided Tuesday to restore its work-search requirement beginning July 6. That means when individuals request unemployment benefit payments, they will have to prove that they engaged in at least three work-search activities. Self-employed workers will have prove they took at least three steps to reopen their businesses.

[Click here](#) to read more.

WHAT WE'RE READING

9 Funding Options for Minority-Owned Businesses

"Many government agencies and organizations offer grants, funding and

low-cost loans that are intended to help minority-owned businesses grow."

[Read more.](#)

US, Canada, and Mexico Extend Border Restrictions for 30 More Days

"The United States, Canada and Mexico have agreed to extend their restrictions to keep their shared borders closed to non-essential travel until at least July 21 due to the coronavirus pandemic."

[Read more.](#)

You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.

6/23 WATER SEMINAR Join Kenneth Jorgensen (Professor, Aalborg University, Denmark) – “Water Agency” and Julia Hayden (Internationally Recognized Body Whisperer, Author, and Founder of the Gaia Storytelling Lab at the European School of Governance in Berlin, Germany) – “Make Water, Not War!” [More Info](#)

6/24 VIRTUAL ONE MILLION CUPS The Abilene Chamber of Commerce and McMurry University Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship are excited to bring the first virtual 1 Million Cups to the Abilene community! Are you an entrepreneur? Are you searching for a way to connect with other entrepreneurs to discover solutions for your small business needs? Started by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, 1 Million Cups is a free program designed to educate, engage and inspire entrepreneurs over coffee. [More Info.](#)

6/25 SBA WOMEN FEDERAL CONTRACTING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM CHANGES Join the SBA on June 25 at 10:00 (Central Time) to discuss the Women Own Small Business (WOSB) and Economic Disadvantage Women Own Small Business (EDWOSB) Federal Contracting program changes that will take effect soon. [More info.](#)

6/25 WEST TEXAS SUCCESS VIRTUAL JOB FAIR Join Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas on Thursday, June 25, 2020 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm* for a virtual job fair (employers will be active at their virtual booths until 5:00 pm). [More info.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [Abilene Chamber Now Seeking Nominations for Citizen of the Year](#)
- [An Enhanced Pathway Forward](#)
- [Update your newsletter preferences](#)
- [Hiring? Add your job to AbileneWorks.com for free](#)
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