



Open for Business in a COVID 19 Environment Business Liability Protection

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in widespread business interruptions and closures throughout Volusia County and the State of Florida.

Our local and state officials have made difficult decisions to restrict activities to help flatten the curve and not overwhelm our hospitals and health care system.

During the previous stay-at-home order, essential businesses remained open and were the front lines for providing critical services and supplies.

In the last several months, businesses in our community have gradually reopened, but some have been forced to close again, putting thousands of our region's employees in economic jeopardy.

Businesses realize that the health and safety of employees and customers is paramount, and seek to reduce health risks by following CDC guidelines, local and state government recommendations and industry-specific best practices, but many businesses remain apprehensive of lawsuits against them should an employee or customer contract the virus.

While businesses are struggling to remain open, the potential cost to defend against frivolous lawsuits will create an extreme financial burden that could result in permanent business closures and a loss of jobs.

Reopening the economy is a major priority for both the US Chamber and the Florida Chamber, but to be successful, liability protection is a key component. Legislators at the state and federal level recognize this concern and are considering alternatives to limit the liability of businesses who act in good faith to protect employees and customers.

Position

The Daytona Regional Chamber supports and encourages our State Legislative and Congressional officials to approve legislation that discourages frivolous lawsuits against businesses operating in good faith to limit employee and customer exposure to Covid-19.

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