



Fay-Penn's University Business Park sign along Rt. 119 provides COVID-19 business information.

## Fay-Penn Helps Local Business "Go Green."

June 1, 2020

Fay-Penn Economic Development Council has launched the third phase of its COVID-19 assistance program for businesses in Fayette County. The "Going Green" phase provides up to \$250 in free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other COVID-19 abatement supplies to for-profit businesses who are moving into the "Green Phase" of Pennsylvania's reopening process. "We're continuing to do whatever we can to help local businesses survive economic downturn," said Bob Shark, Fay-Penn's executive director. "It's not a total solution, but donating \$250 worth of PPE and other supplies will lift a bit of the financial pressure our businesses have experienced."

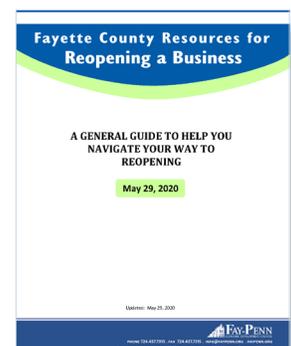
Fay-Penn assisted the Allegheny Conference on Community Development to survey businesses in the Conference's 10-county service region to determine the economic impact of COVID-19. The Conference adjusted the survey at Fay-Penn's request to include a list of PPE and other supplies that Fayette County businesses might consider for reopening. "We personally spoke with over 60 businesses to compile the Fayette County portion of the survey," said Shark. "We not only assisted in generating information that could be compared to other counties' economic prospects in Southwestern Pennsylvania, but also learned what types of supplies our local businesses needed."

Fay-Penn's "Going Green" program is available to Fayette County for-profit businesses. In addition, those businesses must have twenty-five or fewer employees, and be eligible for opening under Pennsylvania's Green guidelines. Fay-Penn will purchase and donate requested supplies to those eligible businesses until funding is expended. For example, a business can get disposable surgical masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, infrared thermometers, and various other items. Fay-Penn intends to make bulk purchases to keep costs down, all from suppliers in Southwestern Pennsylvania, if possible. Shark worked with Bridgeway Capital and the Appalachian Regional Commission to repurpose existing grant funding from the Commission's Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) program. Depending upon need, more POWER funding may be available to continue the program for additional businesses in Fayette County.

"We had to adapt rapidly when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Pennsylvania," said Shark. "Our initial response was to disseminate information to the Fayette business community as quickly as it became available, and to help our businesses in applying for grants and loans. To date, we've assisted over 150 different companies to answer their questions and to complete applications for the various funding programs available from federal, state, and private sources. We also created a comprehensive COVID-19 business resource web page at [www.faypenn.org](http://www.faypenn.org) that includes a downloadable reference guide for reopening a business, with both general and industry-specific information on how to do that as safely as practical."

Fay-Penn's second business support phase is a smaller disposable mask donation effort. Fayette County's small businesses can request up to 250 disposable masks based on how many employees they have. Masks are still available upon request.

*To request masks, PPE and other supplies, or for additional information, contact Lori Scott or Ben Siebart at 724.437.7913.*



Fayette County businesses can use this Fay-Penn compilation for COVID-19 reopening guidance.