

Philadelphia Department of Commerce

Temporary Emergency Regulations Under Chapter 19-1500 of The Philadelphia Code

“Notification of Intention to Close or Relocate Operations”

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

1. The Department of Commerce hereby promulgates these temporary regulations to address the provision of notification under Chapter 19-1500 of The Philadelphia Code, “Notification of Intention to Close or Relocate Operations,” during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency situation. Based on the Mayor’s March 11, 2020, Declaration of Extraordinary Circumstance, these regulations shall be effective immediately.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic is a natural disaster and national emergency as those terms are used in Chapter 19-1500.
3. The closing of a business, as defined in Chapter 19-1500, based on an order of the City, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the federal government that significantly limits or prohibits operation of such business constitutes an “involuntary closure” if such closure occurs during the period in which such order applies to such business.
4. Until 60 days after this Temporary Emergency Regulation is repealed, there shall be a presumption that a business closure is “caused by” the COVID-19 pandemic, such that the closure is an “involuntary closure” as that term is used in the Chapter 19-1500, provided that:
  - a. the business provides the notifications required under Section 19-1502 of the Code within such time as is reasonably practicable under the circumstances after the decision to close is made; and
  - b. the business includes in such notifications the basis for contending that the closure was caused by the pandemic.