



City of  
**Langley** Washington

## State Help For Workers, Businesses, And Utility Customers

From Christy Korrow:

OLYMPIA — As workers brace for the economic fallout of [the coronavirus pandemic](#), Gov. Jay Inslee Wednesday announced a 30-day statewide moratorium on evictions for residential tenants.

The governor also announced several other measures intended to help workers and businesses cope with the impacts of the outbreak of COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

Those include an order waiving the one-week wait period for people signing up to get unemployment insurance, according to the governor's office. That order is retroactive for claims filed up to March 8.

And Inslee will release as much as \$5 million from a reserve fund in order to give micro-grants to small businesses around the state to prevent them from closing. That process will be coordinated by the state Department of Commerce.

The governor also called on all public utilities around the state to **waive late fees, expand programs that offer assistance with bills, and to suspend disconnection tariffs for nonpayment during the emergency.**

Meanwhile, the state Department of Revenue will now have the authority "suspend penalties and interest on certain late tax payments," according to Inslee's office.