

APRIL 29, 2021



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Dear Members,

National Travel and Tourism Week is an annual tradition for the U.S. travel community. It's a time when travel and tourism professionals across the country unite to celebrate the value travel holds for our economy, businesses and personal well-being. This year's theme will recognize the "Power of Travel" and the industry's role in bringing back our vibrant communities, restoring the U.S. economy, rebuilding our workforce and reconnecting America.

Our industry has been resilient the past year, facing every challenge with thoughtful solutions. National Travel and Tourism Week serves as another opportunity for us to educate our local lawmakers on the issues directly impacting our industry including workforce development.

Join us and advocates across the nation beginning this Sunday, May 2nd for a week of highlighting the important role of our industry. To learn more and find ways to engage, view the U.S. Travel [Toolkit](#).

Sincerely,

*Kim Grace Sabow*

Kim Grace Sabow

President

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## URGENT: TELL LAWMAKERS TO PASS THE 'SAVE HOTEL JOBS ACT'



Yesterday, the [Save Hotel Jobs Act](#) was introduced in Congress and we need your help to push it towards the finish line. We encourage you to join [HotelsAct](#), and to urge your Senators and Representatives to put their support behind this critical bill.

While leisure travel is resuming, **business travel -- the largest source of hotel revenue -- is down 85% and is not expected to return soon**. Full recovery is not expected until 2024. The Save Hotel Jobs Act will [provide critical support right now](#). Key provisions include:

- **Supporting Hotel Workers:** Direct payroll grants, in an amount up to three months' worth of pre-pandemic payroll cost, to be utilized for payroll and benefits expenses for workers. The legislation would require grantees to give laid-off workers recall rights to ensure those who lost their jobs are able to return to work.
- **Allowing Worker-Friendly Tax Credits:** Provides a Personal Protective Equipment Tax Credit to promote worker safety measures, which would allow for a payroll tax credit for 50% of costs associated with the purchase of personal protective equipment, technology designed to reduce the impact of the pandemic, increased testing for employees, and enhanced cleaning protocols that do not negatively impact the level of work for housekeeping staff.

Other hard-hit industries have received direct aid – such as airlines, restaurants, and live venues – but **hotels are suffering just as badly if not worse than any other sector of the economy**. To gain support for this bill so it has a chance of becoming law [we need your help TODAY!](#)

ACT NOW

## FEDERAL UPDATE

### NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM WEEK

The countdown to National Travel and Tourism Week (NTTW) is on. Beginning this Sunday, May 2, NTTW will celebrate



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our vibrant communities, restoring the U.S. economy, rebuilding our workforce and reconnecting America.

A full suite of resources is available to help share the Power of Travel with the public, the media and elected officials. Complete this [survey](#) to share how you will be celebrating NTTW.

A new social media guide and graphics are also available, along with several other resources in the NTTW [toolkit](#).

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## DEADLINE TO OBTAIN REAL ID EXTENDED TO MAY 2023 IN AZ, US



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Tuesday it is extending the deadline for REAL ID enforcement from Oct. 1, 2021, to May 3, 2023.

The Arizona Travel ID requires more documentation than a standard driver's license to meet federal REAL ID security requirements.

Beginning in May 2023, it will be required to board a plane, enter restricted federal buildings or access military bases and will serve as a driver's license.

The ID cards are issued by the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division. Applicants must apply in person and will be asked to provide their Social Security number, proof of identity and proof of Arizona residency.

Appointments can be made [online](#). The ID costs \$25 and will expire after eight years.



## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN RELIEF RESOURCES

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has successfully reopened the [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant](#) application portal. [Learn more](#) on program details, eligibility and how to apply.

Last week, the SBA rolled out a new round of Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) grants—known as [Supplemental Targeted EIDL Advances](#)—providing up to an additional \$5,000 per applicant for small businesses located in a low-income community with 10 employees or less and at least a 50% decline in revenue. The SBA will reach out to eligible businesses to invite them to apply. For more information, [please see program details](#) and refer to our updated EIDL [fact sheet](#).

Please utilize the latest fact sheets on the [Travel Industry Relief Resources](#) webpage to help ensure you can access the federal support available.:

- [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#)
- [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

- [Shuttered Venue Operator Grants](#)
- [SBA Express Loans](#)
- [Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program](#)
- [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#)
- [EDA Grants for Tourism](#)

## ARIZONA UPDATE

### APPLY NOW FOR AZ SAFE+CLEAN

Foster a “sense of place” with guests and make them want to continue returning by showing you are providing a safe and clean business through AzLTA's AZSAFE+CLEAN certification. Our newly established grant, in partnership with the Arizona Office of Tourism, allows members to apply for funds to assist in participating in the AZSAFE+CLEAN certification program.

To learn more about the grant and how to apply, contact us at [membership@azlta.com](mailto:membership@azlta.com). For additional information on AZSAFE+CLEAN, [visit our website](#).



### UPDATED INDUSTRY RESEARCH NOW AVAILABLE

The following reports are available on [tourism.az.gov](http://tourism.az.gov).

- Arizona Lodging [March 2021](#)
- County Lodging [1st Quarter 2021](#)
- National, Regional, Arizona Lodging [1st Quarter 2021](#)
- National Park Visitation [January](#) and [February](#) 2021 (Preliminary)

For the latest and historical tourism indicator reports, please visit the [Data and Trends](#) page on [tourism.az.gov](http://tourism.az.gov).

## AZLTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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**S.B. 1377 Civil Liability; Public Health Pandemic (Sen. Leach):** Provides targeted and reasonable liability protections for businesses, educational providers, and the health care industry working diligently to protect their employees, customers, and patients.

*Latest Action: Signed by Governor Ducey.*

**S.B. 1720 Peer-to-Peer Car Sharing (Sen. Fann):** Establishes guidelines for insurance requirements, safety recalls, taxation and surcharge collection for vehicle sharing transactions that occur on a peer-to-peer car-sharing program.

*Latest Action: Signed by Governor Ducey.*

**H.B. 2772 Fantasy Sports Betting; Event Wagering:** Amended tribal-state gaming compact that will modernize gaming in Arizona and provide millions of dollars in revenue for critical state needs. The modernized gaming compact and establishment of sports betting will help Arizona attract more visitor spending.

*Latest Action: Signed by Governor Ducey.*

**H.B. 2835 Theme park districts; Extension:** Extends the authority of a theme park district board to issue bonds to December 31, 2031, rather than December 31, 2020. Increases, from \$1 billion to \$2 billion, the maximum aggregate theme park district bond principal amount for all theme park districts established.

*Latest Action: Signed by Governor Ducey*

**Budget Priorities** - Closely monitoring budget negotiations to ensure proper funding for tourism promotion and other industry priorities.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES & UPDATES



### CDC UPDATES 'FULLY VACCINATED' GUIDANCE

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [updated the activities](#) in which a "fully vaccinated" individual can engage. These new guidelines apply in non-healthcare settings.

If fully vaccinated, the CDC says that it is now safe to do the following:

- gather indoors with fully-vaccinated individuals without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet

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- gather indoors with unvaccinated individuals of any age from one other household without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, unless any of the unvaccinated individuals or anyone with whom they live has an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19; and
- participate in outdoor activities and recreation without wearing a mask except in certain crowded settings and venues.

Changes with regard to travel for the fully vaccinated include the following:

- Fully-vaccinated individuals traveling in the United States do not need to get tested before or after travel or to self-quarantine after travel.
- Fully-vaccinated individuals need to double-check requirements before leaving or re-entering the United States. However, generally, they:
  - do not need to get tested before leaving the United States unless the destination requires it;
  - still need to show a negative test result or documentation of recovery before boarding any international flight to the United States;
  - are recommended to be tested 3-5 days after international travel; and
  - do not need to self-quarantine after arriving in the United States.

The CDC states that fully-vaccinated individuals should continue to use good hygiene, avoid large indoor crowds, protect themselves, and wear masks on public transportation and in airports and stations.

- [Updated 'Fully Vaccinated' Guidance](#)
- [Vaccination Policy Template](#)
- [Domestic Travel During COVID-19](#)
- [International Travel During COVID-19](#)

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## REMOTE EMPLOYMENT

Remote employment has increased dramatically and has many multistate tax and other implications. Employees working from a location other than their usual place of employment may create an obligation for employers to register and withhold payroll taxes in the state where the employee is performing services. Our legal partner Ogletree Deakins has developed a new [Remote Work Payroll Taxes 50-State Survey](#) to assist employers with this analysis.



The pandemic prompted many employers to expand the number of employees working remotely—remote work that may continue long after the pandemic ends. In addition, some remote employees may have moved during the pandemic to new states where their employers may not have operations.

Remote employment has significant multistate tax implications. Employees working from a location other than their usual place of employment may create an obligation for employers to register and withhold payroll taxes in the state where the employee is performing services.

To assist our clients, we have created a survey of employer state income tax (SIT) withholding and state unemployment insurance (SUI) contribution obligations.

The Remote Work Payroll Taxes survey

- ✓ Covers all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia
- ✓ Provides insight on when an employer has SIT and SUI withholding obligations
- ✓ Identifies states that provide withholding obligation relief due to COVID-19
- ✓ Shares links to register with the relevant state's SIT/SUI agencies

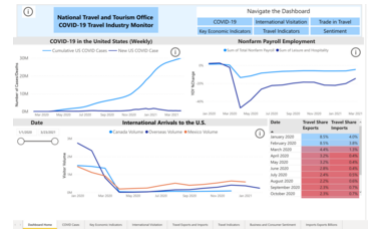
We are providing the survey to clients for a flat fee of \$3,000. Please reach out to the Ogletree Deakins attorney with whom you work for additional information.

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## NTTO ANNOUNCES NEW COVID-19 TRAVEL INDUSTRY MONITOR

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The National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO) has created a new data visualization tool. The COVID-19 Travel Industry Monitor tracks a number of indicators that measure the performance of the travel and tourism sector in the United States in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The monitor has six sections: COVID-19, International Visitation, Travel Indicators, Travel in Trade, Sentiment, and Key Economic Indicators. It is updated weekly. The Monitor can be found on NTTO's [Research Page](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LEVERAGING RELATIONSHIPS TO OPTIMIZE RECOVERY



SMPI and HSMIAI bringing together a robust panel of hospitality and meeting industry professionals to help us prepare for the shift in supply and demand. This panel combines independent, corporate and association planners with hotel and venue suppliers to help us establish the foundation for partnerships moving forward.

REGISTER

### 2021 ARIZONA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM



**SAVE THE DATE!** This August join our strategic partner Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) for the [2021 Arizona Governor's Conference](#) (GCOT) on Tourism, Aug. 2-4. In-person [registration](#) is open and **early-bird rates are available now**. Our tourism partners are looking forward to a safe, informative and inspiring few days of reconnecting and welcoming visitors back to enjoy beautiful Arizona.

#### About GCOT:

The Arizona Governors Conference of Tourism is the premier educational and information-sharing event in the state for travel professionals and destination marketers. GCOT provides its attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas with peers, learn from expert panelists, discover cutting-edge products and services and more. For event details, click [here](#).

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## EDUCATIONAL HOSPITALITY TRAININGS & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS



### AAHOA/P&G PROFESSIONAL'S TRAINING IN HOTEL SANITIZATION AND CLEANLINESS

AzLTA's national partner, [AAHOA](#), has partnered with P&G Professional, a worldwide leader and trusted name in professional-grade cleaning products, to create this all-new, all-digital program, covering what every hotelier needs to know as it relates to sanitization, including infection prevention and control, high-touch points, sanitizing soft surfaces, communications, elevating the guest experience, and more! This program is FREE and available to the entire hospitality industry. [Learn more and enroll today.](#)

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### NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA POST-CRISIS HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE



The [NAU School of Hotel and Restaurant Management](#) is partnering with The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at the University of South Florida to offer a Post-Crisis Hospitality Management Certificate program. This FREE, seven-week online certificate program is open to all and will dive into several functional areas like marketing, human resource management, technology management, hospitality law and contracts, financial management, and hospitality operations. [Learn more and enroll today.](#)

## IN THE NEWS





Page certified for hotel COVID cleanliness

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Staff Shortages: AZ hotels are having a hard time hiring

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

**Source1 Purchasing**  
NEW AZLTA MEMBER BENEFIT  
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Earn cash back rebates on supplies

Free to join as AzLTA member

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### Teladoc Health

Discounted virtual health visit

\$7 per month per employee

[LEARN MORE](#)

## MEMBER RESOURCES

AzLTA is committed to providing our members with up-to-date resources, [webinars](#), information and recommendations from our state and national partners. Updates will be shared on [our website](#) so please reference it often and share it with your network.

AZ SAFE + CLEAN CERTIFICATION

EDUCATION & TRAININGS

COVID-19 RESOURCES CENTER

ARIZONA MEANS BUSINESS

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