

**(Draft in Progress) 2020 Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19) -
3.27.2020**

AFL-CIO Executive Council Statement: [Working People’s Demands in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, March 24, 2020.](#)

[AFL-CIO - State Resources and Benefits Available to Workers Impacted by COVID-19](#)

[Jump to Index - Links to Specific Cities and States](#)

State of emergency declared: All 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico		
States that have shelter in place / stay at home orders (A New York Times overview of city and state shelter in place / stay at home laws can be found here.)	23 states: CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, ID, IL, IN, LA, MA, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, VT, WA, WI, WV	
States that have closed nonessential businesses, but have not issued stay at home orders	6 states and DC: DC, IA, KY, MD, NC, NV, VA	
	Introduced	Enacted / Established
Coronavirus Response Funding	17 states and DC: AK, AZ, CA, DC, GA, HI, MA, ME, MI, MD, MN, MT, NE, NY, PA, SC, VA, WA	15 states and DC: AK, AZ, CA, DC, GA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MT, NE, NY, PA, VA, WA
Study / taskforce	11 states: GA, HI, IL, IN, KY, MI, MT, NC, NH, NJ, VT	9 states: GA, HI, IN, MI, MT, NC, NH, NJ, VT
Directives to Health Insurers	13 states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, ME, MN, NM (emergency rules forthcoming), NV, NY, TN, TX, WA	10 states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, ME, NY, TN, TX, WA
Expanding Health Insurance Coverage	13 states and DC: CA, CO, CT, DC, MA, MD, ME, MN, NV, NY, RI, TN, WA	11 states and DC: CA, CO, CT, DC, MA, MD, ME, MN, NV, NY, RI, WA
Protections Against Price Gouging	19 states and DC: AZ, CA, CT, DC, DE, GA, HI, KS, KY, ME, MI, MN, NC, NJ, NV, OH, SC, TN, VA, WI	19 states and DC: AZ, CA, CT, DC, DE, GA, HI, KS, KY, ME, MI, MN, NC, NJ, NV, OH, SC, TN, VA, WI
Suspends rules around trucking	8 states: CO, GA, IA, MN, NE, PA, SC, TN	8 states: CO, GA, IA, MN, NE, PA, SC, TN

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers			
	Introduced	Enacted / Established	Defeated
Paid Sick Leave	11 states: CO (emergency rules), IL (emergency rules), KS, KY (state employees, bill), MN, MS, NJ (state guidance), NY, OK, PA, VA (regular session, possible special session, state employees)	6 states: CO (emergency rules), IL (emergency rules), KY (for state employees), NJ (state guidance), NY, VA (for state employees)	2 states: MS, VA (regular session)
Paid Family and Medical Leave	17 states: CO, HI, IA, MA, ME, MN, MO, NE, NH, NJ, NM, OH, OK, VA, VT, WI, WV	1 state: NJ	4 states: NM, VA, VT (vetoed by Gov), WV
Paid leave (quarantine or public health emergency closures)	10 states: CA, KS, MI (executive order - UI benefits), MN, MT (emergency rules - UI benefits), MS, NJ, RI (TDI for quarantined workers) VA, WA (expansion of state policies)	6 states: CA, MI (executive order - UI benefits), MT (emergency rules - UI benefits), NJ, RI (TDI for quarantined workers), WA (expansion of state policies)	1 state: VA
UI (quarantined workers)	13 states: CA, CT (case by case basis), ME, MI (exec order), MN, MT (emergency rules), NH, NJ, RI (emergency regulations) , VA (Gov action), VT (exec order), WA (emergency rules), WI (emergency order)	9 states: CT (case by case basis), MI (exec order), MT (emergency rules), NJ, RI (emergency regulations) VA (Gov action),VT (exec order), WA (emergency rules), WI (emergency order)	
UI (streamlining process, eligibility)	21 states: CA (exec order, Labor and Workforce Development Agency directive), CO (labor department considering rules), CT (suspend requirement for actively searching for work), IL (emergency rules - UI for sick workers), KS, KY (exec order), LA (exec order), MA, ME, MI (exec order), MT (emergency rules), NH, NM (emergency rules forthcoming), NV (Gov action), NY (exec order), OH (exec order), PA, RI (emergency rules), TX (Gov action), VA (Gov action), VT (exec order), WA (emergency rules), WI (emergency order)	21 states: CA (exec order, Labor and Workforce Development Agency directive), CT (suspend requirement for actively searching for work), IL (emergency rules - UI for sick workers), KY (exec order), LA (exec order), ME, MI (exec order), MT (emergency rules), NH, NV (Gov action), NY (exec order), OH(exec order), PA, RI (emergency rules), TX (Gov action), VA (Gov action), VT (exec order), WA (emergency rules), WI (emergency order)	
Workers' Comp or UI for (quarantined health workers / first responders)	2 states: MI (UI for quarantined/ill first responders), WA (Workers' Comp)	2 states: MI (UI for quarantined/ill first responders), WA (Workers' Comp)	

	Introduced	Enacted / Established	Defeated
Emergency child care for first responders	7 states, 1 city: San Francisco CA, CO, MD, MI, MN, NH (child care provided by employers), OR, VT	7 states, 1 city: San Francisco CA, CO, MD, MI, MN, NH (child care provided by employers), OR, VT	
Maintaining utility services during the emergency	7 states, 13 cities: AL (Birmingham), AZ (Phoenix), CA (state, LA, Long Beach, Sacramento), CT, DC, GA (Atlanta), MO (St. Louis), NJ, NY, OR (state, Portland), PA, VA, WA (state, Bellevue, Redmond, Lakehaven, Seattle)	7 states, 12 cities: AL (Birmingham), AZ (Phoenix), CA (state, LA, Long Beach, Sacramento), CT, GA (Atlanta), MO (St. Louis), NJ, OR (state, Portland), PA, VA, WA (state, Bellevue, Redmond, Lakehaven, Seattle)	
Maintaining food assistance for children/families	7 states, 1 city: CT, ME, MN, ND, NY, OR, PA, WA (Seattle)	7 states, 1 city: CT, ME, MN, ND, NY, OR, PA, WA (Seattle)	
Recovery funding - creative work, arts, cultural institutions	1 city: Seattle	1 city: Seattle	
Expanding public services	2 cities: Cincinnati OH (funding for emergency human services), Seattle WA (expanding homeless shelter capacity)	2 cities: Cincinnati OH (funding for emergency human services), Seattle WA (expanding homeless shelter capacity)	
Protections for transit workers	Municipal transit systems in multiple states: CA (Culver City, Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley, Glendale, Pomona Valley) CT, DC (Metro area), FL (Pinellas County), KY (Northern KY Transit Authority), MD (Montgomery County), MI (Detroit), NC (Durham, Raleigh, Triangle area, Cary, Chapel Hill, Charlotte), NJ, NV, NY (New York City), OH (Akron, Butler County, Canton, Cincinnati, Toledo, Youngstown), PA (Pittsburgh), VT (TX (Austin), VA (Alexandria), WA (King County, Vancouver), WI (Eau Claire, Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Sheboygan, Waukesha)		
Assistance for business	14 states, 3 cities: CA (state, San Francisco), CT, DC, IA, KY (child care providers), ME, MI (exec order), MN (child care providers), NY (child care providers), PA, SD, TN (child care providers), TX, VA, VT, WA (Seattle)	14 states, 2 cities: CA (state, San Francisco), CT, IA, KY (child care providers), ME, MI (exec order), MN (child care providers), NY (child care providers), PA, SD, TN (child care providers), TX, VA, VT, Seattle WA	
Vote at home (in response to COVID-19) / Other Voter Access Proposals	2 states, 1 county: CA, NY (state, Erie County)	4 states, 1 county: CA, MD (4/4 Gov Deadline), NY (state, Erie County), VA (4/11 Gov Deadline)	

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Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Local Orders - CA	Colorado
Conn.	Delaware	District of Columbia	Florida	Local Orders - FL	Georgia	Hawaii
Idaho	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana
Maine	Maryland	Mass.	Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri
Local Orders - MO	Montana	Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New Mexico
New York	Local Orders - NY	North Carolina	North Dakota	Ohio	Oklahoma	Oregon
Penn.	Puerto Rico	Rhode Island	South Carolina	South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas
Utah	Vermont	Virginia	Washington	West Virginia	Wisconsin	Wyoming

ALABAMA

State of Emergency

The Governor [announced](#) a state of emergency on 3/13/20.

Birmingham's Mayor issued a [shelter in place order](#) for the city on 3/24/20.

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ALASKA

State of Emergency / Coronavirus Response / Actions to Address Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers / Vote by Mail

The Governor signed UI benefit expansion bill [HB 308](#) into law on 3/25/20. The law does the following regarding UI benefits for workers impacted by COVID-19:

- [waives](#) the one week waiting period;
- [Increases](#) the weekly benefit for dependents from \$25 to \$75;
- [Waives the active work search requirement for up to 120 days;](#)

- [Allows](#) workers to receive benefits for caregiving responsibilities, to prevent or limit the spread of COVID-19, and allows workers [to still receive benefits while working to prevent or limit economic loss or harm through part time work.](#)

The Governor signed [SB 74](#) into law on 3/25/20. This law expands internet access for rural schools, which currently experience [“extremely high costs for internet. This legislation increases the minimum internet speed for all of Alaska’s schools from 10 megabits per second \(Mbps\) to 25 Mbps and will benefit 168 schools and 30 school districts.”](#)

The House passed an amended version of [SB 241](#) on 3/26/20. The bill has been sent back to the Senate for consideration of the House’s changes. SB 241 would extend [“Gov. Mike Dunleavy’s public health disaster emergency declaration until Nov. 15, unless Dunleavy declares it’s over before then. The bill also would allow Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer to hold elections by mail rather in-person.”](#)

The Senate Finance Committee introduced [SB 242](#) on 3/25/20. “The bill would provide moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures due to financial hardship from COVID-19.”

Anchorage’s Mayor issued a [proclamation of emergency “hunker down” order 20-03](#) on 3/20/20. The Governor released his [“Alaska COVID-19 Economic Stabilization Plan”](#) on 3/20/20.

The Governor issued Health Mandate [003](#) on 3/17/20. Health mandate 003 [“closes all bars, breweries, restaurants, food and beverage kiosks or trucks, and other establishments serving food or beverages within in the State of Alaska to public dine-in service. All buffets and salad bars are likewise closed to self-service. The closure remains in effect until April 1, 2020 at 5 p.m. Additionally, all entertainment facilities shall be closed to the public, including theaters, gyms and fitness centers, bowling alleys and bingo halls.”](#)

The Governor [issued](#) a public health disaster emergency on 3/11/20.

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Governor signed [HB 206](#) into law on 3/16/20. The bill provides \$4 million in state funds for COVID-19 preparedness.

Directives to Health Insurers

The Governor signed [HB 29](#) into law on 3/16.20. The bill [“requires health insurers to provide coverage for telehealth benefits...”](#)

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ARIZONA

Coronavirus Response Funding / State of Emergency / Directives to Health Insurers

The Governor signed SB 1051 into law on 3/12/20. This law appropriates “\$55 million to the Public Health Emergency Fund to support Arizona’s efforts to combat the continued spread of COVID-19.”

The Governor issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency on 3/11/20. [“The Emergency Declaration provides the following tools to address the spread of COVID-19:](#)

- [Establishes the Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\) as the entity responsible for coordinating all matters pertaining to the public health emergency response of the State.](#)
- [Allows ADHS to waive licensing requirements to provide healthcare officials with assistance in delivering services during times of heightened demand.](#)
- [It also allows the state to access \\$500,000 in emergency funds to aid in measures and resources to protect public health.](#)
- [Provides the state with emergency procurement authority to procure goods and services as needed to protect public health.](#)
- [Requires insurance companies and health plans to cover out of network providers, including out of plan laboratories and telemedicine providers.](#)
- [Waives all copays, coinsurance, and deductibles for consumers related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing and decreases co-pays for telemedicine visits.](#)
- [Implements consumer protections, including prohibiting price-gouging on COVID-19 of diagnosis and treatment-related services.](#)
- [Require symptom checks of healthcare workers and visitors at skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.”](#)

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ARKANSAS

State of Emergency

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/11/20.

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CALIFORNIA

State of Emergency / Stay at Home Order / Executive Orders / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers / Voting

The State Labor and Workforce Development Agency issued a [directive expediting Unemployment Insurance Payments due to COVID-19](#) on 3/20/20. The directive to the Employment Development Department requires them to [begin immediately paying incoming claims for UI benefits prior to making a final eligibility determination with respect to whether the claimant is able to work and available to work](#). When EDD makes a final eligibility decision, if appropriate, the department will act to recover any resulting overpayments that may occur. The Agency directive also outlined additional efforts taken to address the COVID-19 emergency, including the following:

- [Redirecting staff from other branches throughout EDD to support claims processing](#)
- [Increasing staff overtime including Saturdays and Sundays](#)
- [Investigating the redirection of staff from other agency departments and other state agencies to assist in processing claims](#)
- [Implementing automated processes where possible to speed up the additional manual procedures needed to process claims.](#)

The Governor issued Executive Order N-33-20 on 3/19/20. The order does the following:

- Orders all individuals living in California to [“stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.”](#) The order states that the Governor [“may designate additional sectors as critical in order to protect the health and well being of all Californians.”](#)
- Orders the healthcare delivery system to [“prioritize services to serving those who are the sickest and shall prioritize resources, including personal protective equipment, for the providers providing direct care to them.”](#)

The State Public Health Officer designated a list of [“essential critical infrastructure workers”](#). The list of workers can be found [here](#).

The Governor issued an [executive order](#) on 3/21/20 that [“gives the state the ability to increase the health care capacity in clinics, mobile health care units and adult day care health care facilities. It also allows local governments more flexibility to utilize the skills of retired employees and reinforces the importance of the delivery of food, medicine and emergency supplies.”](#)

On 3/21/20, the Governor [“directed more than \\$42 million in emergency funding to expand California’s health care infrastructure and secure equipment and services to support California’s response to COVID-19.”](#) The investments include the following:

- [“\\$30 million to lease and operate two facilities and to expand the state’s hospital capacity.”](#)
 - [Seton Medical Center in Daly City.](#)
 - [St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles.](#)
- [\\$1,420,000 to expand capacity of the state’s public health lab in Richmond.](#)
- [\\$8,647,000 to purchase new ventilators, as well as IV fusion pumps, and refurbish additional ventilators.](#)
- [\\$2 million to contract with American Medical Response to provide patient transportation.”](#)

The Governor issued an [executive order](#) on 3/20/20 that allows [“vote-by-mail procedures to be used in three upcoming special elections, protecting public health and safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. The order also extends the deadlines for ballot counting, tabulation, and other responsibilities related to the official canvass of California’s Presidential Primary Election that could risk undermining social distancing measures, and suspends the timeframes for public hearings required by political subdivisions that are in the process of changing from an at-large method of election to district elections.”](#)

The Governor issued a [stay at home executive order](#) on 3/19/20.

The Governor issued [executive order N-25-20](#) on 3/12/20. The order provides that the Employment Development Department will have the discretion to waive the one-week waiting period for:

- disability insurance applicants who are unemployed and disabled as a result of COVID-19 and who are otherwise eligible for disability benefits and
- unemployment insurance applicants who are unemployed as a result of COVID-19 and are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

The order also [provides the following](#):

- Suspends for 60 days the provisions of the Revenue and Tax Code that apply to the

taxes and fees administered by the Department of Tax and Fee Administration requiring the filing of a statement under penalty of perjury setting forth the facts for a claim of relief for any individuals or businesses that are unable to file a timely tax return or make a timely payment as a result of complying with a state or local public health official's imposition or recommendation of social distancing measures related to COVID-19.

- Directs the Franchise Tax Board, the Board of Equalization, the Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and the Office of Tax Appeals to use their administrative powers to provide those individuals and businesses impacted by complying with state or local public health official social distancing orders or recommendations with extensions for filing, payment, audits, billing, notices, assessments, claims for refund, and relief from penalties and interest.
- Suspends work hour limitations for retired annuitants, permanent and intermittent personnel and state management and senior supervisors. Also suspends additional reinstatement and work hour limitations.
- Directs the Health and Human Services Agency and the Office of Emergency Services to identify and be prepared to make available, hotels and other places of temporary residence, medical facilities, and other facilities that are suitable for temporary residence or medical facilities for quarantining, isolating or treating individuals testing positive for COVID-19 or who have had a high risk exposure to COVID-19.
- Suspends certification and licensure requirements for persons who meet the requirements for high complexity testing and who are performing analysis of samples to test for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in any certified public health laboratory or licensed clinical laboratory.
- Authorizes the Director of the Department of Developmental Services to issue directives waiving any provision of certain state laws to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities continue to receive the services and supports mandated by their individual program plans.
- Authorizes local and state legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically.

The Governor [declared a state of emergency](#) on 3/4/20. The declaration includes several provisions, including the following:

- State agencies are to enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services to assist in preparing for, containing, responding to, mitigating the effects of, and recovering from the spread of COVID-19. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising and competitive bidding requirements are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of COVID-19.
- Out of state personnel entering California to assist, prepare for mitigate the effects of and recover from COVID-10 are permitted to provide services with respect to licensing and certification.

- Price gouging protections will be in effect for emergency and medical supplies through 9/4/2020.
- The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments that have demonstrated extraordinary or disproportionate impacts from COVID-19, if appropriate and necessary.
- The Director of the California Department of Public Health may waive any licensing requirements of Chapter 2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and accompanying regulations with respect to any hospital or health facility identified in Health and Safety Code section 1250. Waivers will include alternative measures that will allow the facilities to treat legally isolated patients while protecting public health and safety.
- State departments will provide updated and specific guidance relating to preventing and mitigating COVID-19 to schools, employers, employees, first responders and community care facilities no later than 3/10/2020.
- The Department of Social Services may waive provisions of the Health and Safety Code or Welfare and Institutions Code and accompanying regulations, interim licensing standards, or other written policies or procedures with respect to use licensing, or approval of facilities or homes.

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Governor has requested that the legislature approve the use of [\\$20 million](#) from the state's disaster and emergency funds for coronavirus response.

Directives to Health Insurers

On 3/5/20, the California Insurance Commissioner [directed](#) all health insurers to do the following:

- Eliminate cost-sharing (including co-payments, deductibles and coinsurance) for COVID-19 screening and testing, notify providers that the insurers are waiving cost sharing for screening and testing, and require insurers to prominently display a statement on their website that they are waiving cost-sharing for screening and testing, and providing information on how to access such screening and testing.
- Ensure the health insurers' advice nurse line and customer service representatives are informed and clearly communicate this to consumers about the cost-sharing waiver.

The order also reminds insurers of existing California law regarding their obligations to ensure that consumer can access medically necessary care in a timely fashion, and encourages insurers to act proactively by working with providers to use telehealth services and to waive prior authorization and step therapy requirements if there is a shortage of a particular prescription drug and the provider recommends that the insured take a different drug.

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

California's enrollment period for its [health insurance exchange](#) is currently open to ["help people avoid paying tax penalties for not adhering to the state's new individual mandate to get coverage."](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The state Employment Development Department of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency prepared materials on the [“variety of support services to individuals affected by COVID-19 in California.”](#) In addition, a [chart](#) outlining what benefits workers impacted by COVID-19 might be entitled to is [available here](#) from the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Also, Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions on laws enforced by the California Labor Commissioner’s Office can be found [here](#).

- **Sick or Quarantined:** “If you’re unable to work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19 (certified by a medical professional), you can [file a Disability Insurance \(DI\) claim](#). DI provides short-term benefit payments to eligible workers who have a full or partial loss of wages due to a non-work-related illness, injury, or pregnancy. Benefit amounts are approximately 60-70 percent of wages (depending on income) and range from \$50-\$1,300 a week.” You can also file for paid sick leave under the state’s Paid Sick Leave law [“if you or a family member are sick or for preventative care when civil authorities recommend quarantine.”](#)
- **Caregiving:** “If you’re unable to work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19 (certified by a medical professional), you can [file a Paid Family Leave \(PFL\) claim](#). PFL provides up to six weeks of benefit payments to eligible workers who have a full or partial loss of wages because they need time off work to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a new child. Benefit amounts are approximately 60-70 percent of wages (depending on income) and range from \$50-\$1,300 a week.”
- **Reduced Work Hours:** “If your employer has reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19, you can [file an Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) claim](#). UI provides partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own. Workers who are temporarily unemployed due to COVID-19 and expected to return to work with their employer within a few weeks are not required to actively seek work each week. However, they must remain able and available and ready to work during their unemployment for each week of benefits claimed and meet all other eligibility criteria. Eligible individuals can receive benefits that range from \$40-\$450 per week.”

“Employers experiencing a slowdown in their businesses or services as a result of the coronavirus impact on the economy may apply for the UI Work Sharing Program. This program allows employers to seek an alternative to layoffs — retaining their trained employees by reducing their hours and wages that can be partially offset with UI benefits. Workers of employers who are approved to participate in the Work Sharing Program receive the percentage of their weekly UI benefit amount based on the percentage of hours and wages reduced, not to exceed 60 percent. Visit [Work Sharing Program](#) to learn more about its benefits for employers and employees, and how to apply.”

- **Exposure and Illness from COVID-19 Due to Regular Course of Work:** [“If you are unable to do your usual job because you were exposed to and contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of your work, you may be eligible for workers’ compensation benefits.”](#)

- **Mass Layoff Due to COVID-19 - Rapid Response:** “Employers planning a closure or major layoffs as a result of the coronavirus can get help through the Rapid Response program. Rapid Response teams will meet with you to discuss your needs, help avert potential layoffs, and provide immediate on-site services to assist workers facing job losses. For more information, refer to the [Rapid Response Services for Businesses Fact Sheet \(DE 87144RRB\) \(PDF\)](#) or contact your local America’s Job Center of California.”
- **Tax Assistance:** “Employers experiencing a hardship as a result of COVID-19 may request up to a 60-day extension of time from the EDD to file their state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest. A written request for extension must be received within 60 days from the original delinquent date of the payment or return.”

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez announced new legislation on 3/4/20 to provide workers with job protections when they are complying with an isolation or quarantine order. [“Under AB 3123, an employee can use their earned sick leave if their place of business is closed by order of a public official due to a public health emergency, or if the employee is providing care or assistance to their child, whose school or childcare provider is closed by order of a public official due to a public health emergency.”](#)

Maintain utilities

Pacific Power announced that it is [“temporarily suspending disconnections and late fees for non-payment for customers in Oregon, Washington and California to support the state of emergency declared in all three states in response to the COVID-19 virus.”](#)

In addition, [“Six utilities serving more than 21 million Californians have announced that they will not shut off customers’ power for non-payment as the coronavirus continues to disrupt daily life. Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric and Pacific Power are taking the step until further notice. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which is the nation’s largest municipal utility, will not shut off power or water for non-paying customers until at least the end of March, and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District made the same announcement for its power customers.”](#) Specific information from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power can be found [here](#).

[“six California legislators have asked Gov. Gavin Newsom for a host of measures aimed at assisting low-income state residents and those facing eviction. Their letter asked for a stay on all evictions and foreclosures, along with a statewide pause on any utility shutoff and a postponement of any adversarial hearing before a housing authority for recipients of housing assistance.”](#)

California Local Orders

Los Angeles and Orange counties and the cities of Long Beach and Los Angeles [“declared a public health emergency over the coronavirus”](#) on 3/4.

San Francisco [“declared a state of emergency due to the global outbreak of the coronavirus”](#) on 2/25/20. Also, the city announced it would be [“converting public libraries and indoor recreation facilities into emergency care centers for children and parents impacted by the coronavirus outbreak”](#).

San Francisco Mayor London Breed announced on 3/16/20 that the city is [“setting aside \\$10 million to help those financially strapped by the growing pandemic. The Workers and Families First Program, if fully used, would support over 16,000 additional weeks of sick leave pay, providing coverage for up to 25,000 San Francisco employees. In a statement announcing the aid package, Breed said the initiative will cover employees of San Francisco companies who are sick, caring for an ill family member or child whose school is closed, or affected by shelter-in-place orders,has created a new program to publicly fund paid sick days.”](#)

Sacramento County [declared a state of emergency](#) on 3/5/20.

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COLORADO

Executive Orders / State of Emergency / Paid Sick Leave / Emergency Child Care for First Responders

The Governor [issued](#) a mandatory [state at home public health order](#) on 3/25/20. This expands upon [Executive Order D 2020 013](#) which had been issued on 3/22/20. The state at home order does the following:

- Requires all those living in Colorado to stay at home whenever possible. People may leave their residences only to perform or utilize necessary activities. Public and private gatherings outside a residence are prohibited, except for purposes expressly permitted, including essential activities.
- Critical business means the following:
 - **Healthcare operations** (including hospitals, Hospitals, clinics, and walk-in health facilities; Medical and dental care, including ambulatory providers; Research and laboratory services; Medical wholesale and distribution; Home health care companies, workers and aides; Pharmacies; Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; Behavioral health care providers; Veterinary care and livestock services; Nursing homes, residential health care, or congregate care facilities; Medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers, including durable medical equipment technicians and suppliers; and Blood banks)
 - **Critical Infrastructure** (Including:Utilities and electricity, including generation, transmission, distribution and fuel supply; Road and railways; Oil and gas extraction, production, refining, storage, transport and distribution; Public water and wastewater; Telecommunications and data centers; Transportation and infrastructure necessary to support critical businesses; Hotels, and places of accommodation; Businesses and organizations that provide food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged, persons with access and functional needs, or otherwise needy individuals; Food and plant cultivation, including farming crops, livestock, food processing and manufacturing, animal feed and feed products, rendering, commodity sales, and any other work critical to the operation of any component of the food supply chain; Any business that produces products critical or incidental to the construction or operation of the categories of products included in this subsection)
 - **Critical Manufacturing** (Including: Food processing, manufacturing agents, including all foods and beverages; Chemicals; Computers and computer components; Medical equipment, components used in any medical device,

supplies or instruments; Pharmaceuticals; Sanitary products; Telecommunications; Microelectronics/semiconductor; Agriculture/farms; Household paper products; Any business that produces products critical or incidental to the processing, functioning, development, manufacture, packaging, or delivery of any of the categories of products included in this subsection; Any manufacturing necessary to support a Critical Business

- **Critical Retail**, Including: Grocery stores including all food and beverage stores; Farm and produce stands; Gas stations and convenience stores; Restaurants and bars (for take-out/delivery only as necessary under Executive Order D 2020 011 and PHO 20-22, as amended); Marijuana dispensary (only for the sale of medical marijuana or curbside delivery pursuant to Executive Order D 2020 011); Firearms stores; Hardware, farm supply, and building material stores; Establishments engaged in the retail sale of food and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products); Establishments engaged in the sale of products that support working from home
- **Critical Services** Including: Trash, compost, and recycling collection, processing and disposal; Mail and shipping services, and locations that offer P.O. boxes; Self-serve laundromats and garment and linen cleaning services for critical businesses; Building cleaning and maintenance; Child care services; Automobile rental, auto supply and repair (including retail dealerships that include repair and maintenance, but not retail sales); Warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, including freight distributors; Funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries; In-person pastoral services for individuals who are in crisis or in need of end of life services provided social distancing is observed to the greatest extent possible; Storage for Critical Businesses; Animal shelters, animal boarding services, animal rescues, zoological facilities, animal sanctuaries, and other related facilities; News Media; Newspapers; Television; Radio; Other media services
- **Financial Institutions** Including: Banks and credit institutions; Insurance, payroll, and accounting services; Services related to financial markets
- **Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations** Including: Homeless shelters and congregate care facilities; Food banks; Human services providers whose function includes the direct care of patients in State-licensed or funded voluntary programs; the care, protection, custody and oversight of individuals both in the community and in State-licensed residential facilities; those operating community shelters and other critical human services agencies providing direct care or support
- **Construction** Including: Housing and housing for low-income and vulnerable people; Skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers; Other related firms and professionals for who provide services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and critical operation of residences, and other essential services
- **Defense:** Defense, security, and intelligence-related operations supporting the State of Colorado, local government, the U.S. Government or a contractor for any of the foregoing; Aerospace operations; Military operations and personnel; Defense suppliers

- **Critical Services Necessary to Maintain the Safety, Sanitation and Critical Operations of Residences or Other Critical Businesses** (including: Law enforcement; Fire prevention and response; Building code enforcement; Security; Emergency management and response; Building cleaners or janitors; General maintenance whether employed by the entity directly or a vendor; Automotive repair; Disinfection; Snow removal)
- **Vendors that Provide Critical Services or Products, Including Logistics and Technology Support, Child Care and Services:** Logistics; Technology support for online and telephone services; Child care programs and services; Government owned or leased buildings; Critical Government Functions
- Critical Government Functions are as follows: The provision, operation and support of the following government functions shall continue:
 - Public safety (police stations, fire and rescue stations, correctional institutions, emergency vehicle and equipment storage, and, emergency operation centers)
 - Emergency response
 - Judicial branch operations, including attorneys if necessary for ongoing trials and required court appearances, unless appearances can be done remotely
 - Emergency medical (hospitals, ambulance service centers, urgent care centers having emergency treatment functions, and non-ambulatory surgical structures but excluding clinics, doctors offices, and non-urgent care medical structures that do not provide these functions)
 - Designated emergency shelters
 - Communications (main hubs for telephone, broadcasting equipment for cable systems, satellite dish systems, cellular systems, television, radio, and other emergency warning systems, but excluding towers, poles, lines, cables, and conduits)
 - Public utility plant facilities for generation and distribution (hubs, treatment plants, substations and pumping stations for water, power and gas, but not including towers, poles, power lines, buried pipelines, transmission lines, distribution lines, and service lines);
 - Transportation. Airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for Necessary Activities;
 - Transportation infrastructure (aviation control towers, air traffic control centers, and emergency equipment aircraft hangars), critical road construction and maintenance;
 - Hazardous material safety;
 - Services to at-risk populations and Vulnerable Individuals;
 - Any government service required for the public health and safety, government functionality, or vital to restoring normal services
- Businesses are allowed to maintain minimum basic operations, which are the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, and facilitate employees being able to work from home.

- People who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and those who are sick are urged to stay in their residence at all times except as needed for medical care.
- Those with symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate until their symptoms cease or until they have a negative test result. Those who have tested positive or have symptoms of COVID-19 should be in isolation until they have had no fever for at least 72 hours, other symptoms have improved and at least seven days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Governments and other entities are strongly urged to make shelter available to people experiencing homelessness as soon as possible and to the maximum extent possible.
- All travel is prohibited except as defined as necessary travel to perform necessary activities or to operate critical businesses or maintain critical governmental functions.
- Critical businesses are encouraged to remain open. They must comply with social distancing requirements and implement telework or other strategies, such as staggered schedules or re-designing workplaces, to create more distance between workers unless doing so would make it impossible to carry out critical functions. Those that serve the public such as grocery stores and other critical retail shall comply with social distancing requirements at all times.
- Establishes certain conditions for child care facilities providing services exempted in the order.

Executive Order D 2020 013 did the following:

- Directs Colorado employers to reduce in-person work that takes place outside of a private residence by at least 50 percent.
- Directs Colorado employers to implement tele-work or other work from home to the greatest extent possible. If this is not possible, employers are encouraged to stagger work schedules to reduce the proximity of workers during work hours and to keep employees on payroll.
- Directs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to issue a public health order that identifies emergency personnel and infrastructure necessary to ensure continuity of critical healthcare, government function, public safety, manufacturing, and supply chain operations, and authorized businesses exempt from the order.
- Provides that the order doesn't apply to any employer that can certify that employees are no closer than six feet from one another during work.

[Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties](#) all issued a public health stay at home order on 3/25/20. Boulder County's order can be found [here](#). Denver's Mayor issued a [stay at home order](#) on 3/23/20.

The Governor issued [Executive Order D 2020 011](#) on 3/20/20. This order contains several provisions, including the following:

- Temporarily suspends [“the prohibition on retail marijuana store online sales of retail marijuana and retail marijuana products to facilitate pick up by consumers twenty-one years of age and older...”](#)
- Temporarily suspends the gross weight provisions for vehicles to [“ensure the delivery of emergency goods and services to their destination.”](#)

The Governor issued [Executive Order 2020 010](#) on 3/20/20. This order temporarily suspends the state income tax payment deadlines [“to provide relief to Colorado taxpayers and businesses.”](#)

The Governor [announced](#) on 3/18/20 the creation of the [Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative](#) to find child care for the 80,000 emergency workers in the state who have young children. The program covers the following workers:

- [“Health care providers and staff: Doctors, nurses, and all hospital support personnel, including maintenance and janitorial staff, who are so essential to maintaining our health system.](#)
- [Public safety: Police, firefighters, EMT, Department of Corrections.](#)
- [Staff supporting critically at-risk populations: Long-term care facilities, mental health facilities, residential facilities subject to available capacity.”](#)

The Governor issued [Executive Order D 2020 008](#) on 3/18/20. This order provides direction to the Secretary of State around limiting in-person contact concerning elections and the Secretary of State’s operations.

Governor Polis [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/10/20 in response to COVID-19.

- **Paid Sick Leave:** The Department of Labor and Employment [published](#) emergency rules on 3/11/20 which require employers in specific industries to provide up to [4 days of paid sick leave for an employee with flu-like symptoms and is being tested for COVID-19](#). The paid sick leave ends if the employee receives a negative test result. The specific industries are as follows: [leisure and hospitality, food services, child care, education at all levels \(including related services, including but not limited to cafeterias and transportation to, from, and on campuses\), home health care \(working with elderly, disabled, ill, or otherwise high-risk individuals\), operating a nursing home, or operating a community living facility](#). The Colorado Health Emergency Leave with Pay (“Colorado HELP”) Rules can be found [here](#).
- **State Employees and Remote Work / Paid Leave:** The Colorado Department of Personnel Administration is directed to [“engage in emergency rulemaking regarding state employees. The administration wants to ensure that state functions continue to run smoothly. For employees who may be put either in quarantine or isolation and can work from home, they should do so. If these workers fall ill and cannot perform their duties, they will be able to use paid leave, and the state will be flexible with that paid leave. For impacted employees who cannot work remotely, such as correctional officers, assisted living staff, etc., the administration is working to ensure paid leave options for those who are ill to ensure that those workers can continue to put food on the table while protecting public health.”](#)

Directives to Health Insurers

The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies [issued Bulletin No. B-4.104](#) on 3/9/20. Health insurance carriers regulated by the state are being directed to do the following (emergency regulations will be issued to formalize these directives):

- Conduct an outreach and education campaign to remind individuals of their telehealth coverage options, and to provide telehealth services to cover COVID-10 related in-network telehealth services with no cost sharing.
- Cover an additional one-time early refill of any necessary prescriptions (does not apply to drugs with a high likelihood of abuse). Carriers cannot apply a different cost-sharing

amount to an early fill of a prescription due to concerns about COVID-19.

- Ensure that coverage is provided for COVID-19 testing for people who meet the state's criteria for testing without the requirement that consumers pay co-pays, deductibles or coinsurance. Carriers are directed to waive cost-sharing for an in-network provider office visit, and in-network urgent care visit or an emergency room visit when a covered person seeks testing for COVID-19. If an in-network provider is unable to conduct the testing, carriers must cover the testing if provided by an out-of-network provider.

Health plans that are provided by large employers that are self insured are not covered under these directives.

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

Colorado opened up a [special enrollment period](#) from 3/20/20 through 4/3/20. [“Coloradans who are currently uninsured or about to lose coverage due to COVID-19 are able to get health insurance that starts April 1, 2020.”](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Department of Labor and Employment noted on 3/16/20 that it is [“looking at options to possibly waive the requirement for those who are unemployed to search for work.”](#) The Department also announced on 3/17/20 that is [“encouraging workers who are experiencing a temporary or permanent reduction in hours or wages to consider part-time employment in other industries seeing an increase in demand for goods or services, such as delivery, logistics, transportation, healthcare or retail such as grocery stores and warehouses. The department plans to work with these industries directly over the coming days to identify opportunities to match workers who are unemployed with hiring employers.”](#)

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CONNECTICUT

State of Emergency

The Governor has issued several executive orders. They can be downloaded [here](#).

[Executive Order No.7J](#) was issued on 3/22/20. The order provides for the following:

- Clarifies Executive Order No. 7H to allow non-essential retailers to be staffed on site, provided that they may only offer remote ordering and delivery or curbside pick up, and that non-essential businesses and nonprofits are permitted to allow staff or others on site to the minimum extent necessary to provide security, maintenance and receipt of mail and packages, or other services determined to be essential in implementing guidance.
- Extends time period for fire service personnel exams
- Permits delivery of take-home doses of methadone for treatment of drug dependent patients who are unable to travel to the treatment facility due to COVID-19 or related concerns.
- Suspends rehiring procedures and restrictions on temporary worker retirees.
- Modifies real property and state contracting statutes to facilitate leasing, repairs, alterations and use of real property to address the COVID-19 emergency, and creates a process for the approval of such transactions.

[Executive Order No. 7I](#) was issued on 3/21/20. The order provides for the following:

- Suspension of requirements that public assistance eligibility reinvestigations be conducted at least every 12 or 24 months.
- Suspension of copayments for full benefit dually eligible Medicare Part D beneficiaries.
- Suspension of copayments for HUSKY B clients.
- Suspension of limitations on refills of non-maintenance medications for HUSKY beneficiaries.
- Flexibility related to the Student Data Privacy Act.
- Limits on Visitation with Children Placed in the Care and Custody of the Department of Children and Families.
- Limits on Visitors to Facilities That Treat Children or Youth with Psychiatric Disabilities.
- Waiver of In-person Service, Screening and Hearing Requirements for Facilities that Have Limited Visitor Access to Protect Public Health.
- Pharmacist Discretion in Refilling Certain Prescriptions for Longer Periods.
- Commissioner Authority to Modify Pharmacy Operation Regulations.
- Suspension of In-Person Shareholder Meeting Requirements
- Extension of Budget Adoption Deadlines - Additional Municipal Bodies.
- Suspension of In-Person Budget Adoption Requirements for Municipalities.
- Suspension of In-Person Budget Adoption Requirements for Regional Boards of Education.
- Extension of Municipal Deadlines and Waiver of Penalties Related to Municipal Planning, Assessment and Taxation.
- Suspension of In-Person Filing Requirements Related to Municipal Planning, Assessment and Taxation.
- Suspension of Deadlines and Modification of Public Hearing and Appeals Requirements for Assessment and Taxation.
- Extension of New Reporting Requirements on Property.

[Executive Order No. 7H](#) was issued on 3/20/20. The order requires non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities to reduce their in-person workforces at any workplace location by 100% by 8:00 pm on 3/23/20. The State Department of Economic and Community Development is required to issue guidance about which businesses are essential, and will include, but are not limited to, the 16 critical infrastructure sectors defined by Department of Homeland Security, and the following:

- “essential health care operations including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, elder care and home health care workers,
- companies and institutions involved in the research and development, manufacture, distribution, warehousing, and supplying of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology therapies, health care data, consumer health products, medical devices, diagnostics, equipment, services and any other healthcare related supplies or services;
- essential infrastructure, including utilities, wastewater and drinking water, telecommunications, airports and transportation infrastructure;
- manufacturing, including food processing, pharmaceuticals, and industries supporting the essential services required to meet national security commitments to the federal government and U.S. Military;
- the defense industrial base, including aerospace, mechanical and software engineers, manufacturing/production workers, aircraft and weapon system mechanics and maintainers;
- essential retail, including grocery stores and big-box stores or wholesale clubs, provided they also sell groceries;
- pharmacies, gas stations and convenience stores;

- food and beverage retailers (including liquor/package stores and manufacturer permittees) and restaurants, provided they comply with previous and future executive orders issued during the existing declared public health and civil preparedness emergency;
- essential services including trash and recycling collection, hauling, and processing, mail and shipping services;
- news media;
- legal and accounting services;
- banks, insurance companies, check cashing services, and other financial institutions;
- providers of basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations;
- construction;
- vendors of essential services and goods necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences or other essential businesses, including pest control and landscaping services;
- vendors that provide essential services or products, including logistics and technology support, child care and services needed to ensure the continuing operation of government agencies and the provision of goods, services or functions necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the public.”

[Executive Order No.7G](#) was issued on 3/19/20. This order includes the following:

- Postponement of the Presidential Primary to 6/2/20.
- Suspension of non-critical court operations and associated requirements
- Provides further clarification on limits on restaurants, bars and private clubs
- Provides restriction on the operation of barbershops, hair salons, tattoo or piercing parlors and related public businesses
- Provides flexibility for Medicaid enrolled providers and in network providers for commercial fully insured health insurance to perform telehealth through additional methods
- Temporarily suspends in-person investigative visits regarding reports of elder abuse
- Extends time for disclosure of investigation results

[Executive Order No. 7F](#) was issued on 3/18/20. This order provides for the following:

- Directs the closure of large shopping malls
- Closes places of public amusement
- Expands Medicaid telehealth coverage to audio-only telephone.
- Waives in person service, hearing and screening requirements for facilities that have issued orders limiting visitor access to protect the public health
- Provides for the continuation of classes and programming at certain state-operated schools.

The Governor declared a public health emergency on 3/10/20, and signed an executive order on 3/12/20 ([executive order no. 7](#)). The public health emergency declaration allows the Governor to invoke [“two state laws that grant him broad powers to protect school children and prison inmates, fight price-gouging, and empower local health officials to enforce quarantines.”](#)

The executive order does the following:

- [prohibits gatherings of 250 or more people.](#)
- [establishes limits on nursing home visitors.](#)
- [establishes a waiver of the 180 day school year.](#)
- [extends DMV licensing renewal deadlines and suspends other DMV requirements, and](#)

- [modifies police academy attendance requirements.](#)

Also, the Department of Transportation [announced coronavirus precautions that they are taking for public transportation.](#)

Maintaining Food Assistance Through Schools

Governor Lamont announced on 3/13/20 that the [“State Department of Education has successfully received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture allowing students who are enrolled in schools that are closed due to COVID-19 and receive meals through the school lunch program to continue receiving those meals and for them to be consumed at home, allowing for social distancing.”](#)

Directives to Health Insurers

The Governor announced on 3/13/20 that the Department of Social Services [“is also planning to cover testing for COVID-19; make prescription drug coverage more flexible; and eliminate cost sharing in the Children’s Health Insurance Program \(HUSKY B\) and for members enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid.”](#)

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

Connecticut [reopened](#) its health insurance exchange under a special enrollment period [“in response to the growing number of Americans who have or may have contracted COVID-19.”](#)

Maintaining Utility Services during the emergency

The Attorney General [announced](#) on 3/13/20 that the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority has [“granted an emergency moratorium on electric, natural gas, and water utility shut-offs in response to the coronavirus pandemic.”](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers / Guidance to Employers

The Governor announced on 3/13/20 that the state Department of Labor was [“suspending the requirement that workers applying for new unemployment benefits directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic be actively searching for work.”](#) The state Department of Labor suspended [“the federal RESEA work-search program effective immediately. This program involves a more intensive process that mandates recipients of unemployment insurance go to the American Job Centers in person and receive one-on-one help. The agency anticipated serving 9,030 people this year. Suspending this program will reduce traffic in the centers and help limit in-person contact with the public.”](#)

The state Department of Labor has prepared a [fact sheet](#) for workers and employers about UI benefits and COVID-19. The state says that UI eligibility for situations where a worker is quarantined because of exposure or because the worker has become sick with COVID-19 will be determined on a case by case basis.

Assistance for Business

The Governor announced on 3/13/20 that the state Economic and Community Development Department is [“working with small businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19. Specifically, the agency will defer loan payments for all Small Business Express loans for three months.”](#)

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DELAWARE

State of Emergency / Stay at Home Order

The Governor issued a [fourth](#) and [fifth](#) modification to his declaration of a state of emergency on 3/22 . The modifications [order Delaware residents to “stay at home whenever possible” and closes all non-essential businesses in the state.](#)

- A list of essential and nonessential businesses can be found [here](#). FAQs about the modifications can be found [here](#).

The Governor declared a state of emergency on 3/13/20. The [declaration](#) provides for the following:

- [“Requires the Delaware National Guard to take precautionary and responsive actions to assist with Delaware’s response to the coronavirus;](#)
- [Advises event organizers in Delaware to cancel non-essential public gatherings of 100 people or more, to prevent community spread of coronavirus;](#)
- [Allows the State of Delaware to conduct public meetings electronically to prevent unnecessary public gatherings;](#)
- [Prohibits price gouging, or an excessive price increase of goods or services, during the coronavirus outbreak.”](#)

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

State of Emergency / Coronavirus Response Funding / Assistance for Business

Mayor Bowser [declared](#) a state of emergency and a public health emergency on 3/11/20. The [Declaration of Public Health Emergency](#) (and a [follow-up declaration](#)) provides that the City Administrator is authorized to implement any measures that are necessary or appropriate to protect persons and property in DC from the impacts of COVID-19. This includes requesting federal disaster assistance and mandatory medical quarantining for any person that has probable cause to believe they are affected with a communicable disease, taking measures under the District Response plan, and enforcing the District’s Natural Disaster Consumer Protection Act.

- The order also states that “the City Administrator, in consultation with the Assistant City Administrator, shall, if necessary, deploy personnel in a manner that may contravene provisions of existing collective bargaining agreements and may designate employees as essential at any time, or delegate such designation responsibilities to agency heads.”
- The order provides that the city will issue a policy by 3/12/20 for all DC government employees related to travel, designation of emergency and essential employees, employee responsibilities, and guidance on workplace flexibility, leave options and workplace protections.
- The order states that the Department of Health recommends that non-essential gatherings of more than 1,000 people be postponed at least until 3/31/20.

- The City Administrator will determine whether public venues can operate safely during a pandemic and if not, identify measures that can be undertaken to minimize health risks, including temporary closures, and will provide recommendations to the Mayor.
- The City Administrator will determine whether UDC and public schools can operate safely during a pandemic, and if not, identify measures that can be undertaken to minimize health risks, including online learning, temporary closings, and modifications to the school year, and will provide recommendations to the Mayor.
- The City Administrator will determine whether public transportation can operate safely during a pandemic and if not, identify measures that can be undertaken to minimize health risks, including temporary closures and installation of alcohol based cleaning stations, and will provide recommendations to the Mayor.
- The City Administrator will draft legislative proposals to provide financial and regulatory assistance to individuals and businesses experiencing significant economic hardships directly related to COVID-19.
- Insurance related issues that could affect patient care directly related to COVID-19 and the prevention of its spread will be immediately identified and staff will work to resolve those issues.
- Agency directors will authorize temporary personnel assignments within and across District agencies as needed.
- All procurement requests related to COVID-19 response and continuity of government operations will be submitted through the EOC's WebEOC procurement process for centralized and streamlined processing by the Office of Contracting and Procurement.
- Agency directors may authorize overtime for activities directly related to the District's response to COVID-19.
- The city administrator is authorized to apply for financial assistance through any federal, private or nonprofit disaster relief and recovery organizations and any other appropriate agencies of the US government to recoup expenditures incurred or obtain funding needed to carry out necessary actions under this order.
- The order provides that it will be unlawful for anyone to charge more than the normal average retail price for any merchandise or service sold.

Mayor Bowser sent a [letter](#) to DC's Chief Financial Officer on 3/11/20 requesting that [\\$5 million be allocated to the Office of Contracting and Procurement for purchase of supplies, personal protective equipment and other equipment needed for DC's response to COVID-19.](#)

Metro announced that starting 3/16/20, it will reduce its transit service ["to help its workforce stay safe while it begins even more stringent disinfecting of its railcars and buses due to the coronavirus pandemic."](#)

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

DC's [health insurance exchange](#) is currently open to enrollment, as the city opens it ["to enable uninsured people to get insurance at the same time of year they file their income taxes."](#)

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FLORIDA

State of Emergency

The Governor declared a state of emergency on 3/1/20. The Governor issued an [executive order](#) which calls on the State Health Officer to take any action necessary to carry out the state's plan. It also directs the state to actively monitor persons under investigation for the virus and for ensuring that such persons are isolated and quarantined. The order also gives the Department of Health the necessary authority to further require isolation, quarantine, or other interventions.

Florida Local Orders

The following counties have issued stay at home / safer at home / shelter in place orders:

- [Alachua County](#)
- [Broward County](#)
- [Hillsborough County](#)
- [Leon County](#)
- [Miami-Dade County](#)
- [Orange County](#)
- [Osceola County](#)
- [Pinellas County](#)

Broward County [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/10/20. Miami-Dade County [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/12/20. All "major public events" have been [canceled](#) in Miami-Dade County.

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GEORGIA

State of Emergency / Funding for Coronavirus Response / Task Forces / Assistance to Business

Atlanta's mayor [issued](#) a stay at home executive order 20-21 on 3/23/20. The order can be found [here](#).

The Governor issued an [executive order](#) declaring a public health emergency on 3/14/20 and has called for a special session of the legislature to [return on 3/16/20 to ratify the order](#). The order includes the following:

- [Directs that all the resources of Georgia should be made available to assist in activities designed to address the COVID-19 emergency](#)
- [Directs the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to activate the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan](#)
- [Directs the Georgia Department of Public Health to coordinate with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to take any action needed to protect the public's health](#)
- [Authorizes the medical and nursing boards to grant temporary licenses to physicians and nurses who are licensed in good standing in other states](#)

- [Suspends federal rules and regulations limiting the hours that operators of commercial vehicles can drive to ensure carrier crews are available. No motor carrier operating under this declaration can require or allow an ill or fatigued driver to operate a motor vehicle. Any driver who notifies a motor vehicle carrier that they need immediate rest will be given at least 10 consecutive off duty hours before being required to return to service.](#)
- [Provides certain limitations on the weight, height and length of vehicles traveling through Georgia for the purpose of providing disaster relief or preparation. Any commercial vehicles operating outside the normal weight, height and length restrictions are to be issued permits by the Georgia Department of Public Safety.](#)
- [Prohibits price gouging of goods and services necessary to support public health.](#)

The legislature [passed](#) a budget on 3/11/20 that included the [Governor's request](#) for \$100 million to be directed to fight the spread of COVID-19. The money will be used to [“assist the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Public Health in their response efforts.”](#)

The Governor announced on 3/12/20 [the following](#):

- The state has suspended nonessential travel and is implementing telework for most state employees.
- The Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Corrections, Juvenile Justice, and Veterans Services facilities are suspending visitation until 4/10/20 except for next of kin in end of life situations.
- The Governor has created Coronavirus Task Force Committees
 - *Emergency Preparedness Committee*: Chaired by General John King, this committee will analyze the availability of necessary supplies and evaluate logistical needs. Their job will be to lay the groundwork for supply chain needs in the weeks ahead.
 - *Economic Impact Committee*: Chaired by State Economist Jeffrey Dorfman, this committee will work with leaders in academia, business, and lawmakers on preparing for the short-and-long-term impacts of the virus on the Georgia economy.
 - *Primary Care Physicians Committee*: Chaired by State Senator Ben Watson (R - Savannah), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, this committee of public and private healthcare experts will work to ensure that the best decisions are being made for the healthcare community as they mitigate this crisis.
 - *Committee for the Homeless and Displaced*: Chaired by Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, this committee will ensure adequate shelter, resources, and care for vulnerable populations in Georgia.

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HAWAII

State of Emergency

The Governor issued a state of emergency on 3/4/20. The [proclamation](#) provides for the following:

- [Activates the Major Disaster Fund](#)
- [Allows for the suspension of the certain statutes in order for county and state agencies to accomplish the emergency management functions under the proclamation, including related to collective bargaining in public employment, contracts for concessions in government buildings and bid requirements, wages, hours and working conditions for service contracts, public procurement code, purchases of health and human services.](#)
- [Continues prohibited increases in the selling price of any commodity in the area subject to this disaster](#)

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health passed [HB 1629](#) on 3/11/20. HB 1629 would allocate resources to the department of health to support the following activities to detect, contain, mitigate and respond to COVID-19:

- Syndromic surveillance to monitor potential COVID-19 encounters and supplement traditional case-finding activities;
- Enhanced communication strategies that provide general populations and vulnerable populations most at risk with actionable information for self-protection, including identification of symptoms, and clear guidance for seeking treatment;
- Intensive source control if local epicenters in Hawaii are identified, including isolation of patients and persons testing positive for COVID-19, contact tracing and health monitoring, strict health facility infection prevention and control, and use of other active public health control interventions with continued active surveillance;
- Preparation for resilience of health systems in the State, as is done at the time of seasonal influenza, anticipating severe infections and course of disease in older people and other populations identified to be at risk of severe disease;
- If widespread community transmission is established, consideration of a transition to include mitigation activities, especially if contact tracing becomes ineffective or overwhelming and an inefficient use of resources. Examples of mitigation activities include cancelling public gatherings, school closure, remote working, home isolation, observation of the health of symptomatic individuals supported by telephone or online health consultation, and provision of essential life support such as oxygen supplies, mechanical ventilators, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation equipment; and
- Transportation, storage, distribution, and administration of vaccines and other treatments for at-risk populations.

The bill would provide for an appropriation out of general revenues that has not been quantified for the following activities to detect, contain, mitigate and respond to COVID-19:

- contracted services for multi-media public education and awareness campaigns;
- quarantine and self-monitoring, which may include:
 - Persons who are not residents or do not have a viable home situation;
 - Persons falling outside the federal quarantine mandate, which will no longer be available after March 5, 2020; or
 - Persons with confirmed diagnoses of COVID-19 who are hospitalized, then in less than the fourteen-day quarantine period are discharged before being cleared for release from isolation because they no longer need hospitalization, and who require safe options;
 - laboratory testing, equipment, and supplies, including four additional staff positions;
- disease outbreak surveillance and response, including but not limited to:
 - Personal protective equipment for disease investigators;
 - Specimen collection kits;
 - Additional computers, telecommunications, and mobile internet connectivity;
 - Office supplies for forms relating to health care provider reporting, consent, etc.;
 - Mass vaccination activities, equipment, and supplies; and
 - Overtime and contract labor for disease investigation, logistics management, data-entry, etc.;
- other personnel expenses related to overtime, travel, and supplies;
- incident command supplies and equipment, including but not limited to deployment of hand sanitizer stations at critical state facilities and other public areas;
- Funding allocated to the Kauai district health office for county of Kauai-specific activities;
- Funding allocated to the Hawaii island district health office for county of Hawaii-specific activities; and
- Funding allocated to the Maui district health office for county of Maui-specific activities.

The bill would also appropriate an amount that is not quantified for the department of defense for emergency management and response to COVID-10 including, but not limited to forehead and ear thermometers, personal protective equipment for responders, operating and office supplies to assist with field work, and contract labor for special service planners.

The House referred [SB 75](#) to the Finance Committee on 3/9/20.

- The bill would make an emergency appropriation of **\$6.6 million** to the department of health for the purpose of COVID-19 response measures in the state. The bill outlines specific amounts that are to be appropriated for different activities that detect, contain, mitigate and respond to coronavirus.
- The bill would also appropriate **\$2.789 million** for COVID-19 response to the department of transportation, provided that the funding is used to obtain resources necessary to protect the health and safety of Hawaii's population and economy from any threats entering through the State's airports and harbors.
- The bill would appropriate **\$1.18 million** to be used for COVID-19 response by the department of defense for the purposes of emergency management and response, including certain operating expenses and the purchase of equipment, supplies and services.
- The bill also provides that with the Governor's approval, these appropriations may be transferred to another department or agency for the purposes of coronavirus responses so long as the Governor submits a report of all uses of this authority within 30 days of the appropriation transfer.

Study or Taskforce

[HR 54](#) was adopted in final form on 3/3/20. This resolution establishes the Select House Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness. The House Speaker appointed 25 people plus himself to serve on this committee, which will meet for the first time on Thursday, 3/12/20. There is [one union representative on this committee](#): Hawaii Buildings and Construction Trades Council Executive Director Gino Soquena.

[HB 2459](#) was passed by the House Judiciary Committee on 2/14/20. The bill has been referred to the House Finance Committee. HB 2459 would require the department of health to conduct a study related to the development and disbursement of vaccinations to prepare Hawaii for modern disease outbreaks, determine when exemptions to mandatory vaccinations may be appropriate, and submit a report about its findings to the legislature. The study would include several elements, including the department's plan to prepare for a coronavirus-type outbreak in Hawaii, including how to appropriately vaccinate an island community against modern diseases that are prone to cause outbreaks.

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers - Paid Family and Medical Leave

[HB 1652](#) was referred to the House Labor, Judiciary and Finance Committees on 1/21/20. This bill would require certain employers to provide employees with 12 months of paid caregiving leave during any calendar year to care for the employee's spouse, civil union partner, reciprocal beneficiary, significant other, relative, friend, or neighbor.

Resolutions Urging Action

The following resolutions were referred to the House Committees on Health; Human Services and Homelessness; and Finance the week of 3/9/20.

- [HR 57](#) and [HCR 74](#) request that the state Department of Health prioritize the containment and control of coronavirus to those with a high probability of contracting and dying from the virus, such as residents of care homes, nursing homes, and adult foster homes, their caregivers, and people with known comorbid medical conditions.

- [HR 106](#) and [HCR 127](#) call on the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide sufficient numbers of COVID-19 test kits to Hawaii, and call on Congress, the President, the US Department of Health and Human Services and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fully support Hawaii in the screening, prevention, and containment of COVID-19.
- [HCR 178](#) urges state and private health care networks to allow sick employees to take time off for illness without fear of retaliation or retribution, and urges state and private health care networks to review their attendance policies in light of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.
- [HR 64](#) urges commercial airlines operating in Hawaii to thoroughly clean and disinfect their aircraft between flights in order to prevent the spread of illnesses and diseases, including COVID-19.

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IDAHO

State of Emergency

The Governor declared a state of emergency on 3/13/20. The [declaration](#) provides for the following:

- [Provides that the plans and procedures of the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan are to be implemented](#)
- [State agencies and departments are directed to use state resources and do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in order to respond to and recover from COVID-19.](#)
- [Authorizes the use of resources of the state government in efforts to deal with the public health emergency](#)
- [Authorizes state licensing agencies and departments to temporarily exercise enforcement discretion, implement temporary rules, and waive licensing and related requirements to maximize access to health care services and provider support.](#)

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ILLINOIS

State of Emergency / Stay at Home Order

The Governor issued [Executive Order 2020-10](#) on 3/20/20.

- This order requires Illinois residents to stay at home or at their place of residence except as allowed in the order. People may leave home only for essential activities, essential governmental functions, or to operate essential businesses and operations.
- The order requires all non-essential business and operations to cease. Businesses may continue to operate if their employees work from home.
- All essential businesses and operations are encouraged to remain open.
- Prohibits all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit.
- Closes all places of public amusement.
- Prohibits all travel except for essential travel and essential activities.

- Permits leaving the home for essential activities.
 - For health and safety
 - For necessary supplies and services
 - For outdoor activity, provided they comply with social distancing requirements
 - For certain types of work
 - To take care of others
- Elderly people and those vulnerable as a result of illness are urged to stay in their residence except as needed to seek medical care.
- Defines essential businesses and operations, which includes healthcare and public health operations, human services, essential infrastructure, distribution and sale), and essential governmental functions, along with the following:
 - Stores that sell groceries and medicine
 - Food, beverage, and cannabis production and agriculture
 - Organizations that provide charitable and social services
 - Media
 - Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation
 - Financial institutions
 - Hardware and supply stores
 - Critical trades (building and construction tradesmen and tradeswomen and other trades)
 - Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick up services
 - Educational institutions (for the purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions,, provided they comply with social distancing requirements
 - Laundry services
 - Restaurants for consumption off-premises
 - Supplies to work from home
 - Supplies for essential businesses and operations
 - Transportation
 - Home based care and services
 - Residential facilities and shelters
 - Professional services (such as legal, accounting, insurance, real estate)
 - Day care centers for employees exempted by this executive order
 - Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries
 - Critical labor union functions (including the administration of health and welfare funds and personnel checking on the well-being and safety of members providing services in Essential Businesses and Operations, provided these checks should be done by phone or remotely where possible).
 - Hotels and motels
 - Funeral services
- Includes social distancing requirements
- Instructs state, county and local law enforcement officers to cease enforcement of orders of eviction for residential premises for the duration of the disaster proclamation.

Governor Pritzker [announced](#) a state of emergency on 3/9/20. The announcement means that Illinois will be able to do the following:

- [“Allows federal reimbursement for state response costs](#)
- [Allows use of State Disaster Relief Fund, covering direct state costs and reimbursements to Illinois National Guard and mutual aid groups](#)

- [Allows use of the state’s mutual aid network, groups of public safety response professionals — including hundreds of health care providers and management professionals, law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and disaster response professionals — that are available to deploy to areas of shortage](#)
- [Authorizes the Governor to activate Illinois National Guard reservists, some of whom may be doctors and nurses](#)
- [Allows expedited procurement should it be necessary](#)
- [Authorizes additional executive authorities to protect public health and safety”](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers - Unemployment Insurance / Paid Family and Medical Leave / Paid Sick DaysUI / Paid Sick Leave

Governor Pritzker announced on 3/11/20 that [“he’s filing emergency rules that will allow those who are unemployed because they are sick to collect unemployment insurance, “to the full extent permitted by federal law.”](#)” He also announced that he is asking Congress to [“waive interest on any federal loans Illinois may need to shore up its unemployment insurance trust fund, which will be the source of the new aid.”](#)

On 3/11/20, [“A coalition of labor unions, faith leaders, government officials and politicians held what they called “the press conference of the people” on the second floor of Chicago City Hall Wednesday morning, pushing for paid sick leave policies across the country for those affected by the coronavirus, especially lower-wage workers...Speakers encouraged workers to advocate for themselves, reminding them of their rights and urging them to contact Chicago’s Office of Labor Standards if employers deny paid sick days.”](#) City and Cook County elected officials stated that they [“were ready to push for 15 days of paid sick leave....at least with respect to people infected or quarantined by the coronavirus.”](#)

[HB 3532](#), [SB 1723](#), and [SB 479](#) carried over from 2019.

- HB 3532 and SB 1723 would create the Family and Medical Leave Act, applying to employers employing more than 20 employees. Workers would be provided with 16 weeks of family leave for several reasons including to care for a family member who has a serious health condition.
- SB 479 would require employers to provide employees with at least 40 hours of paid sick time annually.

Study / Taskforce

[HB 5607](#) referred to the House Rules Committee on 2/18/2020. This bill would require the Department of Public Health to conduct a study, subject to appropriations, of Illinois' disease response preparedness, in particular studying the State's preparedness against the Coronavirus. The bill would provide that a report of the Department's findings and any recommendations be submitted to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2020.

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INDIANA

Executive Order / State of Emergency / Task Force

The Governor issued stay at home [Executive Order 20-08](#) on 3/23/20. This order requires individuals living in Indiana to stay at home or their place of residence, except as allowed in the order. Essential Businesses and Operations are encouraged to remain open, and are required to comply with social distancing requirements. The order prohibits public and private gatherings of any number of people outside of a single household or living unit, and prohibits any gathering of more than 10 people. The order closes all places of public amusement. Essential activities are permitted for the following reasons:

- Health and safety
- For necessary supplies and services
- For outdoor activity
- For certain types of work at essential businesses or operations which includes essential governmental functions, healthcare and public health operations, human services operations, and essential infrastructure, and minimum basic operations
- To take care of others

The order provides that elderly people and those vulnerable as a result of illness should take additional precautions.

Essential businesses and operations means health care and public health operations, human services operations, essential governmental functions and essential infrastructure, as well as the following:

- Department of Homeland Security's CISA list
- Stores that sell groceries and medicine
- All food, beverage and agriculture
- Organizations that provide charitable and social services
- Religious entities
- Media
- Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation
- Financial and insurance institutions
- Hardware and supply stores
- Critical trades
- Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick up services
- Educational institutions
- Laundry services
- Restaurants for consumption off premises
- Supplies to work from home
- Supplies for essential businesses and operations
- Transportation
- Home based care and services
- Residential facilities and shelters
- Professional services
- Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries
- Critical labor union functions (including the administration of health and welfare funds and personnel checking on the wellbeing and safety of members providing services in essential businesses and operations, provided that the checks should be done by phone or remotely where possible.)
- Hotels and motels
- Funeral services

Also, businesses are allowed to maintain the minimum necessary activity to maintain the value of the business's inventory to preserve the condition of its physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and benefits, etc., as well as the minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees being able to continue to work remotely.

The order also requires businesses to take the following actions:

- Allow as many employees to work from home by implementing policies in areas such as teleworking and video conferencing
- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home until they are fever free for at least 72 hours and symptoms have improved for at least 72 hours and at least seven days have passed since symptoms began. Employers are prohibited from requiring a healthcare provider's note to validate the illness or return to work of employees sick with acute respiratory illness.
- Ensure that sick leave policies are up to date, flexible and non-punitive in order to allow sick employees to stay home to care for themselves, children or other family members. Employers are encouraged to have employees do a self-assessment each day in order to check if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Separate employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms from other employees and send them home immediately. Restrict their access to the business until they have recovered.
- Reinforce key messages to all employees (including stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene) and place posters in areas where they are most likely to be seen. Provide protection supplies such as soap and water, hand sanitizer, tissues, and no-touch disposal receptacles for use by employees.
- Frequently perform enhanced environmental cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use.

The Governor [declared a public health emergency](#) on 3/6/20. The executive order can be found [here](#). The order also states that the state had created an interagency task force on COVID-19.

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IOWA

State of Emergency / Declarations

The Governor issued an additional [public health emergency declaration](#) on 3/20/20. The declaration contains several provisions, including the following:

- [Temporarily suspends penalties and interest for property taxes](#)
- [Temporarily suspends some evictions](#)
- [Permits public meetings or hearings by electronic means](#)
- [Suspends certain rules regarding transportation of agricultural supplies and commodities, food, medical supplies, cleaning products and other household goods on Iowa highways.](#)

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/9/20. The proclamation of disaster emergency

- [“activates the disaster response and recovery aspects of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s Iowa Emergency Response Plan and those additional response plans applicable to the counties affected by this disaster and authorize the use and deployment of all available state resources, supplies, equipment, and materials as are reasonable necessary to assist those citizens located in the disaster affected counties.”](#)
- [temporarily suspends state law prohibiting overtime pay for state employees working in the State’s Emergency Operations Center or assigned to work on disaster response missions or other activities.](#)
- [Orders state agencies to use personnel, equipment and facilities to assist the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to perform any activity needed to prevent, contain and mitigate the effects of COVID-19.](#)
- [Temporarily suspends competitive process rules for procuring goods and services that are necessary to prevent, contain or mitigate COVID-19.](#)
- [Temporarily suspends certain regulations related to hours of service for motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles involved in the transportation of vaccines, antivirals, prescription drugs, protective equipment, and other necessary medical assets. However, no motor carrier operating under this agreement shall require or allow a fatigued or ill driver to operate a motor vehicle. A driver who informs a carrier that they need immediate rest will be given at least 10 consecutive hours off duty before being required to return to service. Also, at the request of the driver, commercial motor carriers operating under the proclamation must give the driver at least 34 consecutive hours off when the driver has been on duty for more than 70 hours during any 8 consecutive days.](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers - Paid Family and Medical Leave

[SF 195](#) was reassigned to a Senate Labor and Business Relations Subcommittee on 1/15/20. This bill would establish a family leave and medical leave insurance program that provides for paid, job-protected leave for certain family leave and medical leave reasons for eligible employees of specified employers.

Assistance for Business

The Governor announced on 3/21/20 that the US Small Business Administration issued a disaster declaration for Iowa, which [“allows pandemic-impacted small businesses to apply for low-interest support loans.”](#)

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KANSAS

State of Emergency

The Governor issued a [state of disaster emergency proclamation](#) on 3/12/20. The declaration [“authorizes the use of state resources and personnel to assist with response and recovery operations in affected counties that meet certain criteria.”](#) The declaration also [enabled the state’s anti-profiteering statute.](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor signed [SB 27](#) into law on 3/19/20. This law provides for a maximum of 26 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits and compensation for the pre-payment waiting period.

[HB 2665](#) was referred to the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee on 2/13/20. This bill would require that every employee accrue one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. The bill would allow sick leave to be used to diagnose, care for or treat the employee or employee's family member's illness, injury or health condition; to obtain preventative medical care for the employee or the employee's family member; to address closure of the employee's place of employment by order of a public official; and to care for an employee's family member whose school or place of care has been closed by order of a public official due to a public health emergency.

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KENTUCKY

State of Emergency / Executive Orders / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor [issued an executive order](#) on 3/17/20 requiring all public facing businesses that encourage public congregation or that cannot comply with the CDC guidelines on social distancing shall stop all in-person operations. This includes entertainment, hospitality and recreational facilities, community and recreation centers, gyms and exercise facilities, hair salons, nail salons, spas, concert venues, theaters, and sporting event facilities. Those businesses providing food, food processing, agriculture, industrial manufacturing, feed mills, construction, trash collection, retail, grocery and consumer goods, home repair/hardware and auto repair, pharmacy, and other medical facilities, biomedical and healthcare, post offices, insurance, banks, gas stations, laundromats, veterinary clinics and pet stores, warehousing, storage, and distribution, public transportation, and hotel and commercial lodging may remain open, subject to limitations provided in prior orders, but must to the extent practicable implement Centers for Disease Control guidance.

The Governor also [announced](#) the following on 3/17/20:

- The state is working with federal partners to continue Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) payments on behalf of qualified families during the mandatory closure period. The state will also be covering copayments typically covered by families.
- All acute care facilities are to discourage all visitors except for end-of-life circumstances. Psychiatric facilities are also advised to restrict visitation, only allowing it if deemed medically necessary by the attending physician, administrator and the medical director.
- Recommends that personal care homes, assisted living, senior care facilities and intermediate care facilities limit visitation only to loved ones that are receiving end-of-life care.
- All licensed adult day care centers will be closed.
- All in person government services are closed.

The Governor issued [executive order 20-235](#) on 3/16/20. This order directs that state law be liberally construed to enable the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet discretion on how to apply the standards for ability to work, availability to work,

work-search activities, and suitable work in the context of COVID-19. The order also directs that the waiting week period be waived for UI benefit eligibility.

The Governor [declared a state of emergency](#) on 3/6/20. “[This could involve providing financial assistance to state and city health departments to fight the spread of the disease, or preventing price gouging of products like hand sanitizer and disinfectant.](#)” The full executive order issuing the state of emergency can be found [here](#). The order includes the following:

- [Authorizes the Adjutant General to issue active duty orders for the mobilization of National Guard personnel and equipment](#)
- [Authorizes the Division of Emergency Management to request assistance, federal, state, local, private sector, volunteer, and donated resources to minimize human suffering and to restore essential services to the general population and assist state and local governments and individuals impacted.](#)
- [Directs the Finance and Administration Cabinet to provide assistance with incident resource management, procurements, and contracting and to fund the operational response of the Division of Emergency Management and unbudgeted expenditures and obligations of other agencies incurred in response to the emergency](#)
- [Directs the Department of Public Health and other agencies to provide sufficient personnel for the staffing the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center or other command, control and coordination points.](#)
- [Directs the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security to provide information to individuals and private organizations regarding how they can prepare for and respond to COVID-19. The office is to identify and encourage private organizations to provide food, shelter, personnel, equipment, materials, consultation and advice to respond to the emergency.](#)

Study / committee / taskforce

[SJR 246](#) was introduced on 3/4/20 and referred to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on 3/6/20. This resolution directs the Cabinet for Health and Human Services to assess Kentucky’s preparedness to address the coronavirus and report back to the General Assembly.

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor has issued guidance on paid sick leave for state employees. “[Gov. Beshear said state government is adjusting its sick leave policy to ensure state employees who are sick can stay home – even for new employees who have not accrued leave time. He said the state would make sure those who are sick can stay home and will be covered. The governor has encouraged businesses to implement similar policies so sick employees, because of financial concerns, do not come to work and expose others.](#)”

Paid Sick Days

[SB 282](#) was introduced on 3/4/20 and referred to the Senate Economic Development, Tourism and Labor Committee on 3/6/20. This bill would require employers to provide “[24 hours, or three sick days, to an employee each calendar year.](#)” this requirement would not apply to an employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Accrued paid sick days would carry over, but employers could limit the use of accrued paid sick days. Provides for civil penalties. The legislation would declare an emergency meaning the bill would have immediate effect because the outbreak of coronavirus poses an immediate threat.

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LOUISIANA

State of Emergency / Stay at Home Order

The Governor issued [Executive Order 33 JBE 2020](#) on 3/22/20. The order provides for the following:

- All state office buildings are closed to the public, although essential state functions will continue.
- All gatherings of 10 or more people are to be postponed or cancelled.
- All individuals in Louisiana are under a general stay-at-home order and are directed to stay home unless performing an essential activity. An activity is essential if its purpose is one of the following:
 - Obtaining food, medicine or other similar goods
 - Obtaining non-elective medical care and treatment and other similar vital services
 - Traveling to and from one's workplace to perform an essential worker function. The state uses the guidance provided by the US Homeland Security Department's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on what workers are essential.
 - Going to and from a family member's home
 - Going to and from a house of worship
 - Engaging in outdoor activities, provided that people follow social distancing requirements.
- The order closes nonessential businesses including places of public amusement, personal care and grooming businesses, and malls. Businesses closed as a result of this are allowed to conduct necessary activities such as payroll, cleaning services, maintenance and upkeep.
- The order provides that early learning centers and child care facilities adhering to Department of Public Health and Department of Education guidance can continue to operate.

The Governor sent a [letter](#) on 3/18/20 to the President and Vice-President with requests for waivers and assistance. The letter includes the following:

- ["An expansion of the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service hot food waiver to allow the purchase of hot food in Louisiana restaurants through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.](#)
- [Statutory change through congressional action in addition to relaxing some administrative constraints on Community Development Block Grants \(CDBG\) for Disaster Recovery.](#)
- [Eliminating some restrictions in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG-State's program.](#)

- [Recommendations for FEMA's Individual Assistance Program and Public Assistance program.](#)”

The Governor issued [executive order 2020-27](#) on 3/13/20. The order includes several provisions, including provisions that waive the Unemployment Insurance waiting week period and the work search requirements for workers impacted by COVID-19.

The Governor declared a public health emergency on 3/11/20. The Governor issued an [executive order](#) that contains several provisions, including the following:

- [Provides that the Louisiana Procurement Code and Louisiana Public Bid Law \(and their corresponding rules and regulations\) are suspended for the purpose of procurement for any good or service needed to respond to the emergency.](#)
- [Provides that prices charged or value received for goods and services sold may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.](#)
- [Establishes certain travel restrictions for state employees.](#)
- [Directs state employees to notify their supervisor and HR Director if they or a household member develops symptoms associated with COVID-19.](#)
- [Directs the Civil Service Commission and the Division of Administration to develop a set of guidelines for state employees who are infected with COVID-19 or under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19. Such guidelines are to include direction for management of sick leave by state employees and provide for direction, if possible, for the employee to work remotely.](#)
- [Suspends orders for visitation by parents of foster children residing in a home that is quarantined or isolated due to COVID-19. Reasonable efforts are to be made to allow for alternative visitations.](#)

Assistance to Businesses

The Governor requested on 3/17/20 that [“the Small Business Administration \(SBA\) provide Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Orleans and Jefferson parishes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.”](#)

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MAINE

State of Emergency / Executive Orders

The Governor signed [Executive Order No. 15 FY 19/20](#) on 3/19/20. This order directs all school districts to continue to pay their hourly school employees for the duration of the school year.

The Governor issued an [order](#) to protect public health on 3/18/20. The order provides the following:

- [“Prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people statewide. Gatherings subject to this Order are those that are primarily social, personal, and discretionary events not work-related events. Such gatherings include, without limitation, community, civic, public,](#)

[leisure, faith-based events; social clubs; sporting events with spectators; concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, and festivals; and any similar event or activity in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, gymnasium, fitness center or private club.](#)

- **[Closes dine-in facilities at all restaurants and bars statewide.](#)** All restaurants and bars shall close their dine-in facilities. Such businesses that offer carry-out, delivery, and drive-through food and beverage service may continue to do so but eating and drinking inside restaurants and bars is temporarily prohibited. Such businesses offering carry-out, delivery, and drive-through food and beverage should employ social distancing best practices and minimize gathering of customers. The Governor urges Maine people to continue to support our establishments by purchasing take-out meals or by buying gift cards or other measures of support.”

“In addition, Governor Mills strongly urged non-essential public-facing businesses, such as gyms, hair salons, theatres, casinos, shopping malls, to close their doors for the next two weeks to minimize public gatherings. This does not include businesses that provide essential services including, but not limited to: food processing, agriculture, industrial manufacturing, construction, trash collection, grocery and household goods (including convenience stores), home repair and hardware and auto repair, pharmacy and other medical facilities, biomedical and health care, child care, post offices and shipping outlets, insurance, banks, gas stations, laundromats, veterinary clinics and animal feed and supply stores, shipping stores, public transportation, and hotel and commercial lodging.”

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/15/20.

Funding Response to Coronavirus / Unemployment Insurance / Maintaining Utilities

The Governor signed a legislative package into law on 3/18/20 in response to COVID-19. [“One emergency bill grants Governor Mills access to at least \\$11 million in State funding to respond to COVID-19, while another omnibus emergency bill expands authorities of State and local officials to allow them greater flexibility to respond to the virus and to provide support to Maine workers impacted by the virus...These measures include:](#)

- [Establishing a consumer loan guarantee program through FAME, in partnership with financial institutions, to provide low- or no- interest loans for eligible people in Maine;](#)
- [Temporarily expanding eligibility for unemployment benefits for workers impacted by COVID-19;](#)
- [Increasing the Department of Education’s ability to waive certain school-day requirements and to continue school lunch programs for all eligible children;](#)
- [Authorizing Governor Mills to adjust state, county and municipal government deadlines and to permit all public entities to meet by remote participation;](#)
- [Expanding the ability of Maine Emergency Medical Services’ Board and staff to take actions more promptly;](#)
- [Authorizing Governor Mills to prohibit utilities from terminating residential electric and water service;](#)
- [Authorizing Governor Mills to determine and direct the manner of the June 2020 primary, if necessary;](#)
- [Delaying the effective date of the single-use plastic bag ban to January 15, 2021.”](#)

Safety and Health for First Responders / Testing Kits

Governor Mills sent a [letter](#) on 3/19/20 to the Vice President and the US Health and Human Services Secretary requesting the following:

- [“that the Federal government expedite the release of PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile and pushed for “a steady and reliable supply” of testing materials as the outbreak intensifies”](#)
- [“The Governor also noted that, although the Maine CDC has testing materials now, the availability of testing kits and testing reagents is a challenge. She emphasized the importance of “a steady and reliable supply moving forward as the outbreak intensifies” and asked to know “how the limited supplies of PPE and testing materials will be allocated to states and how extensive those supplies are.” She specifically wanted to know whether and to what degree the Federal government will consider the age of a state’s population as a factor in their decision, given that Maine has the oldest median age of any state in the nation.”](#)

Directives to Health Insurers

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services announced that the following steps are being taken to support [“MaineCare members through the implementation of emergency rules effective Wednesday, March 18 that will:](#)

- [Waive all copays for prescriptions, office visits, emergency department visits, radiology and lab services](#)
- [Allow early refills of prescriptions](#)
- [Allow providers to extend 34-day supply maximums on brand prescriptions \(MaineCare already allows 90-day supplies of generic prescriptions\)](#)
- [Waive initial prior authorization requirements for asthma and for immune-related drugs](#)
- [Lengthen the period that prior authorization applies for prescription medications](#)
- [Lengthen the period that prior authorization applies for certain durable medical equipment, such as home oxygen therapy, glucose test strips, and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure \(CPAP\) supplies for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, those with pending test results who are in self-isolation, and those in a high-risk category for infection](#)
- [Extend the amount of time that home health providers have to submit plans of care from within five business days to within 30 business days from the start of services”](#)

The Department of Health and Services also is [allowing, through emergency rule, prescribing through telehealth.](#) Also, [“DHHS has made two changes effective immediately that do not require emergency rulemaking. First, to the greatest extent allowable under federal law, DHHS will accept eligibility verification by self-attestation to facilitate efficient processing of MaineCare applications and recertifications. Second, we will waive premiums for MaineCare services, such as the Working Disabled, Cub Care, Katie Beckett, and Special Benefit programs. Failure to pay those premiums will not result in case closure.”](#)

The Governor issued a proclamation on 3/12/20 that proclaimed [“an insurance emergency to improve access to care and require private health insurance plans to cover costs related to coronavirus testing.”](#)

Improving Health Insurance Benefits

Governor Mills signed the Made for Maine Health Coverage Act on 3/19/20. [“The law - sponsored by House Speaker Sara Gideon and Senate President Troy Jackson on the](#)

[Governor's behalf and passed unanimously by the Legislature – makes some of the most common medical visits free or less costly, simplifies shopping for a plan, leverages federal funds to help make premiums more affordable for small businesses, and puts Maine in the driver's seat to ensure that all Maine people have clear choices for their coverage.](#)

Protections Against Price-Gouging

The Governor issued a [declaration](#) of Abnormal Market Disruption on 3/17/20. This declaration [“prohibits certain necessities from being sold at unconscionable prices.”](#)

Assistance for Business

On 3/16/20, the Governor announced that the [“U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\) today approved Governor Mills' application for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help Maine businesses overcome any temporary loss of revenue due to the novel coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19.”](#)

Addressing Paid and Leave for Impacted Workers

The Joint Committee on Labor and Housing held a work session on [HB 1410](#) on 3/11/20. The bill would create a universal paid family and medical leave program that grants 12 weeks of paid family leave or 20 weeks of paid medical leave to Mainers who have paid into a newly established fund. A qualifying employee may take family leave for up to 12 weeks to care for a member of their family. A qualifying employee may take medical leave for up to 20 weeks to address a personal medical issue, as certified by their physician. Benefits are based on the employee's wages and are capped at the state's Average Weekly Wage.

Maintaining Food Assistance for Children

The Department of Education received [“approval for a waiver from United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Food and Nutrition Services. The waiver will allow schools the ability to provide meals offsite to students, if the school or community currently has, or qualifies for, a USDA Summer Food Service Program.”](#)

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MARYLAND

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Governor signed [SB 1079](#) into law on 3/9/20. This law allows the Governor to transfer by budget amendment up to \$50 million from the Revenue Stabilization Account to the expenditure accounts of the appropriate units of State government to fund costs associated with coronavirus.

The Governor also submitted a supplemental budget for FY 2021 on 3/5/20 that [“requests \\$10 million for emergency coronavirus preparedness expenses”](#).

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

The Governor directed the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to open a [“special enrollment window because of the coronavirus.”](#) The enrollment period will be open from 3/16/20 through 4/15/20.

State of Emergency

Governor Hogan declared a [state of emergency](#) on 3/5/20 for the state of Maryland. The Governor also announced that [the Maryland Emergency Management Agency raised its activation level to Enhanced to mobilize additional resources across state government.](#)

Maintaining Childcare for Medical Workers and First Responders

The Governor issued an [executive order](#) on 3/13/20 that [“suspended a host of childcare regulations to create temporary child-care facilities for school-aged children of police, emergency responders and health care workers.”](#) The state of Maryland is opening 1,200 day care slots for school-aged children of essential workers and hopes to find a total of 2,500 in locations such as the YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Maryland School for the Blind, public libraries, and parks and recreation facilities. Essential workers looking for child care can call a hotline at 1-(877) 261-0060.

Transportation

Beginning 3/16/20, Montgomery County will suspend fare collection for Ride On buses, [“and riders are being asked to board and exit through the rear doors of buses to reduce contact between passengers and drivers. Passengers with wheelchairs or others who require the assistance of the lift at the front of the bus can still use the front doors... The changes, the latest precautions the bus system is implementing, are meant to create more distance between bus operators and passengers. Buses are undergoing increased daily sanitizing.”](#)

Vote by Mail

The Maryland General Assembly passed [HB 37](#) before it adjourned on 3/18/20. The bill provides that envelopes required to be used by voters to return their absentee ballots include prepaid postage. The bill requires the State Board of Elections and each local board of elections to refer to absentee ballots as “mail-in ballots” and absentee voting as “mail-in voting” in all communications. The bill is before Gov. Hogan who has until April 4, 2020 to sign the bill.

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MASSACHUSETTS

State of Emergency

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/10/20. The executive order can be found [here](#). The Governor also provided new guidance on actions for state employees, and urged the employers and large organizations to follow the state's lead on these actions and implement them for their own organizations. The guidance for state employees includes the following:

- [Discontinue all work-related travel, both foreign and domestic. State employees are also strongly encouraged to avoid any personal international travel.](#)
- [Either cancel or hold virtually all conferences, seminars and other discretionary gatherings, scheduled and hosted by state agencies involving external parties. Regular internal business shall continue, including but not limited to mandated public hearings and board meetings.](#)
- [State employees should not attend external work-related conferences, seminars or events, but are encouraged to participate remotely.](#)
- [Any state employees feeling sick with fever or flu symptoms should not come into work.](#)

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Governor signed [H 4502](#) into law on 3/4/20. This law includes a provision that allows up to \$95,000 to be provided for the surveillance, treatment, containment or prevention of coronavirus. The Public Health Commission is required to report to the legislature all expenditures made under the item and on all activities undertaken to identify, treat, contain or prevent the virus. The commissioner is also required to include any additional recommendations about policies, statutory changes or funding levels needed to achieve the goals.

Health Benefit Expansion

The state announced that it will open up a [special enrollment window for the state health insurance exchange](#). The window will be open from 3/11/20 until 4/25/20.

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor filed legislation on 3/16/20 that would [“direct the Department of Unemployment Assistance to waive the normal one-week waiting period and immediately begin paying benefits to any otherwise eligible person who has become separated from work as a result of any circumstance relating to or resulting from the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus or measures taken in response to state of emergency...This means that DUA would be authorized to pay benefits without delay to persons who become unemployed because of lay-offs or business shutdowns taken in response to the virus, because of quarantine orders or directives or illness that prevents them from leaving their homes, or because they must care for a sick or quarantined family member or attend to children who are at home due to school closures.”](#)

[S.1045](#) carried over from 2019. This bill includes language ensuring paid medical leave benefits for municipal employees.

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MICHIGAN

State of Emergency / Stay at Home Order / Task Force / Executive Orders / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor signed [Executive Order 2020-21](#) on 3/23/20. This stay at home order allows for critical infrastructure workers to remain working. Critical infrastructure workers are defined as those in the fields of health care, law enforcement, public safety, food and agriculture, energy, water and wastewater, transportation, communications, other community-based government operations, critical manufacturing, hazardous materials, financial services, chemical supply chains and defense industrial base. The order also allows for the following workers to continue working: child care workers, those employed by “designated suppliers and distribution centers,” workers in the insurance industry and those who [“perform critical labor union functions, including those who administer health and welfare funds and those who monitor the well-being and safety of union members who are critical infrastructure workers, provided that any administration or monitoring should be done by telephone or remotely where possible.”](#)

The Governor signed Executive Order 2020-20 on 3/21/20. This order [“makes clear that all facilities that provide non-essential personal care services must temporarily close. These services include hair, nail, tanning, massage, spa, tattoo, body art and piercing services, and similar services that require individuals to be within 6 feet of each other. This order does not apply to services necessary for medical treatment as determined by a licensed medical provider. The order also reaffirms the other temporary closures of places of public accommodation that](#)

[were required by Executive Order 2020-9. The order takes effect no later than March 22 at 9 a.m. and remains in effect until April 13 at 11:59 p.m.](#)

The Governor signed Executive Order 2020-19 on 3/20/20. This order [“allows tenants and mobile home owners to remain in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic even if they are unable to stay current on their rent. The order also relieves courts from certain statutory restrictions to enable them to stay eviction-related proceedings until after the COVID-19 emergency has passed. The executive order takes effect immediately and will remain in effect until April 17 at 11:59 p.m.”](#)

On 3/20/20, Governor Whitmer and Ohio Governor DeWine called on federal official [“to ensure the automotive industry and the hundreds of thousands of jobs it supports are able to weather the rapid economic deceleration brought on by the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) global pandemic.”](#)

The Governor signed Executive Order 2020-17 on 3/20/20. This order [“states that hospitals, freestanding surgical outpatient facilities, and dental facilities, and all state-operated outpatient facilities, must implement a plan to temporarily postpone all non-essential procedures until the termination of the COVID-19 state of emergency.”](#)

The Governor signed Executive Order 2020-14 on 3/18/20. This order extends the [“deadline for Michigan residents to pay back taxes and avoid foreclosure on their property during the ongoing coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic.”](#)

The Governor signed Executive Order 2020-16 on 3/18/20. The order expands [“the capacity for child care services for health care workers, first responders, and other members of the essential workforce providing critical infrastructure to Michiganders during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) crisis. The order provides temporary and limited relief from certain regulatory restrictions regarding child care services and facilitates the use of certain property for child care services. Executive Order 2020-16, effective immediately, authorizes the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs \(LARA\) to issue expedited provisional licenses to expand capacity for child care services. It also allows employers, like hospitals, to operate a disaster relief child care center for their employees. Finally, it allows both public and nonpublic school facilities to be utilized for the purposes of maintaining a disaster relief child care center focused on providing services for members of the essential workforce.”](#)

The Governor signed Executive Order 2020-13 on 3/17/200. The order temporarily lifts hospital and health care facility regulatory requirements in order to ensure [“an adequate number of health care providers available to patients during the spread of Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\). Under the executive order, effective immediately and until Wednesday, April 15 at 11:59pm, The Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\) and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs \(LARA\) may take steps to ensure more people receive care. Executive Order 2020-13 grants LARA and DHHS authority to waive or defer certain requirements in order to expedite the process of bringing additional care facilities online during the COVID-19 emergency. The order also empowers LARA to ensure an adequate supply of care providers during the emergency by granting the department additional flexibility in its decisions about licensing, registration, and workflow requirements.”](#)

The Governor signed Executive Order 2020-9 on 3/16/20. The order closes the following places of public accommodation: [“restaurants, cafes, coffee houses, bars, taverns, brewpubs, distilleries, clubs, movie theaters, indoor and outdoor performance venues, gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios,](#)

[spas, and casinos.”](#)

Governor Whitmer signed executive order No. 2020-10 on 3/16/20. The order temporarily expands unemployment benefit eligibility. The order extends UI benefits to the following groups of workers:

- [“Workers who have an unanticipated family care responsibility, including those who have childcare responsibilities due to school closures, or those who are forced to care for loved ones who become ill.](#)
- [Workers who are sick, quarantined, or immunocompromised and who do not have access to paid family and medical leave or are laid off.](#)
- [First responders in the public health community who become ill or are quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19.”](#)

In addition, the order looks to find [“solutions for self-employed workers and independent contractors who traditionally do not have access to unemployment insurance.”](#)

Also, the order provides that the following changes will be made for UI benefits:

- [“Benefits will be increased from 20 to 26 weeks.](#)
- [The application eligibility period will be increased from 14 to 28 days](#)
- [The normal in-person registration and work search requirements will be suspended.”](#)

Governor Whitmer signed executive order [No. 2020-12](#) on 3/16/20. The order provides [“limited and temporary relief from load and delivery restrictions on motor carriers and drivers engaged in the transport of essential supplies, equipment, and persons.”](#)

Governor Whitmer signed executive order [No. 2020-08](#) on 3/15/20. This order establishes enhanced restrictions on price gouging. She signed an [additional executive order \(2020-18\) on 3/20/20](#) to provide clarification on this issue.

Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency on 3/10/20. Executive Order No. 2020-4 can be found [here](#).

The Governor created four task forces on 3/4/20 [“comprising key state government agencies to coordinate the state’s response and work closely with the appropriate community and non-governmental stakeholders to combat the spread of COVID-19 and assess the impact it may have on Michangers’ day-to-day lives.”](#) The task forces are as follows:

- [COVID-19 Task Force on State Operations - covers all aspects of state operations, including employment and facilities](#)
- [COVID-19 Task Force on Health and Human Services - covers the provision of medical and human services, including protecting the healthcare workforce](#)
- [COVID-19 Task Force on Education - covers K-12 public schools and universities and colleges](#)
- [COVID-19 Task Force on Economy/Workforce - covers general economic impact, workforce, supply chain, business continuity, and related issues](#)

Coronavirus Response Funding

The legislature passed a funding bill on 3/17/20. The legislation [“approved \\$125 million in emergency relief to fight the coronavirus outbreak, including \\$50 million to help expand the health care system’s capacity amid rising cases during the pandemic. The spending would be on top of \\$25 million the Legislature OK’d last week. The bill cleared both the Senate and House unanimously and was sent to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for her signature.”](#)

Assistance for Business

On 3/19/20, the Governor announced that [“the U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\) has approved her request for a statewide Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) declaration, opening the opportunity to small businesses to access low-interest loans from the SBA.”](#)

Resolution Urging Action

[SR 107](#) was introduced on 3/5/20. This resolution urges the federal government to fund the medical costs associated with testing and mandatory hospital stays for the novel coronavirus.

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MINNESOTA

The legislature reconvened on 3/26/20 to develop more legislative solutions to address COVID-19.

State of Emergency / Executive Orders / Protections Against Price Gouging / Emergency Child Care for First Responders

The Governor signed [Stay at Home Executive Order 20-20](#) on 3/25/20. This order [takes effect on 3/28/20 and is in effect through 4/10/20](#). It requires those living in Minnesota to stay at home or in their place of residence except to engage in certain activities and critical sector work. They can leave their homes to engage in the following activities:

- Relocation to ensure safety
- Health and safety activities
- Outdoor activities
- To obtain necessary supplies and services
- Essential intrastate and interstate travel
- Care of others
- Displacement
- Tribal activities and lands

The order provides that all workers in critical sectors are allowed to work outside of their homes if the work cannot be done at home through telework and can only be done at a place of work outside the home. Critical sector work includes the following:

- **Healthcare and public health** - Limited to:
 - Healthcare and public health workers listed in the CISA Guidance.
 - Providers of, and workers supporting, reproductive health care, childbirth services, mental health care, and substance use treatment.
 - Workers supporting manufacturers, technicians, logistics and warehouse operators, and distributors of personal care, hygiene, and healthcare products. I
 - Workers providing home care and human services workers from government or non-profit providers who are delivering food, prescriptions, case management

services, mental health and substance abuse therapy, or who are otherwise caring for a client.

- Workers providing or supporting home-based care for adults, seniors, and children.
- **Law enforcement, public safety, and first responders** - limited to law enforcement and public safety workers and first responders listed in the CISA Guidance, including all corrections personnel, state and county probation officers, and supervision agents, in addition to victims' advocates, animal control officers, humane officers, and all workers who support electronic security and life-safety services.
- **Food and agriculture** - limited to food and agriculture workers listed in the CISA Guidance, including agricultural equipment repair services.
- **Energy** - limited to energy workers listed in the CISA Guidance.
- **Water and wastewater** - limited to water and wastewater workers listed in the CISA Guidance, including State Parks workers who maintain water and wastewater infrastructure, in addition to workers who perform work related to residential wells and septic tanks, and workers who supply bottled water or home filtration systems in areas where that is a health necessity.
- **Transportation and logistics** - limited to the transportation and logistics workers listed in the CISA Guidance, in addition to:
 - State, county, and local government agencies and agency workers, as well as private sector workers, who support or enable transportation functions, including engineers, dispatchers, maintenance and repair technicians (including workers at maintenance and repair shops), warehouse workers, truck stop and rest area workers, and workers that maintain and inspect infrastructure (including those that require crossborder travel).
 - Workers engaged in roadway construction, maintenance, and utility projects.
 - Public transit workers.
 - Bicycle shops and distribution facilities.
 - Automobile sales that are necessary to allow for essential travel, when conducted by appointment, and only when CDC and MDH guidelines, including social distancing, can be met.
- **Public Works** - limited to public works workers listed in the CISA Guidance, in addition to construction material suppliers and workers providing services necessary to maintain construction material sources.
- **Communications and information technology**. This category is limited to communications and information technology workers listed in the CISA Guidance, in addition to all workers who support news services of all kinds, including newspapers, radio, television, and other forms of news media.
- **Other community-based government operations and essential functions** - limited to the other community-based and government essential functions listed in the CISA Guidance, in addition to workers who support the following functions and services:
 - Election support services and election administration workers

- Housing, shelter, and homelessness-prevention staff of state and local agencies and organizations responsible for ensuring safe and stable housing, including workers from state and local agencies and organizations with responsibility for ensuring safe and stable housing; shelter outreach or drop-in center programs; financing affordable housing; and administering rent subsidies, homeless interventions, operating supports, and similar supports. This includes workers necessary to provide repairs, maintenance, and operations support to residential dwellings.
 - Workers performing all other governmental functions which are necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public, to preserve the essential elements of the financial system of government, and to continue priority services as determined by a political subdivision of the State. All political subdivisions of the State will determine the minimum personnel necessary to maintain these governmental operations.
 - Workers supporting building code enforcement necessary to maintain public safety and health of essential infrastructure and any construction as required in response to the COVID-19 peacetime emergency including but not limited to construction of health care facilities and essential businesses and services, or construction as required for emergency repairs and safety purposes.
- **Critical manufacturing** - limited to critical manufacturing workers listed in the CISA Guidance. This category includes iron ore mining and processing operations and supplier/vendor industries essential to such mining and processing operations.
 - **Hazardous materials** - limited to hazardous materials workers listed in the CISA Guidance.
 - **Financial services** - includes workers at banks, credit unions, insurance companies, insurance agencies, and other financial services workers identified in the CISA Guidance.
 - **Chemical** - limited to chemical workers listed in the CISA Guidance.
 - **Defense industrial base** - limited to defense industrial base workers listed in the CISA Guidance.
 - **Tribal Governments** - Tribal officers and workers deemed essential by the relevant Tribal government, regardless of residence.
 - **The Judicial Branch** - limited to judicial officers and personnel deemed essential by the Chief Justice to ensure the continued operations of Minnesota's court system.
 - **The Executive Branch** - limited to personnel deemed necessary to continue priority services of executive branch agencies, offices, departments, divisions, boards, bureaus, councils, committees, institutions, authorities, and commissions, as well as, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, Minnesota State Retirement System, Public Employees Retirement Association, and Teacher's Retirement Association, as determined by the Commissioner of Management and Budget in consultation with those agencies and entities.

- **Executive Constitutional Offices** - limited to Constitutional Officers and personnel deemed essential by the applicable Constitutional Officer to ensure the continued operations of the Constitutional Office.
- **The Legislative Branch** - limited to personnel deemed essential by the presiding officers of each body.
- **Federal Employees**
- **National Guard** - limited to National Guard members that are on orders, to include state active duty, Title 32, or Title 10 orders and members in an Inactive Duty for Training status. At the discretion of the Adjutant General, this category also includes full-time staff of the Minnesota National Guard or Department of Military Affairs that are necessary for the execution of the National Guard's mission.
- **Faith leaders and workers**
- **Education** - Educators and other workers supporting public and private schools, as well as higher education (e.g., colleges and universities). This category includes educators and other workers providing care to children as provided by Executive Order 20-19. Executive Order 20-02 remains in effect.
- **Construction and critical trades** - This category includes workers in the skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers, HVAC and elevator technicians, and other related construction of all kind. This category also includes exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, moving and relocation services, security staff, operating engineers, and all other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of homes and residences and the Critical Sectors listed in this Executive Order.
- **Child care providers** - includes workers in child care centers, family child care, schools, and other facilities. Such providers are encouraged to remain open to provide child care services for workers in the Critical Sectors listed in this Executive Order as possible and insofar as public health guidance can be followed. This category also applies to individuals providing child care for Critical Sector workers in a personal home, such as family, friend, and neighbor care required for Critical Sector workers to continue to perform their duties.
- **Hotels, residential facilities and shelters** - includes workers supporting hotels and motels, facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, and children, including victims of domestic violence, people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse disorders, or mental illness. Such facilities and shelters include halfway houses and residential treatment programs. This category also includes workers needed to keep apartment complex buildings and other congregate residences or homes operational and sanitary.
- **Shelters for displaced individuals** - limited to workers supporting emergency shelters, drop-in centers, and encampments, as well as outreach workers. Governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make 24-hour shelter available as soon as possible, to the maximum extent practicable, and in compliance with CDC guidance.

- **Charitable and social services organizations** - limited to workers supporting organizations that are engaged in hunger relief work, and those that provide food, shelter, prescription delivery, mental health and substance abuse treatments, and other social services, as well as other necessities of life for individuals in need of such services, older adults who live alone, people with disabilities, and those who need assistance as a result of this emergency.
- **Legal services** - limited to workers who are necessary to provide essential legal services. Essential legal services include:
 - Advice and representation needed to aid the delivery of all critical government services.
 - Advice and representation required to ensure the immediate and critical health, safety, and liberties of Minnesotans, including but not limited to, end-of-life planning, immigration, essential services to elders and persons with disabilities, child supports, child-protection and domestic abuse matters, protection of personal financial resources necessary to meet basic needs, prosecution or defense in ongoing criminal matters, or all matters in which individuals are held in custody pending a legal proceeding, and proceedings held in the district or appellate courts during the effective period of this order.
 - Advice and representation related to the continuation of the Critical Sectors identified in this Executive Order, including ensuring compliance with this Executive Order, previous Executive Orders, and all applicable laws, rules, and regulations applying to Critical Sectors.
 - Supporting housing and shelter-related efforts, including loan applications, loan processing, seeking temporary relief from residential and commercial loan or lease provisions, retention of gas, electric, or water utility services, and seeking temporary relief from residential evictions or foreclosures, or other actions intended to keep people in their homes.
- **Notaries** - limited to notaries performing services that cannot be deferred and which cannot be accomplished via remote services.
- **Critical Labor Union Functions** - This category includes labor union essential activities, including the administration of health and welfare funds, and monitoring the wellbeing and safety of members providing services in the Critical Sectors.
- **Laundry services** - limited to workers who support laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers for other Critical Sectors.
- **Animal shelters and veterinarians** - limited to veterinarians and workers at animal care facilities or Department of Natural Resources workers who provide food, shelter, veterinary services, and other necessities of life for animals.
- **Real Estate Transactions** - limited to workers who facilitate and finance real estate transactions and real estate services, including appraisers and title services.
- **Essential Supply Stores** - limited to workers at businesses that sell products, tools, materials, or supplies necessary for: (1) the above Critical Sectors to continue their essential operations, (2) for workers to work from home, or (3) for the maintenance of the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of homes or residences.

The Governor signed Executive Orders [20-10](#), [20-11](#), and [20-12](#) on 3/20/20.

- [“Executive Order 20-10 prohibits price gouging during the peacetime emergency, responding to reports of essential goods necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the public being sold at excessive and prohibitive prices. This prohibition takes effect on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Individuals found to be in violation are subject to investigation and enforcement by the Attorney General’s office. This executive order brings Minnesota, which does not have a statute on price gouging, in line with most other states in the United States.”](#)
- [“Executive Order 20-11 authorizes the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services \(DHS\) to seek federal authority to temporarily waive or modify certain requirements for federal programs, including but not limited to the Minnesota Family Investment Program, Medical Assistance, and MinnesotaCare, to ensure these programs continue providing necessary support to Minnesota families during the COVID-19 pandemic.”](#)
- [“Executive Order 20-12 allows DHS to temporarily issue waivers or modifications to state requirements to ensure that their services can be delivered to Minnesotans safely and without undue delay, protecting vulnerable Minnesotans and those who care for them. DHS provides health care coverage, programs, and services for over 1 million Minnesotans, including groups likely to be significantly impacted by COVID-19 such as older adults, individuals who have disabilities, families with children, and individuals with mental illness.”](#)

The Governor signed [executive order 20-07](#) on 3/17/20. This executive order [suspends some collective bargaining rights for public employees in Minnesota](#). The order provides for the following:

- Authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Management and Budget to develop and implement a policy to provide paid leave to executive branch employees who must be absent from work for reasons related to COVID-19, including but not limited to caring for their children due to school closure due to COVID-19. This includes all state agency employees, employees of the Minnesota State Retirement System, the Public Employees Retirement Association, the Teacher's Retirement Association, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Paid COVID-19 leave pursuant to this policy must be available effective beginning March 18, 2020 and continue until the peacetime emergency is terminated. The Commissioner of Management and Budget is directed to assist constitutional offices to also adopt COVID-19 related leave for their employees.
- Authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Management and Budget to suspend the 35-day waiting period necessary for new insurance-eligible executive branch employees to receive the insurance coverage provided in the applicable collective bargaining agreement or compensation plan.
- Suspends, for the duration of the peacetime emergency, all collective bargaining agreement provisions regarding: limitations on the appointing authority's ability to determine employee work schedules and hours of work; notice periods for changes in work schedules, work hours, or work locations; limitations on supervisor rescission of vacation approval; seniority requirements for filling vacancies, reassignment, or

distribution of overtime or on-call work; restrictions on appointment, assignment or reassignment; and notice requirements for seasonal layoff and recall. For the duration of the peacetime emergency, executive branch employees are subject to the scheduling and assignment decisions and work direction of their appointing authority.

- Authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Management and Budget to transfer the direction, personnel, and/or functions of state agencies, including but not limited to deploying executive branch employees from one state agency to another state agency, and deploying between job classifications, to the extent it becomes necessary to protect health and safety, perform or facilitate emergency response and recovery efforts, and minimize the impact of the peacetime emergency on government operations.
- Directs the Commissioner of Management and Budget to review Minnesota Management and Budget's statewide policies, administrative procedures, and administrative rules, and the collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, and compensation plans, to determine whether their provisions unnecessarily impede the ability of state agencies to efficiently and effectively address this peacetime emergency. Authorizes the Commissioner of Management and Budget, to the extent he deems necessary, to temporarily suspend such provisions during the peacetime emergency. Upon approval by the Executive Council, this Order suspends the requirement to comply with the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act for any necessary deviations from administrative rules adopted. Upon approval by the Executive Council, this Order suspends the requirement to provide notice and comment prior to implementation for any necessary deviations from administrative procedures adopted.
- Suspends the 21 day posting requirement for classified managerial positions in order to reduce barriers to timely staffing so state agencies can efficiently and effectively address this peacetime emergency, and waives the 45-day limitation on employment in and length of emergency appointments.

The Governor signed [executive order 20-06](#) on 3/17/20. This order exempts vehicles and drivers providing direct assistance for emergency relief efforts in response to COVID-19 from regulations related to hours of work and weight and size of trucks. However, no motor carrier operating under the terms of this Executive Order shall require or allow a fatigued or ill driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle. A driver who informs a carrier that he or she needs immediate rest shall be relieved of all duty and responsibilities and given at least 10 consecutive hours off duty before the driver is required to return to service.

The Governor [signed](#) an executive order and issued a [declaration](#) of emergency on 3/13/20. He also [signed](#) an executive order on 3/15/20, authorizing and directing the commissioner of education to temporarily close schools. That order also contains the following:

- Directs schools and school districts, in cooperation with state agencies, to support communities disproportionately impacted by inequities, including, but not limited to, low-income families and families experiencing homelessness. During the Closure Period, schools are expected to provide meals to their students. The Minnesota Department of Education will provide additional guidance to schools and school districts.

- Directs state agencies to work together to ensure continuity of mental health services to children and their families. State agencies are directed to take action addressing this issue.
- Directs school districts to explore options to care for, and protect the health and safety of, children in low-income families if a prolonged school closure is necessary, utilizing guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Directs schools to provide care to district-enrolled students aged 12 and under who are children of emergency workers (including providers of healthcare, emergency medical services, long-term and post-acute care; law enforcement personnel; personnel providing correctional services; public health employees; firefighters and other first responders; and court personnel). In providing this care, schools must practice hygiene and social distancing best practices. Schools are not required to provide this care during previously scheduled breaks reflected on a school-board approved calendar.
 - School districts have also been directed to make every effort possible to provide care for school age children of workers considered [“Essential Tier 2 Workers”](#), who are listed out as the following:
 - Educators
 - child care workers
 - MN DoT employees
 - state and local essential IT personnel
 - substance disorder treatment workers
 - medical examiners
 - National Guard (if activated)
 - Water treatment and waste water
 - water treatment plant operators, drinking water distribution system maintenance workers, safe drinking water delivery personnel, wastewater treatment plant operators, storm and sanitary sewer system maintenance workers
 - Day to Day operations for gas and electric utilities
 - electric utility lineworkers, substation technicians, meter technicians, dispatchers, power plant operators, operations managers and supervisors, fleet and maintenance technicians, transmission and distribution engineers and operators, construction coordinators and technicians, fuel technicians, relay coordinators, control room / center operators, cybersecurity related information technology personnel, gas safety personnel, gas utility operations personnel, water system operators, water treatment plant operators, wastewater system operators, wastewater treatment plant operators, managers with key responsibility for customer and community communications and response
 - Emergency response for gas and electric utilities
 - damage assessment personnel, engineers, safety personnel, communications personnel, mutual aid crews from other utilities
 - Food distribution workers - Food Distribution Centers
 - drivers, order selectors, forklift loaders, IT personnel, mechanics, sanitation workers

- Food distribution workers - In-store food personnel
 - store clerks, stockers, food preparation workers, cleaning staff, deli and produce staff
 - Public Works
 - City fleet (emergency equipment, fire trucks, police vehicles, etc.) maintenance workers
 - Traffic signal system maintenance workers
 - Emergency repair workers for bridges, water and sewer main breaks, and other emergent issues
 - Administrative support personnel that ensure OSHA safety requirements and field support for operations
 - Snowplow drivers
 - Solid Waste Management (waste, recyclable/organics)
 - Collection, transfer trailer truck drivers and their fleet maintenance crews, transfer stations, landfills, resource recovery, recycling and organics facility operations staff, Heavy equipment operators, facility operators (e.g. scale house operator, loader operator, line, operators, boiler operator), Environmental systems (e.g. gas and leachate management, pollution control equipment)
 - Infectious and Hazardous Waste Management
 - Infectious and hazardous waste collection personnel
 - Infectious facilities operations personnel (e.g. autoclave and incineration operators)
 - Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities operations personnel
 - Other Shelter Staff and Outreach Workers
 - Outreach workers to people experiencing homelessness, Shelter and drop-in center maintenance, housekeeping and janitorial staff, Shelter and drop-in center security staff, Shelter and free meal program food preparation staff, Domestic violence and victims services shelter staff
 - Telecommunication Network Operations
 - Outside plant technicians for infrastructure restoration, Install/Repair Technicians for customer premise restoration as needed, Customer service representatives that interface with customers on service troubles, Dispatchers involved with service repair and restoration
- Encourages schools and school districts to also provide extended care—before and after school hours—to students who are children of emergency workers. MDE will provide further guidance to schools and school districts about this provision.
- Directs state agencies to collaborate and align resources to support child care providers in staying open and remaining in business during the emergency and afterword. Directs the Department of Human Services by March 20, 2020 to submit to the Governor a proposal addressing strategies to continue supports for center-based and family child care centers, accommodate the continuation of child care providers, and enable providers to serve new families needing care because they are assisting in emergency relief.

- Directs state agencies to create a hotline to address child care provider concerns and prioritize establishing mechanisms for financial operational and other technical assistance resources that will enable providers to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Governor signed SF 4334 into law on 3/17/20. The law [“appropriates \\$50 million to the state’s public health response contingency account and \\$150 million to create a health care response fund which would be used to distribute grants.”](#) Grants could be used [“for a wide range of uses related to COVID-19, including the establishment of temporary testing sites or quarantining procedures; the temporary conversion of space; additional staffing; and, the purchase of protective equipment, IT systems used to triage and screen patients, as well as speciality cleaning supplies.”](#)

The Governor [signed SF 3813](#) into law on 3/10/20. SF 3183 provides nearly \$21 million in FY 2020 for a public health response related to a potential outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19). [“That’s in addition to \\$4.6 million already in the account, making for just over \\$25 million to support virus investigation, outbreak monitoring, public information, statewide response coordination and lab analysis.”](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers / Sick Leave / Directives to Health Insurers

A [package of bills](#) related to the economic impact of COVID-19 was [introduced](#) in the House on 3/11/20.

- [HF 4414](#) would modify eligibility conditions for unemployment insurance and the use of sick leave benefits during an outbreak of a communicable disease. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Labor.
- [HF 4415](#) would require school districts and charter schools to pay hourly employees for school days canceled due to COVID-19. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education Policy.
- [HF 4416](#) would require health plan companies to cover testing, treatment and quarantines related to COVID-19. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Commerce.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

The House passed [HF 5](#) on 3/5/20. The bill will be referred to the Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy Committee on 3/9/20. HF 5 [“would create 12 weeks of paid family leave for the birth or adoption of a child, as well as for an illness or care for a close relative. The bill would create a \\$1.35 billion state fund every two years from a 0.6% payroll tax that would be split between employers and employees.”](#)

- Article about coronavirus and the urgency of getting paid medical leave for workers: [Outbreak adds urgency to janitors’ push for sick pay](#)

Paid Sick Leave

The House State Government Finance Division Committee passed [HF 11](#) on 3/9/20. The bill, which was on second reading in the House on 3/11/20, would provide for earned sick and safe time; impose civil penalties, and require reports on the program and its effectiveness and enforcement.

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MISSISSIPPI

State of Emergency

The Governor [issued](#) a state of emergency on 3/14/20.

Paid Sick Leave

[SB 2126](#) died in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, 3/5/20. This bill would have required employers with 18 or more employees to provide three paid sick days in 2020; four paid sick days in 2021; and five paid sick days in 2022.

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MISSOURI

State of Emergency

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/13/20.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

[SB 565](#) had its second reading on 1/9/20 and was referred to the Senate Small Business and Industry Committee. This bill would provide employees to receive up to six weeks each year of wage replacement benefits for several reasons, including to care for a family member with a serious health condition and to tend to one's own serious health condition.

Missouri Local Orders

Kansas City [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/12/20. Events with more than 1,000 have been canceled, and "[non-essential travel for city employees](#)" has been halted.

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MONTANA

State of Emergency / Task Force / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor issued a [directive](#) on 3/20/20 implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 extending closures and updating social distancing requirements. The directive requires the following:

- Requires social distancing
- Extends restrictions for on-premises business through 4/10/20. This includes restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, and other on-premises consumption establishments; alcoholic beverage service businesses; cigar bars; health clubs, spas, gyms, pools, ski areas, etc; movie and performance theaters and other places of amusement; casinos. These establishments are permitted and encouraged to offer food and beverage using delivery service and take out. The restrictions do not apply to the following:
 - Establishments that offer food and beverage not for on-premises consumption, including grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries, other than those portions of the establishments restricted above.

- Room service in hotels.
- Health care facilities, residential care facilities, university dining facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities.
- Crisis shelters or similar institutions.
- Airport concessionaires.
- Military dining facilities or military food operations.
- Any facilities necessary for the response to the emergency, including schools providing necessary meal services to children.
- Extends public school closure through 4/10/20.
- Provides that this directive constitutes a public health order and is enforceable by the Attorney General, DPHHS, or a county attorney.
- Preempts less-restrictive local ordinances

The Governor issued emergency rules on 3/17/20 that [“allow a claimant directed by their employer to leave work or not report to work due to COVID-19 to qualify as being temporarily laid off by the employer and eligible for benefits. Workers who must or who need to take care of a family member due to COVID-19 are also considered temporarily laid off and eligible for benefits. Additionally, the emergency rules allow DLI to waive the one week waiting period before typically receiving benefits to ensure Montanans don’t experience a long gap without a paycheck. Montana employers will also receive help through these rules. Individual claims will not be chargeable to a specific employer’s account. The rules also include a provision that could extend the time employers have to file wage reports and pay unemployment insurance contributions if the delay is related to COVID-19.”](#)

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/12/20. The Governor said that the declaration [“gives him the ability to mobilize state resources, including \\$16 million in state funds and personnel from the National Guard. Bullock says the order also gives him the ability to order event and school closures, though he says those decisions will remain with local organizers and officials for the time being.”](#)

The Montana Department of Labor and Industries released a COVID-19 Scenarios and Benefits chart for workers impacted by COVID-19. The benefits discussed include paid sick leave, Unemployment Insurance and Workers’ Compensation.

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NEBRASKA

State of Emergency / Funding for Coronavirus Response

The Governor declared a state of emergency on 3/13/20. The [proclamation](#) provides for the following:

- [Allows the Governor to suspend rules and regulations prescribing the procedures for state business if strict compliance would prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.](#)
- [Directs the Nebraska Adjutant General to activate appropriate state emergency plans and to take steps to meet those emergencies](#)

- [Directs the Adjutant General to activate elements of state government and emergency management resources as appropriate and to expend funds from the Governor's Emergency fund to support these actions](#)

The Governor also issued an executive order on 3/13/20 regarding federal and state motor vehicle regulations. The [order](#) does the following:

- Suspends the length and weight hauling requirements through the duration of the motor carrier's assistance with the pandemic relief effort.
- Suspends hours of service drivers requirements, allowing haulers of food, supplies and equipment to operate additional hours under the following limitations:
 - No motor carrier operating under this order shall require or allow an ill or fatigued driver to operate a motor vehicle. A driver who notifies a motor carrier that they need immediate rest will be given at least 10 consecutive hours' off duty before the driver is required to return to service.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

[LB 305](#) and [LB 311](#) are before the legislature's Business and Labor Committee. Both bills would provide time off with partial wage replacement for qualifying reasons for all workers covered by unemployment insurance. Qualifying reasons include the following:

- Employees would be provided six weeks to care for a family member with a serious health condition
- Employees would be provided twelve weeks to care for one's own serious health condition.

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NEVADA

State of Emergency / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

On 3/18/20, the Governor ["instructed the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, Employment Security Division to waive the work search requirement and the 7-day wait period for approved unemployment insurance benefits."](#)

On 3/17/20, the Governor directed Nevadans to stay home and for all nonessential businesses to close for 30 days on 3/17/20. The Culinary Union issued a [statement](#) supporting the Governor's directions. Those directions include the following:

- ["All Nevadans must ensure that 6 feet of social distancing per person for non-family members is maintained."](#)
- [Only essential services should remain open -- such as fire, police, transit, and health care services, in addition to businesses that provide food, shelter, or social services for disadvantaged populations.](#)
- [Non-essential services such as beauty shops, barber shops, and nail, tanning, and waxing salons should close until further notice.](#)
- [Only essential businesses should remain open such as, pharmacies, grocery stores, drug and convenience stores, banks and financial institutions, hardware stores, and gas stations. I am asking grocery stores consider special hours for the vulnerable](#)

populations

- All gatherings should be postponed or canceled. This is not the time for sleepovers, playdates, concerts, theater outings, or athletic events. Although you may not be experiencing symptoms at this time, you may be contagious. Do not risk your own health or the health of others.
- Many of you will not be in your office or at work over the next few weeks. This is not a vacation and it's not the time to catch up with friends. It's definitely not the time to go to the movies. Every social contact increases your risk of exposure. The bigger the group, the higher your risk.
- This means that you should stay away from auditoriums, stadiums, arenas, large conference rooms, meeting halls, and cafeterias.
- I know in times of stress, many of you seek the release that comes from exercise. But this is not the time for you to be in a gym, healthclub, or fitness center. Until the risk goes away, find other ways to exercise such as home workouts, hikes, or other outdoor activities. But as you do so, remember to maintain social distancing from others doing the same.
- Some events are unavoidable. We still want you to experience the joy of weddings, but this is not the time to bring your friends together -- especially if this will require travel. Consider postponing the celebration to a time when the risk is low or eliminated.
- For my friends making preparations to say goodbye to loved ones, please limit the attendance at funeral services. Consider outdoor services where the risk of exposure is less than inside
- This is only common sense. In a time where people are getting sick from simply being near others, this is not the time for gyms to remain open. This is not the time for casinos to remain open. This is not a time for community recreation centers, clubhouses, movie theaters and malls to remain open. If your business brings groups of people together, it should not be open.
- Although I cannot and will not say that places of worship should be closed, I strongly urge our faith leaders to find ways to deliver to your congregation without bringing them together in person.
- Charitable food distribution sites, including the meals being distributed to our students in wake of the school closings, along with grocery stores should remain fully open and operational. Food services for healthcare facilities and other essential facilities should remain open. Any buffet or food stations used in charitable food distribution settings should transition to boxed meals or served through gloved staff members or volunteers.
- Restaurants throughout Nevada, in addition to pubs, wineries, bars, and breweries that include meals provided by a full kitchen should be reduced to serving food only in a drive-thru, take-out or delivery capacity. No dine-in at food establishments should be allowed until further notice. This also includes food courts, coffee shops, catered events, clubs, bowling alleys, and other similar venues in which people congregate for the consumption of food or beverages.
- Pubs, wineries, bars, and breweries that do not include meals provided by a full kitchen must close."
- Also, the Governor announced that "all gaming machines, devices, tables, games, and any equipment related to gaming activity will be shut down effective midnight tonight. Restaurants and bars located within gaming properties will be subject to the same restrictions as those outlined above. Finally, we will ensure that there is as little disruption as possible to transportation and the supply chain in Nevada during this time. Truck stops and truck service centers will remain open so that motor carriers will be able to deliver supplies as needed."

The Governor issued a [declaration of emergency](#) on 3/13/20. The executive order provides for the following:

- [Activates the State Emergency Operations Center to coordinate a response to minimize the impacts and prevent further transmission of COVID-19](#)
- [Establishes an emergency team to coordinate the response to COVID-19.](#)
- [Allows the Administrator of the State Purchasing Division to authorize an emergency purchase for any amount and suspend the standard procurement process to allow the purchase of food, supplies, services and equipment](#)
- [Directs law enforcement to monitor and investigate a coordinated increase in prices for goods and services, especially those needed for the public's health and safety or that result in economic hardship, make false representations, bait and switch practices, failure to disclose material facts in conjunction with the sale of goods and services, or use coercion or duress or intimidation in violation of consumer protection laws.](#)
- [Directs law enforcement to ensure that people and corporations act and perform in a lawful manner with ensures the safety, health, comfort or repose of any considerable number of the public, do not offend public decency, or in any way renders a considerable number of persons insecure in life or the use of property.](#)

Directives to Health Insurers

The Governor and the Department of Business and Industry's Division of Insurance ["announced the adoption of an emergency regulation to ensure that Nevadans covered by health insurance policies regulated by the DOI are able to obtain medical services and prescriptions related to COVID-19 at their normal costs, despite disruptions caused by the spread of the virus."](#) The emergency regulation does the following:

- ["prohibits a health insurer from imposing an out-of-pocket cost for a provider office, urgent care center, or emergency room visit when the purpose of the visit is testing for COVID-19."](#)
- ["prohibits insurers from charging Nevadans for the COVID-19 test itself or an immunization as one becomes available and further requires coverage for off-formulary prescription drugs if a formulary drug is not available for treatment."](#)
- ["requires health insurers to provide information on available benefits, options for medical advice and treatment through telehealth, and preventative measures related to COVID-19."](#)

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

Nevada opened up its [health insurance exchange](#) under a special enrollment period ["in response to the growing number of Americans who have or may have contracted COVID-19."](#)

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

State of Emergency / Child Care / Unemployment Insurance

The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-04 on 3/13/20. This executive order declares a state of emergency and includes several directives, including the following:

- [Directs state agencies to use and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities or perform activities consistent with the direction of the Governor's office, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Division of Public Health. This includes, if needed, repurposing of state employees for tasks needed to address the impact of COVID-19.](#)
- [Directs assisted living facilities, long term care facilities, nursing facilities, residential care facilities and other facilities providing residential care to the elderly or sick to prohibit visitor access.](#)
- [Directs agencies to enter into contract for the procurement of materials, goods, and services needed to prepare for, contain, respond to, mitigate the effects of and recover from the spread of COVID-19. Provisions including travel, advertising and competitive bidding requirements may be suspended with the approval of the Governor to address the effects of COVID-19.](#)
- [Out of state personnel entering NH to assist in preparing for, responding to, mitigating the effects of and recovering from COVID-19 will be permitted to provide those services with respect to licensing and certification regarding mutual aid during emergencies.](#)
- [Provides that state-owned properties that are suitable for dealing with COVID-19 shall be made available for this purpose.](#)
- [Suspends non-essential out of state travel by state and municipal employees.](#)
- [Permits and encourages state and local bodies to conduct meetings through electronic means](#)
- [Directs the Division of Homeland Security to provide assistance to local governments to address the impacts of COVID-19](#)
- [Allows the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services](#)
 - [to waive any of the licensing or credentialing requirements and regulations of any hospital or health facility.](#)
 - [To waive licensing requirements for day care facilities to allow for temporary provision of child care by 1\) employers for children of their employees, 2\) licensed day care facilities in situations where temporary exceedance of maximum enrolment may be necessary, and 2\) any other circumstance in which the commission determines the waiver of licensing requirement is needed and won't adversely impact child safety.](#)
- [Directs the state Department of Business and Economic Affairs to survey businesses within NH to determine the economic impact of losses.](#)
- [Directs the department of Employment Security to develop recommendations for specific actions the state can take to make sure that workers unable to work in the following situations related to COVID-19 are able to access UI benefits: 1\) those quarantined due to](#)

[confirmed or potential exposure, 2\) those needing to care for themselves due to a related illness, 3\) those needing to care for an ill family member; 4\) those needing to care for a dependent. These recommendations will be sent to the Governor's office for follow up directives.](#)

Paid Family and Medical Leave

The Senate passed [HB 712](#) on 3/12/20. This bill establishes a system of paid family and medical leave insurance. Qualifying reasons for leave include the serious health condition of a family member or because of a serious health condition of the employee that isn't related to employment. Qualifying employees would be able to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave during any 12 month period. The benefit would be 60% of the employee's average wage during the highest-earning quarter in the base period, but not less than \$125 per week or higher than 85% of the average weekly NH wage.

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NEW JERSEY

State of Emergency / Price Gouging Protections / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor signed [A-3900/S-2304](#) on 3/25/20. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO explains that the law "expands paid family leave (PFL) and temporary disability insurance (TDI) to cover certain circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic. The definition of "serious health condition" includes an illness caused by an epidemic of a communicable disease and exposure to a communicable disease, as well as including employees who are seeking to prevent the spread of such a disease. Under the bill, in the case of PFL or TDI benefits, employees or their family members would be eligible (when determined by a doctor or health care provider) if they voluntarily self-quarantine due to their presence threatening the health of others. Finally, the bill eliminates the one-week waiting period for disability benefits for those workers impacted by epidemic-related cases."

Governor Murphy signed [A 3848](#) on 3/20/20. This law "[prohibits an employer, during the ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency declared by the Governor in Executive Order 103, from terminating or refusing to reinstate an employee who has, or is likely to have, an infectious disease which requires the employee to miss time at work. Under the bill, an employee who requests or takes time off from work, based on the recommendation of a medical professional, may not be terminated or refused reinstatement if the employee is likely to infect others in the workplace.](#)"

The Governor [declared a public health emergency and a state of emergency on 3/9/20](#) when he issued [Executive Order 103](#). The executive order triggers a provision in the state's Consumer Fraud Act, prohibits excessive price increases during a declared state of emergency. The order contains several provisions, including the following:

- Authorizes state agency heads to promulgate rules to waive, suspend or modify any existing rule where enforcement would be detrimental to the public during this emergency.
- Authorizes state agencies to take appropriate steps to address the public health hazard of COVID-19, including access to and eliminating barriers to medical care, protecting the

health and well-being of students, and protecting the health and well-being of State, county and municipal employees while ensuring the continuous delivery of public services.

- Authorizes the Adjutant General to order members of the NJ National Guard to active duty who are necessary to provide aid to localities where there is a threat or danger to the public health, safety and welfare, and to authorize the employment of supporting vehicles, equipment, communications or supplies as necessary.

Once the state of emergency was issued, the state's law prohibiting price gouging went into effect. [“An excessive price increase is any price that exceeds 10 percent of the price the product or service was sold during the normal course of business prior to the State of Emergency. Price gouging violations are punishable by civil penalties of up to \\$10,000 for the first offense and \\$20,000 for the second and subsequent offenses. Violators may also be required to pay consumer restitution, attorney’s fees, investigative fees, and injunctive relief. Each individual sale of merchandise is considered a separate and distinct violation.”](#) The Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs are [working with local governments](#) to enforce the law. The DCA has [55 investigators inspecting retail establishments throughout the state](#).

Addressing Pay and Leave for Impacted Workers

The [New Jersey State AFL-CIO reported that the Senate passed more than two dozen bills on 3/19/20 to assist residents, workers and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic](#). The bills listed below have been passed by the Assembly and will be sent next to the Governor. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO describes these bills as follows:

- **S-2293 (Madden / Lagana):** The bill establishes the “Temporary Lost Wage Unemployment Program.” The bill allows workers to claim for lost wages due to coronavirus disease & employers to pay wages to workers ordered under quarantine by a licensed healthcare practitioner. The bill appropriates \$20 million. The program will provide, to the extent funds are available, replacement of lost wages in an amount equal to their average weekly pay from the past calendar year. This wage replacement is not allowed for workers that have full paid leave. Workers will not be eligible for this wage replacement if they are receiving unemployment benefits. Workers and businesses are required to file claims no later than three months after the end of a declaration of a state of emergency due to the coronavirus.
- S-2285 (Singleton): The bill allows local government employees (not state employees) in the state that have to miss work due to the coronavirus (either diagnosed or ordered to quarantine or they're choosing to isolate) to receive full pay without using any of their sick leave time. The public employee could also qualify for paid leave to stay home with a child whose school or daycare is closed. The bill is retroactive to March 9, 2020.
- S-2301 (Weinberg): The bill seeks to prohibit employers in the state from firing an employee or refusing to reinstate an employee who takes time off work on the recommendation of their health care provider because the employee has or may have the novel coronavirus. The bill passed unanimously.
- S-2288 (Greenstein / Vitale): The bill allows the state to pay additional cash assistance to recipients under the Work First New Jersey program in addition to monetary benefits already being received. The supplemental payments will only be made if the Commissioner of Health decides current benefit levels are inadequate. The supplemental payments shall be in an amount equal to a recipient's monthly benefit amount for the most recent complete month.

- 2284 (Cruz-Perez / Stack): Allows the state’s Economic Development Authority to offer business grants during a declared emergency to go toward “the planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, equipping, furnishing of a program,” including grants for working capital and meeting payroll.

The State has provided guidance on the types of benefits provided under existing New Jersey law that workers impacted by COVID-19 are eligible for. This guidance can be found [here](#). There are several scenarios discussed in this guidance - a few of the scenarios and the benefits that workers could be eligible for are as follows:

- **Earned Sick Leave**

- **Workers exposed to COVID-19 and who have been told to self-quarantine may be able to use accrued Earned Sick Leave.** The [Earned Sick Leave law](#) states, in part: “Time during which the employee is not able to work...because of the issuance by a public health authority of a determination that the presence in the community of the employee, or a member of the employee's family in need of care by the employee, would jeopardize the health of others.”
- **Workers whose childrens’ schools or childcare have been closed for cleaning or other coronavirus preparation would be allowed to use earned sick leave.** The [Earned Sick Leave law](#) states, in part: “Time during which the employee is not able to work because of a closure of the employee's workplace, or the school or place of care of a child of the employee, by order of a public official due to an epidemic or other public health emergency, or because of the issuance by a public health authority of a determination that the presence in the community of the employee, or a member of the employee's family in need of care by the employee, would jeopardize the health of others.”
- **Workers’ whose employers have been ordered to close by a public official for a public health reason would be allowed to use earned sick leave.** The [Earned Sick Leave law](#) states, in part: “Time during which the employee is not able to work because of a closure of the employee's workplace, or the school or place of care of a child of the employee, by order of a public official due to an epidemic or other public health emergency, or because of the issuance by a public health authority of a determination that the presence in the community of the employee, or a member of the employee's family in need of care by the employee, would jeopardize the health of others.”
- **Workers who have to care for a loved one ill with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms could use earned sick leave or family leave insurance if they use up all their earned sick leave.** The [Earned Sick Leave law](#) states in part, “time needed for the employee to aid or care for a family member of the employee during diagnosis, care, or treatment of, or recovery from, the family member’s mental or physical illness or other adverse health condition, or during preventive medical care for the family member.”
 - If an employee uses up their Earned Sick Leave and still cannot return to work, they may apply for [Family Leave Insurance](#): If caring for a [family member](#) who has the coronavirus or symptoms of COVID-19, a claim would need to be filed at [myleavebenefits.nj.gov](#) and the family member's health care provider would give the diagnosis and the expected length of

time the caregiver will need to be out of work. Available wage records would determine the amount of benefits. It is against the law for employers to retaliate against employees for taking or seeking to take Family Leave benefits. In addition, many NJ workers are eligible for job-protected family leave under the [NJ Family Leave Act \(NJFLA\)](#).

- **Unemployment Insurance:**

- **Workers whose employers have shut down because of COVID-19 could be eligible for [Unemployment Insurance benefits \(UI\)](#).** “A claim would need to be filed at [myunemployment.nj.gov](#), preferably online, and benefits amount would be determined through available wage records. This claim would initially be considered a temporary layoff, thus suspending the provision that the worker be able, available and actively seeking work. As of now, a layoff lasting longer than eight weeks would require the person to be able, available and actively looking for employment.’
 - **Workers’ whose employers have been ordered to close by a public official for a public health reason and have used all their earned sick leave may apply for UI benefits.** If, however, the individual subsequently contracts the virus, then the claim would be switched over to [Disability During Unemployment](#).
 - **Workers’ who have lost some work hours due to COVID-19 could be eligible for partial UI benefits.** If a person is still employed, but the regular hours of work have been reduced, depending on the number of hours that have been reduced and the amount of earning for the week, the person would be eligible for reduced UI benefits. To be eligible for [partial unemployment benefits](#), the person cannot work more than 80% of the hours normally worked. For example, if a person normally works 40 hours a week, they cannot work more than 32 hours in a week to be eligible. Additionally, if the person earns 20% or less of their weekly benefit rate, the person would receive the full weekly benefit. For earnings greater than the 20%, the weekly benefit would be reduced.
- **Workers’ Compensation:** If a person is directed to self-quarantine by their employer or a public health official following known exposure to the virus during the course of their work, that person could be eligible for [workers’ compensation](#).

Maintain utilities

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities announced on 3/13/20 that utility companies in the state have agreed to [waive utility service disconnects](#) during the current emergency.

Study / Taskforce

The Governor issued an [executive order](#) on 2/3/20 that establishes a Coronavirus Task Force [“to coordinate all state efforts to appropriately prepare for and respond to the public health hazard posed by the novel coronavirus.”](#)

Vote at Home

Union County’s Clerk advised “voters at risk” on 3/10/20 to [“plan ahead and use a Vote-by-Mail ballot to participate in the upcoming primary election, in accordance with guidance from health officials regarding the coronavirus COVID-19...Under New Jersey state law, any eligible voter can use a Vote-by-Mail ballot. There is no requirement to provide a reason.”](#)

Other

The Governor announced on 3/13/20 that the state Motor Vehicle Commission would “provide a two-month extension for all expiring driver’s licenses, vehicle registrations and inspections... Murphy said the extension was to reduce the number of people needing to crowd into MVC offices.”

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NEW MEXICO

State of Emergency

The Governor declared a state of emergency and public health emergency on 3/12/20. Executive Order 2020-004 can be found [here](#). The order includes the following:

- Directs the General Services Department Secretary and Department of Finance and Administration to assist in the emergency purchase of all goods and services necessary to contain, respond, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in New Mexico.
- Directs the Department of Health and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to credential out-of-state professionals who can render aid and necessary services.
- Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance to promulgate emergency regulations maximizing the available insurance coverage for New Mexicans suffering from COVID-19, pneumonia, or influenza, while simultaneously ensuring that medical costs do not create barriers to testing and treatment.
- Directs the Secretary of the Department of Workplace Solutions to adopt emergency rules, regulations or declarations as needed to ensure that individuals who are experiencing a temporary lay-off or furlough status due to forced absences from work because of COVID-19 are eligible to receive unemployment benefits. She directs the Secretary to promulgate emergency rules allowing temporary waivers certain claims.
- Directs the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the National Guard as needed.
- Directs the Department of Finance and Administration to make available to the Department of Health emergency financial resources on a continuing basis as needed to address this emergency.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

[HB 16](#) did not pass the legislature before the legislature adjourned sine die. HB 16 would have created an insurance pool administered by the state’s Department of WorkForce Solutions. Employees would be eligible for up to 12 weeks off for qualifying reasons, including to provide care for one’s own serious health condition or to care for a family member with a serious health condition.

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NEW YORK

State of Emergency / Directives to Health Insurers / Actions to Address Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers / Maintaining Utilities / Other Voter Access Proposals

The Governor issued [executive order 202.9](#) on 3/21/20. The order suspends a section of the banking law in order to provide that “it shall be deemed an unsafe and unsound business practice if, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, any bank which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Department shall not grant a forbearance to any person or business who has a financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for a period of ninety days.” In addition, the order provides that “the Superintendent of the Department of Financial shall ensure under reasonable and prudent circumstances that any licensed or regulated entities provide to any consumer in the State of New York an opportunity for a forbearance of payments for a mortgage for any person or entity facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Superintendent shall promulgate emergency regulations to require that the application for such forbearance be made widely available for consumers, and such application shall be granted in all reasonable and prudent circumstances solely for the period of such emergency. Further, the Superintendent shall be empowered to promulgate emergency regulations to direct that, solely for the period of this emergency, fees for the use of automated teller machines (ATMs), overdraft fees and credit card late fees, may be restricted or modified in accordance with the Superintendent’s regulation of licensed or regulated entities taking into account the financial impact on the New York consumer, the safety and soundness of the licensed or regulated entity, and any applicable federal requirements.”

The Governor signed [S8091](#) into law on 3/18/20. [The law](#) provides that each employee who is subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation issued by the state of New York, the department of health, local board of health, or any governmental entity authorized to issue such order due to COVID-19, will be provided with paid sick leave, depending on the size of the employer. Once this paid sick leave ends an employee shall be eligible for paid family leave benefits and benefits due to disability until the termination of any mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19.

Governor Cuomo issued [executive order 202.2](#) on 3/14/20. The order temporarily suspends the following laws and regulations:

- [Section 8-400 of the Election Law is temporarily suspended and otherwise altered to provide that due to the prevalence and community spread of COVID-19, temporary illness for the purpose of this section shall include the potential for contraction of the COVID-19 virus for any election held on or before April 1, 2020;](#)
- [Solely for any election held on or before April 1, 2020, Section 8-400 of the Election Law is hereby further modified to allow for electronic application, with no requirement for in-person signature or appearance to be able to access an absentee ballot; and deadlines to apply for such ballot are hereby modified to no later than March 23, 2020 and such ballots once voted shall be postmarked no later than March 24, 2020 or may be delivered in person to any board of elections; and](#)
- [Article 6 of the Election Law is modified to the extent necessary to reduce required number of signatures on petitions pursuant to Section 6-136 of such law to 1.5% of the enrolled voters required, or 30% of the stated threshold, whichever is less. Further such provisions are modified to require that gathering of signatures shall be suspended effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 5 p.m.](#)

The order also provides that [any school district which is closing pursuant to a local state of emergency declared as a result of the COVID-19 virus shall be required to first consult with local department of health and also exhaust any available time including snow days and vacation days. Additionally, the State Education Department shall promulgate guidance for districts to ensure access to meals for students in need, critical educational supports for students and distance learning options.](#)

3/12/20 Executive Order

Governor Cuomo issued [executive order 202.1](#) on 3/12/20. The Governor's press release on the order highlighted that it did the following:

- [waive the 7 day waiting period for workers in shared work programs to claim UI for those out of work due to COVID-19.](#)
- [Eliminate the school aid penalty for those schools that have been directed to close that do not meet the 180 day requirements.](#)
- Directs the State Department of Financial Services [“to require insurance companies to waive co-pays for telehealth visits. This action will encourage New Yorkers to seek medical attention from their homes rather than visit a hospital or doctor's office — ultimately reducing strain on the healthcare system and preventing further spread of the virus.”](#)

Executive Order No. 202.1 takes several steps, including the following:

- suspends certain laws and regulations to allow for expansion of services and temporary facilities for health and human service providers.
- Suspends laws and regulations relating to child care to allow flexibility for providers while continuing to protect the health and safety of children:
- Suspends regulations to prevent delays in providing home delivered meals and in providing services under the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) to older adults:
- Suspends law to allow waiver of requirements necessary for apportionment of school aid.
- Suspends laws and regulations relating to emergency procurement
- Suspends law relating to appearances by defendants:
- Suspends law relating to waiting periods for unemployment insurance claimants whose claims arise directly out of COVID-19 outbreak:
 - Subdivision 7 of Section 590 of the Labor Law, so far as it relates to the waiting period for unemployment insurance claimants whose claims for unemployment insurance arise directly out of closings of schools or other workplaces in which claimants were employed, or out of claimants' isolation or quarantine in connection with COVID-19; and

- Suspends law allowing the attendance of public body meetings telephonically or other similar service:
- Suspends law allowing residents of nursing homes to vote with modified visitor policies in place:
 - Subdivision 8 of section 8-407 of the Election Law to allow individuals not employed by the Board of Elections to assist residents of nursing homes or adult care facilities in the completion of absentee ballot applications and voting;

The order also establishes that any guidance issued by the New York State Department of Health related to prevention and infection control of COVID-19 at nursing homes and adult care facilities, including but not limited to guidance on visitation, shall be effective immediately and shall supersede any prior conflicting guidance issued by the New York State Department of Health and any guidance issued by any local board of health, any local department of health, or any other political subdivision of the State related to the same subject. The order prohibits gatherings of more than 500 people, establishes occupancy limits for businesses and public accommodations.

Also announced on 3/13/20, the [“New York State Department of Public Service will also issue guidance suspending public utilities from cutting off services, including power and heat, to customers affected by COVID-19.”](#)

3/7/20 Executive Order

The Governor proclaimed a state of emergency for the state on 3/7/20. The governor stated that [“declaration of emergency will allow the state to speed up the purchasing of supplies and the hiring of workers to assist local health departments that have been handling the monitoring of thousands of self-quarantined patients.”](#)

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Governor signed into law [S 7919/A 09953](#) on 3/3/20. This bill allows the governor to issue any directive necessary to respond to a state disaster emergency through executive order, and also makes a \$40 million appropriation from the state purposes account of the general fund to respond to the outbreak of coronavirus. Such funds will be used for purposes including, but not limited to additional personnel, equipment and supplies, travel costs, and training. A portion of the funds may be made available as state aid to municipalities for services and expenses related to the outbreak of coronavirus.

Directives to Health Insurers

Governor Cuomo also issued a directive from the State Department of Financial Services on 3/2/20 requiring NY health insurers to [waive cost sharing](#) for tests for the virus. The directive also includes the following guidance to health insurers:

- [“Keeping Consumers Informed: DFS is directing insurers to devote resources to inform consumers of available benefits, quickly respond to consumer inquiries, and consider revisions needed to streamline responses and benefits for consumers.](#)
- [Providing Telehealth Medical Advice & Treatment: DFS is directing insurers to develop robust telehealth programs with their participating providers where appropriate.](#)

[particularly for individuals who may have difficulty making an office visit and where a phone call with a medical professional can alleviate the need for a hospital visit.](#)

- **[Preparing Health System for Increased Cases:](#)** DFS is directing insurers to verify that their provider networks are adequately prepared to handle a potential increase in the need for health care services, including offering access to out-of-network services where appropriate and required, in the event more COVID-19 cases are diagnosed in New York. In addition, DFS is reminding insurers that lifetime or annual limits cannot be placed on in-patient care.
- **[Covering Costs if Immunization Becomes Available:](#)** In the event an immunization becomes available for COVID-19, DFS is reminding insurers that they must cover the cost of vaccination for children under 19. For adults, DFS's guidance states that all insurers should be prepared to cover the immunization immediately at no cost-sharing.
- **[Expanding Access to Prescription Drugs:](#)** With reports of prescription drug shortages due to supply chain issues, DFS is directing insurers to provide insurance coverage for off-formulary prescription drugs if there is not a formulary drug available to treat the insured, through a formulary exceptions process as required by law.
- **[Ensuring Emergency Care:](#)** DFS is reminding insurers that coverage for emergency services in hospital facilities is required at the in-network cost-sharing even if the hospital is out-of-network or overseas, and that no insurer may require a patient to seek pre authorization prior to seeking emergency care, including for ambulance service.
- **[Surprise Medical Bills:](#)** DFS is directing insurers that they are required to hold harmless insureds who receive surprise medical bills for health care services, including those related to testing and treatment of COVID-19.”

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

New York opened up its' [health care exchange](#) through 4/15/20 under a special enrollment period [“in response to the growing number of Americans who have or may have contracted COVID-19.”](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Attorney General announced on 3/17/20 that [“her office is temporarily suspending the collection of medical and student loan debt in an effort to assist New Yorkers as they cope with the economic fallout of the coronavirus outbreak.”](#) The Attorney General’s press release can be found [here](#).

[S.4883](#) was referred to the Senate Labor Committee on 1/8/20. This bill would require all employers to provide paid sick time to all employees.

Vote at Home

[S 8015](#) was introduced and referred to the Senate Elections Committee on 3/9/20. This bill would allow voters who are concerned about voting in-person due to an ongoing public health risk to request an absentee ballot.

New York Local Orders

Erie County's Board of Elections has changed voting policies to ["allow all Erie County voters to use absentee ballots...Rather than heading to the polls on April 28, voters have more options if they're concerned about the outbreak. This applies for both the presidential primary and the special election for Congressional District NY-27."](#) Voters can download the ballot application [here](#) - residents can choose "public health emergency (COVID-19)" as a reason for requesting an absentee ballot. The Erie County Board of Elections press release announcing this change can be found [here](#).

The Mayor of New York City declared a state of emergency for the city this week in order to ["remove any legal and regulatory barriers related to response efforts for COVID-19...In partnership with the State, the City will place occupancy and spatial limits on New York City's large venues and cancel all existing and future events exceeding a capacity of over 500 people until further notice, with restrictions put in place on establishments with a capacity under 500 people.. The City has also set a target benchmark of getting 10 percent \(roughly 35,000 people\) of the City's workforce to telecommute and 20 percent \(roughly 71,000 people\) on staggered work schedules."](#)

New York City's Schools Chancellor announced on 3/5/20 that the city would make sure that ["each New York City school will have a nurse on campus by next week..."](#)

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NORTH CAROLINA

State of Emergency

Governor Cooper issued an executive order on 3/10/20 declaring a state of emergency. ["The declaration activates the Emergency Operations Center to help agencies coordinate from one location and makes it easier to purchase needed medical supplies, protect consumers from price gouging, and increase county health departments' access to state funds."](#)

For employers in the Triangle area, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is recommending ["that employers and employees use teleworking technologies to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, employers should urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits..."](#) and ["Consider staggering start and end times to reduce large numbers of people coming together at the same time."](#) They are also recommending that ["organizers of mass gathering events that primarily draw high-risk persons, including those that attract older adults, should consider cancelling or postponing these events."](#)

Coronavirus Task Force

The Governor created a Novel Coronavirus Task Force on 2/11/20. The task force will ["continue to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) and coordinate across state agencies to protect the health and wellbeing of North Carolinians."](#)

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NORTH DAKOTA

State of Emergency

[3/15/20 Executive Order](#)

The Governor issued [Executive Order 2020-04](#) on 3/15/20. The order [closes all K-12 schools in the state for one week. School district staff are directed to develop plans for fragile and special needs students, future continuity of food nutritional programs and alternate learning plans.](#)

3/13/20 Executive Order

The Governor issued a state of emergency on 3/13/20. [Executive order 2020-03](#) includes the following:

- [activation of the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan to assist local and tribal officials to prevent injuries and save lives, alleviate hardships, implement appropriate response and recovery actions and future mitigation measures, and facilitate restoration of services and infrastructure.](#)
- [Authorizes the Adjutant General is authorized to activate and make available North Dakota National Guard resources to support state agencies and local and tribal governments](#)

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OHIO

State of Emergency

The Governor issued [executive order 2020-03D](#) on 3/16/20. The order provides for the following regarding unemployment insurance benefits:

- “Unemployed workers will include individuals requested by a medical professional, local health authority, or employer to be isolated or quarantined as a consequence of COVID-19 even if not actually diagnosed with COV-19; and
- Individuals totally or partially unemployed, or who are participating in the SharedWork Ohio Program will not be required to serve a waiting period before receiving unemployment insurance or SharedWork benefits; and
- Any benefit paid on these unemployment claims shall not be charged to the account of the employer who otherwise would have been charged but instead shall be charged to the mutualized account, except reimbursing employers; and
- Waiver of work search requirements shall include those individuals requested by a medical professional, local health authority or employer to be isolated or quarantined as a consequence of COVID-19 even if not actually diagnosed with COV-19; and
- Penalties for late reporting and payments will be waived for employers affected by COVID-19.

The above orders apply only to those workers that do not have access to leave benefits from their employer(s).”

The Governor declared a state of emergency on 3/9/20. The executive order includes the following [directions](#):

- Authorization of personnel to coordinate the State response to COVID-19 and to assist in protecting the lives, safety and health of Ohio citizens.

- Request state agencies to suspend purchasing and contracting requirements during the state of emergency to procure resources or supplies necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Ohio citizens.
- Directs the Department of Health to issue guidelines for private businesses regarding appropriate work and travel restrictions, if needed.
- Directs those who believe they have been subjected to excessive prices for essential consumer goods to contact the Attorney General's office.

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

Policy Matters Ohio released a report on 3/11/20 with policy recommendations for protecting Ohioans from coronavirus. Policy recommendations include:

- **Create a temporary paid sick day program.** Policy Matters Ohio recommends that it be paid for in the following ways: ["By declaring an emergency and using general revenue funding; utilizing money from the Controlling Board's Emergency Purposes Fund; tapping into the Budget Stabilization Fund, which is already nearing full capacity, or by using funds from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program that have been reserved for emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. In the long run, legislators should pass a law like the Ohio Family Leave Act of 2008."](#)
- **Ensure access to health care, income and nutrition support:** ["The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Medicaid and county Job and Family Service Offices should streamline eligibility and enrollment in public programs that provide health care as well as income and nutrition support to those whose incomes will be interrupted by economic dislocations or individual quarantine. This will take immediate action and it will take increased funds for county human service offices."](#)
- **Provide reassurance to the public about the costs of testing and treatment:** ["State policymakers should assure that the medical bills from coronavirus testing and treatment do not bankrupt people or that prohibitive costs cause people to avoid care. This reassurance should happen as soon as possible, to encourage and ensure people will get tested and treatment. If the epidemic lasts for a long time and many people fall into economic distress, the state will have to look to the federal government for assistance."](#)
- **Provide resources to providers that serve the uninsured and underinsured.** ["The epidemic will strain the financial resources of safety net providers that serve the uninsured and underinsured, and that are already under financial stress. Government should implement policies that will increase those providers' revenues to sustain their operations. These policies should include, but not be limited to, rural providers identified as financially at risk. Lawmakers will need to look to the federal government for assistance if economic conditions deteriorate seriously for a prolonged period."](#)
- ["Health care providers should see patients even if they have outstanding debt for past care. They should suspend collections of patient debt during the epidemic."](#)
- **Health coverage for health care workers:** ["The government and the private sector should collaborate to ensure that all healthcare workers have health coverage. Health coverage is essential to protect the health and safety of caregivers who will be on the front line of caring for those who are most medically at risk. If some providers are](#)

[ineligible to receive public coverage \(e.g., based on immigration status\), the private sector should arrange for their coverage.”](#)

- [“State and local governments should establish and engage advisory groups, comprised of public, corporate, and charitable organizations, health care providers and community leaders representing the diversity of Ohio’s population.”](#)

The Columbus City Council voted unanimously on 3/16/20 to [“create a \\$1 million fund for emergency human services with a focus on families needing food and rent during the statewide shutdown of many businesses due to coronavirus pandemic.”](#)

[HB 91](#) was carried over from 2019. The bill, which is before the House Insurance Committee, would create the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave insurance benefits during a 12-month period to an individual for several qualifying reasons, including to address the individual’s serious health condition, to care for a family member.

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OKLAHOMA

State of Emergency

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/15/20.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

[HB 3439](#) was introduced on 2/4/20 and referred to the House Insurance Committee. This bill would establish a statewide paid family and medical leave law to provide leave for several qualifying reasons, including to care for a family member with a serious health condition or to care for one’s own serious health condition.

Paid Sick Days

[HB 2463](#) carried over from 2019. This bill would provide that all employees will accrue a minimum of one (1) hour of earned paid sick time for every forty (40) hours worked. Employees shall not use more than eighty (80) hours of earned paid sick time in a year unless the employer selects a higher limit.

[SB 121](#) carried over from 2019. The bill would create a state leave sharing program. The purpose of the state leave sharing program is to permit state employees to donate annual or sick leave to a fellow state employee who has exhausted, or will exhaust, all types of paid leave.

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OREGON

State of Emergency

Governor Brown declared a state of emergency on 3/8/20. Executive Order No. 20-03 can be found [here](#). The order directs the Oregon Health Authority and state Public Health Director to take all actions necessary and authorized under state law to respond, control, mitigate and recover from the emergency. They are to deploy emergency volunteer health care professionals, designate emergency health care centers, create and require the use of diagnostic and treatment guidelines, and provide notice of the guidelines to health care

providers, institutions and facilities, and issue guidelines for private businesses regarding appropriate work restrictions, if necessary. The order also directs those who believe they have been subjected to excessive prices for essential consumer goods associated with the coronavirus outbreak to contact the Oregon Department of Justice Consumer Protection hotline.

Governor Brown [released](#) updated mitigation measures for the COVID-19 response on 3/12/20. The [state mitigation plan](#) includes the following:

- Prohibits all gatherings of more than 250 people for four weeks, and provides guidance for individuals in high risk populations for other events
- Keeps schools open but canceling all non-essential school-associated gatherings and group activities
- Recommends implementation of distancing measures in workplaces, including increasing physical space between employees in worksites, canceling or limiting in-person meetings, limiting all non-essential meetings of 20 or more people, limiting all non-essential travel, limiting all work-sponsored conferences and events, and staggering work schedules. Employers are directed to also
 - establish flexible leave policies for staff who need to stay home due to school, childcare, and event dismissals
 - Consider paid leave policies for people with COVID-19 symptoms
 - Consider shift equivalent paid leave policies for hourly employees who have work hours decreased or canceled due to implications of COVID-19
 - Implement extended telework where feasible.
- Provides guidance to businesses (both indoors and outdoors), including a recommendation that restaurants and hospitality should reconfigure their businesses to emphasize take-out ordering.
- Provides recommendations to child care providers and facilities
- Provides transit related recommendations; and
- Limitation around long-term care and assisted living

The Governor also announced that she sent a [letter](#) on 3/11/20 to the Vice President and House and Senate leaders outlining the following of the federal government:

Governor's Top Priorities

- Expediently send the requested personal protective equipment
- Provide lab testing equipment
- Provide additional flexible federal funding for states
- Expediently distribute recent federal funding (the \$7.8 million in formula and emergency CDC grant funding that Oregon is expecting to receive from the \$8.3 billion package that passed the week of 3/3/20)
- Ensure access to meals for students and families by asking the USDA to grant a waiver to provide meals in event of school closures.
- Provide flexibility in administering social and health services, including TANF, WIC, SNAP, and Free and Reduced School Meals.

- Permit flexibility for the state unemployment insurance program, to allow people who are isolated or quarantined to receive UI benefits. The Governor has asked the US Department of Labor to waive the work availability requirements and provide states with very broad latitude.
- Ensure funding for economic recovery by making economic recovery costs that the state incurs federally reimbursable.

Health and Safety

- Approve the use of federal funding (Medicaid, CDC transfer funds, or the emergency supplemental funding) for healthcare staffing shortages.
- Expedite the temporary amendment to the Oregon State Medicaid plan to address concerns from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Enhance FMAP for Coronavirus response
- Include testing and immunizations for COVID-19 as part of the ACA's "preventive health service" and to consider quarantine due to presumptive exposure to COVID-19 as an exceptional circumstance under the ACA. This would allow those who have had a qualifying life event but were unable to enroll during a special enrollment period because of presumptive exposure to COVID-19 the opportunity to sign up for a health plan and access subsidies.
- Ensure coverage for testing, vaccinations, and care for Medicare beneficiaries
- Revise Medicare Part B claims submission date to an earlier time to relieve potential administrative or operational burdens on providers.

Employment and Workforce

- Remove Federal barriers to Disaster Unemployment Assistance, so that DUA can be applied to pandemics in the same manner as natural disasters if a federal emergency is declared. As schools and child care facilities shut down, expanding access to DUA would remove some of the standard eligibility requirements and give access to the workers who will be out of work as a result.
- Increase UI administrative grant funding
- Pass a national paid sick leave law
- Fully fund the National Dislocated Worker Reserve Fund. This will ensure the US Department of Labor has sufficient resources to respond if the pandemic leads to large worker dislocations across the nation.
- Extend Trade Adjustment Assistance so that workers who have been adversely affected by the closure of foreign export markets due to COVID-19 may be certified for TAA.
- Increase funding for American Job Centers and the Public Labor Exchange (Wagner-Peyser)

Children and Families

- That the Health and Human Services Department remove Federal barriers to TANF and waive participation requirements.
- That the USDA provide the following:
 - Remove barriers to basic food assistance by waiving requirements for face to face interviews in certain circumstances
 - Flexibility in delivering basic food assistance to provide an additional month's worth of food benefits for SNAP households, so they can afford to stock basic food staples during an emergency declaration
 - That the Food and Nutrition Services provide a temporary statewide waiver for Able Bodied Adult Without Depends work requirements for states that are hard

hit by COVID-19 or where the spread of COVID-19 is imminent, such as a Governor-declared state of emergency

- Assist families and individuals facing immediate hardship by creating an Emergency Fund, modeled after the Recovery Act, to provide flexible resources for states to tailor programs that prevent children from facing eviction and other immediate hardships
- Pass a broad economic stimulus, such as rebate checks to individuals as an early-stage response, similar to what was done in 2008.
- That the Department of Education
 - Allow Oregon's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services to carry over unspent grant funding.
 - Provide flexibility in requests for visas for home health workers from outside the US by allowing the over-expenditure of Vocational Rehabilitation grants by Oregon due to COVID-19 response without incurring a maintenance of effort penalty.

Education and Early Learning

- That the Department of Education consider funding for the following:
 - the cost of making up school days to ensure student learning after the COVID-19 outbreak has subsided,
 - increased costs associated with hiring substitute teachers and other school personnel,
 - Cost for higher levels of staffing for school nurses
 - Cost for one-time school cleaning for schools that have closed due to the spread of the virus
 - Cost associated with providing online learning options to students, including hardware, software and internet services
- That the Department of Education also provide the following:
 - Guidance for delivery of education and services to students with IEPs or 504 plan and who have underlying health conditions who may not come to school during a COVID-19 outbreak.
 - Flexibility for certain requirements of the ESSA and provisions of state ESSA plans
 - Flexibility for grant timelines and extensions
- That the Department of Health and Human Services provide the following:
 - Flexibility in CCDBG licensing requirements to allow temporary child care facilities to operate to support first responders (doctors, nurses, hospital janitorial staff, lab technicians, etc.) in continuing to serve their community, and for funding to support the implementation of emergency child care facilities and purchase of equipment and supplies.
 - Flexible funding to support child care providers in event of closure due to COVID-19
 - Flexibility in meeting required service hours to Head Start and Early Head Start programs experiencing closures due to COVID-19.

Maintain utilities

Pacific Power announced that it is [“temporarily suspending disconnections and late fees for non-payment for customers in Oregon, Washington and California to support the state of emergency declared in all three states in response to the COVID-19 virus.”](#)

Portland's Mayor declared a state of emergency on 3/12/20. In addition, the Mayor announced that the Portland Water Bureau and the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services ["will not disconnect water service for non-payment of sewer, storm water, and water bills during the city's State of Emergency."](#)

Emergency Child Care for Frontline Medical Workers and First Responders / Maintain Food Assistance for Children

Oregon received a federal waiver on 3/13/20 to allow school districts to ["serve free and reduced-price lunches to lower-income students outside a school setting, at places such as bus stops, churches and community centers."](#) About half of the 580,000 children in Oregon affected by the two-week closure of all school statewide receive meal subsidies, Oregon Department of Education Director Colt Gill said. School officials are developing take-out style meals that can be eaten at home and handed out in batches instead of hot meals that are served in schools, he said."

The Governor announced on 3/13/20 that the state will [help to find child care for frontline medical workers and first responders during the school closures.](#)

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PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Impact Guide can be found [here](#). The website contains information about government services provided during the emergency, and is updated on a regular basis.

State of Emergency / Coronavirus Response Funding

Governor Wolf and the Secretary of Health issued orders on 3/19/20 to close the physical location of all non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania. The Governor's order can be found [here](#), and the Secretary of Health's order can be found [here](#). A list of life-sustaining businesses can be found [here](#).

The Governor [signed](#) a state of emergency declaration on 3/6/20. The declaration does the following:

- Transferred up to \$5 million in unused appropriated funds to be transferred to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for Emergency Management Assistance Compact for expenses related to the COVID-19 emergency. The declaration also transfers up to \$20 million in unused appropriated funds to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for expenses authorized and incurred for the COVID-19 emergency.
- Authorizes commonwealth agencies purchasing supplies or services in response to the emergency to utilize emergency procurement procedures.
- Suspends the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of Commonwealth business or the orders, rules or regulations of any commonwealth agency, if strict compliance with the provisions would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action to cope with the emergency.
- Authorizes the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania to place National Guard units on state active duty.
- Authorizes the Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner to use all available resources and personnel however needed.

- Authorizes the Pennsylvania Department of Health Secretary and the Department of Education Secretary to waive or suspend any provision of law or regulation as necessary to respond to the emergency. If necessary that the state needs greater flexibility in the application of state and federal motor carrier regulations to accommodate truck drivers involved in emergency activities, the Department of Transportation is authorized to waive or suspend any laws or federal or state regulations related to the drivers of commercial vehicles.
- Urges public bodies to meet needs related to this emergency by the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment and by entering into such contracts and agreements needed to meet the emergency.

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The state announced that they have [suspended the waiting week period and have temporarily waived the work search and work registration requirements for all UI claimants](#). The state has also provided the following guidance around workers' compensation and COVID-19:

- [“If you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19 in your workplace, you may be eligible for Workers' Compensation \(WC\) by either:](#)
 - [Notifying your employer to file a typical "disease-as-injury" WC claim, which requires you to provide medical evidence that you were exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace](#)
 - [Notifying your employer to file an "occupational disease" WC claim, which requires you to show that COVID-19 is occurring more in your occupation/industry than in the general population”](#)

The Public Utility Commission issued an [emergency order](#) on 3/13/20 that establishes a moratorium on public utility service terminations.

On 3/17/20, the Agriculture Secretary [“issued guidance for addressing emergency food assistance for Pennsylvanians at risk of hunger due to measures to slow the spread of COVID-19.”](#) In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Division of Food and Nutrition announced on 3/11/20 that they received waiver approval from the USDA that [“allows schools closed due to the coronavirus to serve meals through the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer option or through the Summer Food Service Program in a non-congregate setting.”](#)

The Department of Revenue announced on 3/19/20 that the [state was postponing the deadline for older adults and Pennsylvania residents with disabilities to apply for rent and property tax rebates paid in 2019](#). The Department announced on 3/21/20 that the [state was postponing the deadline to file state income taxes as well](#).

[HB 169](#) carried over from 2019. This bill would require covered employers to provide their workers with 1 hour of leave for every 40 hours worked.

Assistance for Businesses

The Governor [announced](#) on 3/19/20 that the U.S. Small Business Administration has made available low interest loans for small businesses and eligible non-profits in all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. [“SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \\$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts](#)

[payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.”](#)

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PUERTO RICO

State of Emergency

On 3/15/20, the Governor [instated a curfew and has required the closure of non-essential businesses.](#)

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RHODE ISLAND

State of Emergency / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/9/20. She also announced that the state Department of Labor and Training is [“filing an emergency regulation to expand access to the Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) and Temporary Disability Insurance \(TDI\)/Temporary Caregiver Insurance \(TCI\) programs to better serve Rhode Islanders impacted by COVID-19. The emergency regulations will:](#)

- [Waive the seven-day waiting period for regular unemployment insurance claims and claims filed under the short-term compensation program \(WorkShare\).](#)
- [Waive the seven-day minimum amount of time that claimants must be out of work to qualify for TDI/TCI benefits.](#)
- [Waive the required medical certification for individuals under quarantine \(and allow them, instead, to temporarily qualify via self-attestation that they were under quarantine as a result of COVID-19\).”](#)

A Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training fact sheet on eligibility for Temporary Disability Insurance and Unemployment Insurance related to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

Expanding Health Insurance Coverage

Rhode Island has opened up its' [health insurance exchange](#) under a special enrollment period through 4/15/20 [“in response to the growing number of Americans who have or may have contracted COVID-19.”](#)

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SOUTH CAROLINA

State of Emergency / Funding for Coronavirus Response

The Governor issued [Executive Order 2020-09](#) on 3/15/20. The order does the following:

- closes all public schools in the state.
- Authorizes school districts, colleges and university officials to make any necessary and appropriate decisions or arrangements to account for local needs and other unique circumstances, including establishing or maintaining means to deliver virtual instruction

and remote learning, assisting with or facilitating the distribution of food and the delivery of nutritional services, and housing out of state or displaced students.

- Directs that any election to be held on or before 5/1/20 to be postponed and rescheduled. The State Election Commission is directed to work with county boards of voter registration and elections to ensure the candidate filing periods continue as schedule and that individuals may register to vote without interruption.

The Governor declared a state of emergency on 3/13/20 and issued several executive orders related to this declaration.

[Executive Order 2020-08](#) includes the following:

- Orders the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to address the public health emergency.
- Directs DHEC to restrict visitation to nursing homes and assisted living facilities, with the exception of end-of-life situations, as necessary.
- Orders the closure of all public schools in two counties.
- Authorizes and directs state correctional institutions and local detention facilities to suspend visitation processes and procedures as necessary.
- Places specified units and personnel of the national guard on sate active duty, and directs the Adjutant General to issue the requisite supplemental orders as needed.
- Order all licensing and registration requirements regarding private security personnel or companies contracted with the SC security companies in protecting property and restoring essential services in SC to be suspended. Directs the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to initiate an emergency registration process for those personnel or companies.
- Declares prohibitions against price gouging are in effect.
- Extends the provisions from Executive Order 2020-07 to commercial vehicles and operators responding to the declared emergency or otherwise assisting with the public health threat posed by COVID-19, as well as to commercial vehicles and operators of commercial vehicles transporting essential goods and products, such as food, water, medicine, medical supplies and equipment, fuel and petroleum products, livestock, poultry, feed for livestock and poultry, and crops and other agricultural products ready to be harvested.

Executive [Order 2020-07](#) provides for the following:

- Suspends certain rules and regulations for commercial vehicles and operators of commercial vehicles. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Safety, including the State Transport Police, shall waive or suspend application and enforcement of the requisite state and federal rules and regulations pertaining to registration, permitting, length, width, weight, load and hours of service for operators responding to the declared emergency or otherwise providing direct assistance to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to protect public health and safety. The order should not be construed to require or allow an ill or fatigued driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle. Any driver who informs the motor carrier that they need immediate rest must be permitted at least 10 consecutive hours off duty. Any vehicle

that exceeds the maximum dimensions or weights must obtain a permit with defined routes from the SC Department of Transportation Oversized / Overweight Permit Office.

The Governor sent a [letter](#) on 3/12/20 to the General Assembly to ask them [“to pass a joint resolution for the purpose of making \\$45 million from the 2019-2020 Contingency Reserve Fund immediately available to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control \(DHEC\) for its coordination of the state’s public health response to the COVID-19 virus.”](#)

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SOUTH DAKOTA

State of Emergency / Assistance for Businesses

The Governor [announced](#) on 3/16/20 that her administration is working with the Small Business Administration to activate the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Fund Program in South Dakota.

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/13/20. Also, the Governor is [signing](#) an executive order to allow all non-essential state employees to work from home.

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TENNESSEE

State of Emergency

The Governor issued [Executive Order No. 14](#) on 3/12/20. This order declares a state of emergency to facilitate the treatment and containment of COVID-19. The order does the following:

- [“Implements the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan;](#)
- [Permits health care professionals licensed in other states to provide health care services in Tennessee related to COVID-19;](#)
- [Allows pharmacists to dispense an extra 30-day supply of maintenance prescriptions as needed in response to COVID-19;](#)
- [Allows health care professionals to provide localized treatment to patients in temporary residences;](#)
- [Expands testing sites for COVID-19;](#)
- [Allows the construction of temporary health care structures in response to COVID-19;](#)
- [Implements price-gouging protections on medical and emergency supplies;](#)
- [Suspends restrictions on vehicles transporting emergency supplies to areas affected by COVID-19;](#)
- [Permits the waiver of certain regulations on childcare centers as needed to respond to the effect of COVID-19;](#)
- [Authorizes TennCare policy changes to ensure that covered individuals receive medically necessary services without disruption; and](#)
- [Directs coordination with health insurance plans to improve access to screening, testing, and treatment for COVID-19.”](#)

Health Care for the Uninsured

[HB 2915](#) was introduced on 3/5/20. This bill would authorize the governor to enter into negotiations with the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the office of the

President of the United States, and seek all necessary waivers, to provide primary care to all uninsured citizens of the state relative to the prevention and treatment of coronavirus.

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TEXAS

State of Emergency

The Governor declared a state of disaster on 3/13/20. The declaration provides that the governor authorizes [“the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster.... any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or any order or rule of a state agency that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster shall be suspended upon written approval of the Office of the Governor. However, to the extent that the enforcement of any state statute or administrative rule regarding contracting or procurement would impede any state agency’s emergency response that is necessary to cope with this declared disaster, I hereby suspend such statutes and rules for the duration of this declared disaster for that limited purpose.”](#)

Austin’s Mayor issued a stay at home public health order on 3/24/20. The order can be found [here](#).

Austin and Travis County declared a seven day local state of disaster on 3/6/20. The declarations ordered the cancellation of the South By Southwest festival. [“officials made it clear the state of disaster is not because there’s an emergency in Travis County. It’s a precautionary measure, because coronavirus threatens widespread illness and would require an emergency response. The declaration also clears the way for overtime pay for public health employees and opens funding for additional resources if needed, like up to 24-hour operations.”](#) The Travis County Commissioners Court [will consider extending](#) the declaration at its meeting on 3/10/20.

San Antonio’s mayor [declared a local state of disaster and public health emergency](#) on 3/2/20. Bexar County also [declared a local state of disaster](#) on 3/2/20.

Directives to Health Insurers

The Governor and the Texas Department of Insurance announced on 3/10/20 [“that they have asked health insurers and health maintenance organizations operating in Texas to waive costs associated with the testing and telemedicine visits for the diagnosis of coronavirus \(COVID-19\). Additionally, TDI is requesting that insurers report their actions related to consumer cost-sharing and access to services so that the department can ensure consumers are aware of their available benefits.”](#) Insurers are asked to take the following steps related to COVID-19:

- [“Waive co-payments, co-insurance, and deductibles for testing that is consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\).](#)
- [Waive consumer cost-sharing and facilitate expanded use of telemedicine.](#)
- [Cover necessary medical equipment, supplies, and services.](#)
- [Waive penalties, restrictions, and claims denials for necessary out-of-network services.](#)

- [Waive requirements for pre-authorization, referrals, notification of hospital admission, or medical necessity reviews for care consistent with CDC guidance.](#)
- [Allow extra time for health providers and facilities to file claims.](#)
- [Authorize payment to pharmacies for up to a 90-day supply of any prescription medication for individuals, regardless of when the prescription was filled.”](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor directed the Texas Workforce Commission on 3/17/20 to [“waive the waiting week for unemployment benefits. In addition to waiving the waiting week, TWC is exercising its authority under the Governor’s declaration of a Statewide Disaster to waive unemployment insurance work search requirements effective immediately.”](#) These actions were [called for by the Texas AFL-CIO.](#)

Assistance for Business

The Governor announced on 3/17/20 that he has [“requested designation from the Small Business Administration \(SBA\) Economic Injury Disaster Declaration in order to access the Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) program for the entire state of Texas. If granted, the SBA would provide long-term, low-interest loans to qualifying businesses across the state.”](#)

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UTAH

State of Emergency / Task Force

The Governor [proclaimed a state of emergency](#) on 3/6/20. The Governor issued the [“declaration at the request of the Utah COVID-19 Task Force.”](#)

Salt Lake City also [proclaimed a state of emergency](#) on 3/6/20.

Resolution Urging Action

The Senate passed [SCR 8](#) on 3/6/20. The resolution, which was referred to the House Health and Human Services Committee, states that the legislature and Governor:

- [express solidarity and support for the Chinese people's efforts to contain the coronavirus.](#)
- [convey sympathy for those affected around the world and urge Utahns to remain calm and adhere to normal flu-season precautions.](#)
- [call upon the international community not to impose restrictions relating to the coronavirus that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade and raise fear and stigma.](#)
- [where measures that restrict travel and trade have, urge that their duration be short, proportionate to the actual public health risks, and regularly be reconsidered as the situation evolves.](#)
- [encourage close collaboration between the public and private sectors to develop the diagnostics, medicines, and vaccines to help bring the coronavirus outbreak under control.](#)

- [urge Utah government, medical facilities, school districts, and other public institutions to remain calm, take precautions to prevent the spread of all communicable diseases, and focus efforts towards people who exhibit symptoms.](#)
- [urges Utahns to use protective equipment judiciously according to public health recommendations.](#)

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VERMONT

State of Emergency / Emergency Child Care for First Responders

The Governor issued [Executive Order 01-20](#) on 3/13/20. The order includes the following provisions:

- [Restricts or prohibits visitor access for state licensed nursing homes, state licensed assisted living residences, state therapeutic community residences, the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital \(VPCH\), the Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence, Level III and Level IV residential homes, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.](#)
- [Requires all hospitals to develop visitation policies and procedures that conform to a minimum standards to be developed by the Agency of Human Services to restrict visitor access.](#)
- [Suspends all non-essential out-of-state travel by State employees for State business. Directs the Secretary of Administration to encourage and facilitate telework among those State employees with the capacity to work remotely.](#)
- [Prohibits large non-essential mass gatherings of more than 250 people in a single room or single space at the same time for social and recreational activities](#)
- [Directs all agencies to use and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities or perform any and all activities in preparing for and responding to COVID-19](#)
- [Authorizes and directs the Adjutant General to call into Active State Service any units of the National Guard.](#)
- [Authorizes the Department of Financial Regulation to collect data on the state's demographics and analyze the potential and actual impacts of a COVID-19 outbreak on the state's population, the labor force and the economy, including state revenues.](#)
- [Directs DPS to coordinate the allocation of statewide investigatory resources to enhance VDH capacity for contact tracing.](#)
- [Directs the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to develop a plan to extend DMV licensing and registration renewal deadlines and other statutory and regulatory DMV requirements to mitigate contagion risk by reducing customer traffic throughout all DMV district offices.](#)

- [Directs the Secretary of Education to develop a contingency plan for school closings necessitated by COVID-19 for such time as this may be recommended by VDH and VEM.](#)
- [Provides that the Commissioner of Health will oversee the investigation, coordination and mitigation efforts for the duration of this Order. All local boards of health shall consult with and abide by the recommendations of the Commissioner of Health prior to taking any action regarding isolation or quarantine of an individual\(s\). Town health officers shall work with and assist the Department as directed by the Commissioner of Health.](#)
- [Suspends relevant rules governing medical services to permit such personnel to provide paramedicine, transportation to destinations including hospitals and places other than hospitals or health care facilities, telemedicine to facilitate treatment of patients in place, and such other services as may be approved by the Commissioner of Health.](#)
- [Suspends relevant rules governing nursing services to permit such personnel to provide medical care, including but not limited to administration of medicine, prescribing of medication, telemedicine to facilitate treatment of patients in place, and such other services as may be approved by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Commissioner of Health.](#)
- [Directs the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to work with U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\) and Vermont Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\) to survey businesses to determine the economic impact of losses for the disaster period as compared to the same period of the preceding year for the purpose of applying to the U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\) for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans.](#)
- [Directs the Department of Labor to extend unemployment insurance to those Vermonters following the instructions of their healthcare providers to self – isolate or quarantine; to remove the work search requirement for those workers affected by temporary closure of a business; and to temporarily suspend any mechanisms that would delay the release of funds to claimants. Directs the Commissioner of Labor to work with the Legislature on other opportunities to extend benefits to workers affected by COVID – 19.](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

On 3/18/20, the Public Safety Commissioner in the state reported that [“his department has a “work order” to identify all employees who should be considered essential for the purposes of providing services like child care...grocery store workers, as well as others involved in the food supply chain, are considered essential people, adding that this list of professions would be updated in the day ahead. Essential persons also include health care workers, first responders, criminal justice personnel, public health employees, child care providers, school staff, National Guard personnel and some state employees.”](#)

Paid Family and Medical Leave

The Governor vetoed [H.107](#) on 1/31/20. The bill would have provided leave under several circumstances, including 8 weeks of paid leave benefits for people caring for seriously ill family members and 6 weeks of paid medical benefits for one’s own illness.

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VIRGINIA

State of Emergency / Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor [announced new measures to fight COVID-19 and support impacted Virginians on 3/17/20](#). These measures include the following:

Support for Workers

- [The Governor directed the Commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission to waive the one-week waiting period for Unemployment Insurance to ensure workers can receive benefits as soon as possible.](#)
- [The Governor enhanced eligibility for unemployment benefits by providing that workers may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits if an employer needs to temporarily slow or cease operations due to COVID-19. If a worker has been issued a notice to self-quarantine by a medical or public health official and is not receiving paid sick or medical leave from their employer, they may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits. In addition, a worker may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they must stay home to care for an ill family member and are not receiving paid family medical leave from their employer.](#)
- [The Governor has directed the Virginia Employment Commission to give impacted workers special consideration on deadlines, mandatory reemployment appointments, and work search requirements.](#)

The Governor's office has also published a [Frequently Asked Questions guide](#) for workers that have been temporarily laid off or discharged due to COVID-19.

Support for Employers

- [Rapid response: The state will activate regional workforce teams to support employers that slow or cease operations. Employers who do slow or cease operations will not be financially penalized for an increase in workers requesting unemployment benefits.](#)
- [WIOA Rapid Response Funding: The Governor has authorized rapid response funding, through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, for employers eligible to remain open during this emergency. Funds may be used to clean facilities and support emergency needs.](#)
- [Workplace Safety: The Governor is directing all employers to follow U.S. Department of Labor guidance on workplace safety.](#)

The Governor also announced on 3/17/20 that the state's 75 DMV offices have closed. Online services are available. For anyone who cannot renew online, or whose license or registration expires before May 15, the DMV will grant a 60 day extension. In addition, a [judicial emergency](#) has been granted, providing that until 4/6/20, non-essential non-emergency court proceedings are suspended unless there is a specific exemption. This includes a [prohibition on new eviction cases for tenants who are unable to pay their rent because of COVID-19](#).

The State Corporation Commission issued an [order](#) on 3/16/20 directing the utilities that it regulates to suspend service disconnections for 60 days to provide relief to any customer who

may be financially impacted by COVID-19. This includes utilities like electric, natural gas and water companies.

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/12/20. Executive Order 51 can be found [here](#). The order includes the following:

- Authorizes agencies to waive any state requirement or regulation, and enter into contracts without regard to normal procedures or formalities, and without regard to application or permit fees or royalties.
- Activates the Virginia Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act
- Activates the Virginia National Guard to state active duty.
- Authorizes up to \$10 million for state and local government mission assignments and state response and recovery operations authorized and coordinated through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

The Governor also announced the following:

- [Ban on state employee travel outside of Virginia](#)
- [The Secretary of Administration is implementing a phased transition to teleworking for state employees. The department of Human Resources Management will work with the Virginia Department of Health's Equity Workgroup to prioritize support for impacted state employees that may be unable to perform their duties from home, including janitorial, food, and grounds staff.](#)
- [State employees, including part-time employees, can access paid Public Health Emergency Leave in the event of exposure to COVID-19 or high risk travel.](#)
- [All specially-scheduled state conferences and large events are canceled for 30 days.](#)
- [State agencies are directed to limit in person meetings and non-essential work-related gatherings.](#)
- [Localities and non-profits are also urged to limit large public events.](#)
- [The General Assembly will vote on 3/12/20 on a budget that boosts Virginia's reserve funds more than at any other time in the Commonwealth's history, an essential mechanism to ensure continued state services regardless of economic uncertainty.](#)
- [The Virginia Department of Health has expanded its testing criteria to ensure that anyone who has symptoms and is in a nursing home is top priority and gets immediate testing.](#)
- [Nursing homes and senior care facilities have updated their policies to provide additional visitor screening and increased monitoring of patients.](#)

- [Private businesses are urged to explore telework and paid time off options, including those with hourly workers.](#)
- [The Virginia Department of Transportation is adjusting cleaning schedules according to CDC protocol.](#)
- [Transportation employees are being trained to spot indications of COVID-19, help reduce the potential spread of disease, and provide accurate information on symptoms, prevention, and diagnostic testing.](#)

Paid Sick Leave / Paid Family and Medical Leave / Paid Leave (Quarantine or Public Health Emergency Closures)

Delegate Jennifer Carrol Foy [called on Governor Northam to hold a special session of the legislature](#) to pass paid sick days legislation as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The House agreed to the conference report of the conference committee on [SB 481](#) on 3/5/20, but the Senate refused to take it the conference report and the bill died on 3/8/20. SB 481 would have required [“all employers with 15 or more employees to provide up to 40 hours/five days of paid sick time.”](#) The bill would have done the following:

- Allowed employees to take earned paid sick time for an employee’s illness or to care for a family member with an illness.
- Allowed employees to take earned paid sick time when their place of business is closed by order of a public official due to a public health emergency or an employee’s need to care for a child whose school or place of care has been closed by order of a public official due to a public health emergency, or care for oneself or a family member when it has been determined by the health authorities having jurisdiction or by a health care provider that the employee’s or family member’s presence in the community may jeopardize the health of others because of his or her exposure to a communicable disease, whether or not the employee or family member has actually contracted the communicable disease.
- Prohibited employers from discharging or demoting employees for taking less than 16 hours of unpaid sick leave in a calendar year.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

[SB 770](#) died when the bill failed to meet the crossover deadline. This bill would have required the Virginia Employment Commission to establish and administer a paid family and medical leave program with benefits beginning January 1, 2023. Under the program, benefits would be paid to eligible employees for family and medical leave.

Vote by Mail

[HB 220](#), passed by the legislature, would require the envelope provided to an absentee voter for the return of an absentee ballot include prepaid postage. Gov. Northam has until April 11, 2020 take action on the bill.

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State of Emergency

The Governor signed [emergency proclamation 20-13](#) on 3/16/20 that temporarily shuts down restaurants, bars and entertainment and recreational facilities. Information on what is allowed and what is prohibited can be found [here](#).

The Governor issued a state of emergency in all counties due to threats of life and property from the coronavirus on 2/29/20. The [Proclamation](#) in Washington directs state officials to implement plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The proclamation allows for state resources to be directed to the plan and calls for the National Guard in “such part” as may be necessary to be called into service to perform needed duties. On 3/10/20, the Governor issued [an additional executive order issuing new rules](#) around nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The state has also set up a Department of Health [Coronavirus Hotline](#) to address questions from the public.

- King County [declared a state of emergency](#) on 3/2/20. This [declaration enables “extraordinary measures” such as authorizing overtime for King County employees and waiving some procurement protocols.](#)

Governor Inslee announced on 3/11/20 that [events of more than 250 people will be prohibited in King, Snohomish and Pierce Counties.](#) The Governor also recommended that [high risk populations avoid social contact, employers maximize teleworking options, workplaces implement social distancing and public transit increase cleaning sanitizing practices.](#)

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Governor signed [HB 2965](#) on 3/17/20. The law provides \$200 million [“from state budget reserves to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Most of that money will go to local and state health departments who are on the front lines of virus response.”](#)

Addressing Leave and Pay for Impacted Workers

The Governor issued [proclamation 20-19](#) on 3/18/20. This proclamation temporarily prohibits residential evictions statewide until 4/17/20.

The Governor announced the expansion of state policies [“to support workers and businesses financially impacted by COVID-10”](#) on 3/10. The rules were adopted by the Washington Employment Security Department, and went into effect on 3/10. A comparison guide with scenarios that workers might face and the benefits that they may be eligible for can be found [here](#).

The new rules accomplish three main things:

- **Strengthen existing programs:** [“These rules enhance the flexibility of the unemployment insurance program. The rules will help relieve the burden of temporary layoffs, isolation and quarantine by ensuring unemployment benefits are available to individuals whose employment has been impacted directly by COVID-19.”](#)
 - [“Workers will be able to receive unemployment benefits and employers will get relief of benefit charges if an employer needs to curtail or shut down operations temporarily because a worker becomes sick and other workers need to be isolated or quarantined as a result of COVID-19.](#)

- [A worker that follows guidance issued by a medical or public health official to isolate or quarantine themselves as a result of exposure to COVID-19 and is not receiving paid sick leave from their employer, may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits.](#)
- [If a worker falls seriously ill and is forced to quit, they may qualify for Paid Family Medical Leave while ill under the existing program. Once recovered and available for work, they may apply for unemployment benefits.](#)
- [It removes the full-time requirement and expands standby ability to part time/less than full-time workers who are isolated.”](#)
- **Provide leniency with unemployment insurance deadlines, appointments and penalties:**
 - [“The new rules allow current unemployment claimants who are in isolation or quarantine as a result of COVID-19 more leniency about many unemployment insurance deadlines and mandatory appointments. This includes deadlines for applying for training programs or mandatory re-employment service appointments...The rules also waive financial penalties for employers who file their tax reports late, pay their taxes late, or do not respond to information requests in a timely fashion as a result of COVID-19.”](#)
- **Expand leave and telework options for state employees:**
 - [“**Leave expansion:** State employees impacted by COVID-19 will have additional leave available to them, which will mean they won't be required to take existing sick, vacation or family leave.](#)
 - [“**Guidance around staying home and self-isolating:** If an employee has symptoms of fever and cough or shortness of breath, and has not experienced any known exposure to COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19, the employee is to stay home for 72 hours after their fever is gone and symptoms have improved.](#)
 - [“**Telework:** State organizations will explore all possible options to expand telework for employees impacted by COVID-19.”](#)

Information from the Employment Security Department for Washington State businesses and workers impacted by COVID 19 can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Information is available about the following supports:

- **Unemployment Benefits:** “The Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) can provide support in the form of unemployment benefits. For employers that want to keep from losing highly-trained employees, these unemployment benefits can be received through, or while covered by, Shared Work, Partial Unemployment and Standby (which allow certain workers to collect unemployment while remaining with their employers and not actively seeking other jobs). Visit: <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19>”

- **Paid Family and Medical Leave:** “ESD’s Paid Family and Medical Leave program can provide paid leave benefits for Washington workers who need to take time off from work due to a serious health condition or to care for a family member with a serious health condition. Certification by a healthcare provider is required for applications for Paid Family and Medical Leave due to a serious health condition. Visit: <https://paidleave.wa.gov/>”
- **Mass Layoff Due to COVID 19 - Rapid Response:** “If COVID-19 disrupts a Washington business and causes a mass layoff or closure, ESD and its local workforce development board partners can respond with Rapid Response services and funding to help impacted workers get connected to unemployment benefits and re-employment services, including re-training, worker support services, and referrals to other social services. Visit: <https://www.esd.wa.gov/newsroom/layoffassistance>”

Workers’ Comp for quarantined health workers / first responders

Governor Inslee and the Washington Department of Labor and Industries announced on 3/5/20 that [“the state is taking steps to ensure workers’ compensation protections for health care workers and first responders who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) outbreak. L&I is immediately changing its policy around workers’ compensation coverage for health care workers and first responders who are quarantined by a physician or public health officer. Under the clarified policy, L&I will provide benefits to these workers during the time they’re quarantined after being exposed to COVID-19 on the job.”](#)

Information on applying for workers’ compensation benefits can be found [here](#).

Maintaining utility services during the emergency / Moratorium on residential evictions / Food assistance / Funding for recovery package for creative workers and arts and cultural institutions

Seattle Mayor Durkan announced on 3/17/20 that [“\\$1.1 million in City of Seattle funding to invest directly in creative workers and arts and cultural organizations financially impacted by COVID-19. The investment is a combination of funding strategies designed to help the arts and culture sector through direct grants to organizations and creative workers most impacted by this crisis. The Mayor’s Arts Recovery Package is composed of two key initiatives:](#)

- [\\$100,000 in immediate relief for artists and creative workers through two private artist relief funds; and](#)
- [\\$1 million Arts Stabilization Fund to invest in arts and cultural organizations to help mitigate revenue losses due to the moratorium on events and public gatherings.”](#)

Seattle Mayor Durkan [announced](#) on 3/16/20 that the city would provide \$5 million in grocery vouchers for families impacted by COVID-19. [“The new grocery voucher program will provide 6,250 families \\$800 in vouchers to purchase food, cleaning supplies, and other household goods at any Safeway store in Washington state.”](#)

The Seattle City Council passed a moratorium on residential evictions on 3/16/20.

Pacific Power announced that it is [“temporarily suspending disconnections and late fees for non-payment for customers in Oregon, Washington and California to support the state of emergency declared in all three states in response to the COVID-19 virus.”](#)

Seattle Mayor Durkan announced on 3/10/20 [“that Seattle Public Utilities \(SPU\) and Seattle City Light \(SCL\) will keep utility services on during the COVID-19 Civil Emergency in Seattle. This will provide immediate utility relief for customers, both residential and commercial, financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.”](#)

[The three biggest water systems in King County after Seattle — Bellevue, Redmond and Lakehaven — serve more than 500,000 people and have all instituted shut-off moratoriums.](#)

Expanding public services

Seattle Mayor Durkan announced on 3/5/20 that the city will expand homeless shelter resources during the COVID-19 emergency. [“The goal of this expansion is to increase shelter capacity for Seattle’s vulnerable unsheltered populations living in unsafe encampments, which are at elevated risks from public health concerns, including infectious diseases.”](#)

Economic recovery package for businesses

Seattle Mayor Durkan announced an initiative on 3/10/20 to provide [“immediate relief for small businesses impacted by COVID-19.”](#) The five elements of this initiative are as follows:

- [Deferral of business and occupation taxes for eligible business owners](#)
- [Expansion of the Small Business Stabilization Fund](#)
- [Assistance to access Small Business Administration loans](#)
- [Relief for utility payments](#)
- [New Small Business Recovery Task Force \(Nicole Grant, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for MLK Labor, is the labor voice on this task force\)](#)

Shared leave for state employees

The Governor signed [HB 2739](#) into law on 3/17/20. The shared leave law includes a provision regarding COVID-19. Specifically, that provision “allows use of shared leave for employees isolated or quarantined by a public health official or health care provider as a result of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or exposure during the declared state of emergency.”

Directives to Health Insurers

On 3/5/20, the state Insurance Commissioner issued [Emergency Order No. 20-01](#) to require [Washington state health insurers to do the following until May 4, 2020:](#)

- [waive copayments and deductibles for any consumer requiring testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Allow a one-time early refill for prescriptions](#)
- [Suspend any prior authorization requirement for COVID-19 testing or treatment](#)
- [Allow enrollees to be treated by another provider within a reasonable distance at no additional cost if the insurer does not have enough medical providers in their network to provide testing and treatment.](#)

Expanding Health Care Coverage

Washington opened up its [health insurance exchange](#) under a special enrollment period through 4/8/20 [“in response to the growing number of Americans who have or may have contracted COVID-19.”](#) Those without insurance are urged to contact the [Washington Health Benefit Exchange to determine if they qualify for free coverage or a special enrollment for individual health insurance.](#)

Resolutions urging action

The Senate passed [SR 8702](#) on 3/2. This resolution outlines the Senate’s endorsement and encouragement of the promotion, sharing, and posting of practices to prevent or reduce the spread of flu and limit the spread of other contagious diseases in Washington state.

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WEST VIRGINIA

State of Emergency

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/16/20.

Charleston [declared](#) a state of emergency for the city on 3/15/20. The proclamation “allows city officials to issue emergency policies and mobilize resources such as personnel, services and equipment.”

Paid Family and Medical Leave

[SB 65](#) and [HB 3078](#) died when the legislature adjourned sine die on 3/8/20. These bills would have established a statewide paid family and medical leave law that would provide workers with up to 12 weeks of paid leave for several qualifying events, including to take care of themselves or a family member.

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WISCONSIN

State of Emergency

The Governor issued [Executive Order 72](#) on 3/12/20, declaring a health emergency in response to COVID-19. This order provides for the following:

- [Directs the Department of Health Services to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to COVID-19.](#)
- [Suspends the provision of any rule if compliance with the rule would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary actions to respond to the emergency and increase the health threat.](#)
- [Authorizes the Adjutant General to activate the Wisconsin National Guard](#)
- [Directs all state agencies to assist in the state’s ongoing response](#)
- [Directs the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to enforce prohibitions against price gouging during the emergency.](#)

Addressing Pay and Leave for Impacted Workers

The Governor issued [Emergency Order #7](#) on 3/18/20. This order provides for the following changes to Unemployment Insurance eligibility:

- Claimants are to be considered available for suitable work during a public health emergency if the claimant is sick or in quarantine
- Being in sick or in quarantine is good cause for missing an eligibility review
- The employee is not considered absent from work if the absence is due to being sick from COVID-19 or if the absence is due to the quarantine
- Eliminates job search requirements during weeks in which a public health emergency declaration is in effect.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

SB 596 carried over from 2019. This bill would establish a family and medical leave insurance program to provide 12 weeks of family or medical leave under several circumstances, including to care for a family member with a serious health condition or to care for oneself during a serious health condition.

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WYOMING

State of Emergency

The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency on 3/13/20.

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