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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – MARCH 17, 2020

Quick Facts

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases surpassed 5,000 in the United States on Tuesday, increasing fivefold over seven days.
- Across the country, the virus has infected more than 6,300 and killed at least 100 people.
- Almost half of all confirmed U.S. cases are concentrated in three states: Washington, California and New York.
- The virus has now been reported in every state, including West Virginia which, until today, had not had a confirmed case. Note, however, that the West Virginia department of health has not included test results from commercial labs and hospitals that are equipped to screen for the virus.

Top-Line State Mitigation Strategies (including DC and Puerto Rico)

- **Declared State of Emergency:** All 50 states, plus DC and Puerto Rico
- **Activated National Guard:** 21 – Arkansas, California, Colorado, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin
- **Imposed Curfew:** 1 – Puerto Rico
- **Recommended Curfew 8PM-5AM:** 3 – Connecticut, New Jersey, New York,
- **Restricted Out-of-State Travel for State Employees:** 21 – Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- **Closed schools:** 43 – All but California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas
- **Closed Non-Essential Businesses:** 3 – Pennsylvania, Washington, Puerto Rico
- **Closed Bars and/or Restaurants:** 20 – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, DC
- **Prohibited Gatherings Greater Than:**
 - 10: 1 – Colorado
 - 25: 3 – Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island
 - 50: 15 – Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
 - 100: 1 – New Mexico
 - 250: 4 – California, Vermont, Washington, DC

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Alabama

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 8,148,798.90

- [Alabama Public Health Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Alabama Department of Labor [announced](#) that state employees who are unable to work due to COVID-19 will be eligible to file for unemployment benefits.
- March 15, 2020 – Governor Ivey [authorized](#) directors of all state agencies to put different work schedules into place for state employees.
- March 14, 2020 – Governor Ivey [closed](#) all Alabama public schools beginning close of business Wednesday, March 18 for two and a half weeks due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Ivey [issued](#) a state of emergency for Alabama.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Ivey [sent a memo to state agency heads](#) directing state employees to notify their department heads, supervisors, and human resource offices if they have traveled in areas affected by the coronavirus.
- March 6, 2020—Governor Ivey [announced the formation](#) of a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Task Force of cabinet and state agency officials, as well as disease specialists in an abundance of caution.

Legislation

- [SJR 40](#) Urges individuals to fist bump rather than shake hands. *Pending → Eligible for Governor*
- [HR 107](#) Urges the promotion, sharing and posting of practices to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. *Pending.*
- [SR 49](#) Urges Congress to fund additional rental assistance due to coronavirus. *Pending → Adopted*
- [HJR 121](#) Urges the Governor to expand Medicaid coverage for new mothers in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. *Pending.*
- [HB 448](#) Relates to Medicaid; extends the postpartum coverage period for pregnant women eligible for Medicaid assistance in recognition, in part, of potential economic and health impacts of a COVID-19 outbreak. *Pending.*
- [HB 447](#) Relates to Medicaid; extends the program to provide assistance to certain state residents in recognition, in part, of potential economic and health impacts of a COVID-19 outbreak. *Pending.*
- [HB 186](#) Makes supplemental appropriations; includes an appropriation of \$5,000,000 from the general fund to the Department of Public Health to be used for coronavirus preparedness and response activities. *Enacted.*

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Alaska

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced. A plan was revealed on Monday calling for lawmakers to adjourn the ongoing session if at least five of the 60 lawmakers get COVID-19.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,902,840.00

- [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued](#) a second COVID-19 health mandate closing state operated libraries, archives, and museums to the public from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020. Additionally, residential school programs will begin the process of sending students to their families and home communities by March 27.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed](#) two pieces of legislation to help Alaska’s COVID-19 response and preparedness:
 - [House Bill 206](#) provides financial resources to the Department of Health and Social Services for COVID-19 preparedness and response including \$4 million in state funds and provides open ended authority to accept any federal funds for COVID-19 response, [as requested by the Governor on March 2.](#)
 - [House Bill 29](#) requires health care insurers to provide coverage for telehealth benefits.
- March 13, 2020 – Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services [issued](#) the State of Alaska’s first COVID-19 health mandate suspending and limiting general public visitation to select state institutions.
 - Additionally, between March 16-30 there will be non-student contact days in which students will not be attending school and all after school activities will be suspended.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Dunleavy [issued](#) a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the COVID-19 anticipated outbreak.
- March 6, 2020—The Division of Insurance issued another [bulletin](#) regarding coverage requirements for cost sharing and coverage of respiratory viruses including COVID-19.
- March 3, 2020—The Division of Insurance sent a [bulletin](#) allowing access to drug refills during quarantine, promoting utilization of telemedicine, and stating their preparedness plan for COVID-19.

Legislation

- [HB 206](#) Appropriates \$4,091,100 from the states general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of public health, emergency programs, for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 if the cost of responding to and mitigating the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak in the state exceeds the amount appropriated through federal receipts. *To Governor → Enacted*
- HB 29 Requires health care insurers to provide coverage for telehealth benefits. *Enacted*

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American Samoa

Legislature Status:

Supplemental Funding: \$ 370,246.50

- [American Samoa Department of Health Travel Advisory](#)
- March 2, 2020—Governor Moliga [appointed](#) a government taskforce to provide a plan for preparation and response to the covid-19 coronavirus.

Arizona

Legislature Status: All committee hearings have been canceled for the week per federal guidance limiting gatherings of 10 or more people.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 11,701,871.60

- [Arizona Department of Health Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor and Boys & Girls Clubs Arizona Alliance [announced](#) emergency operational funding to support youth impacted by COVID-19 school closures. The partnership will enable state funding to compensate Boys & Girls Clubs to provide expanded services to Arizona families, while encouraging and leveraging private donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.
 - The Governor also [announced](#) the closure of all schools from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020.
- March 12, 2020 – Arizona [signed](#) S.B. 1051, legislation introduced by Senator Kate Brophy McGee to appropriate \$55 million to the Public Health Emergency Fund to support Arizona’s efforts to combat the continued spread of COVID-19.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Ducey [issued](#) a Declaration of Emergency and an Executive Order to provide health officials and administrators with tools and guidance necessary to combat the continued spread of COVID-19 and to reduce financial burdens on Arizonans by lowering healthcare costs associated with the virus.
- January 26, 2020—Arizona’s Health Emergency Operations Center activated to provide support to public health partners and infrastructure to respond to the outbreak.
- Given similarities between coronavirus and influenza, Arizona’s coronavirus response is guided by the state’s existing [influenza pandemic response plan](#), which was recently updated in May 2019.
- The Arizona Department of Health Services is [hosting a series of COVID-19 public health webinars](#) tailored to different partners and stakeholders, including law enforcement, health plans, Schools (K-12)/Childcare, EMS/911, businesses, long-term care facilities, and health care providers.

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- [SB 1028](#) Allows the Governor to issue an enhanced surveillance advisory and revises the powers of the Governor to respond to imminent threat of disease outbreak in a state of emergency. *Pending.*
- [SB 1051](#) Relates to the Department of Health Services; appropriates \$50 million to the public health emergencies fund to pay the expenses of public health emergency responses following a state of emergency declaration by the Governor related to COVID-19. *Enacted.*

Arkansas

Legislature Status: All meetings and subcommittee meetings scheduled for March 18 and 19 have been cancelled. House and Senate leadership continue to review contingency plans for the Fiscal Session scheduled to begin April 8.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,205,347.00

- [Arkansas Department of Health Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- March 11, 2020 – Governor Hutchinson [signed](#) an executive order to declare a public health emergency to facilitate coordination and provide increased support to state agencies that are involved in response to the virus.

California

Legislature Status: Session suspends until April 13

Supplemental Funding: \$ 42,206,709.60 (State) \$ 20,962,100.30 (Los Angeles County)

- [California Department of Public health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued](#) an executive order that authorizes local governments to halt evictions for renters and homeowners, slows foreclosures, and protects against utility shutoffs for Californians affected by COVID-19.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued](#) an executive order directing state health and social services agencies to redirect resources and staff to health care, residential and non-residential facilities licensed by the state, focusing on providing technical assistance and supporting compliance with core health and safety requirements for caregivers and the cared for.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [asked](#) the California Legislature for emergency legislative action to combat COVID-19.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [called](#) for all bars, wineries, nightclubs and brewpubs to close and urged seniors and people with chronic health conditions to isolate themselves at home in a bid to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

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- March 13, 2020 – The Governor released [information](#) including support for workers via unemployment insurance (UI) and disability insurance (DI) who have to quarantine or experience reduced hours due to coronavirus.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [issued](#) an executive order ensuring California public school districts retain state funding even in the event of physical closure. The order directs school districts to use those state dollars to fund distance learning and high-quality educational opportunities, provide school meals and, as practicable, arrange for the supervision for students during school hours.
- March 12, 2020 – California [issued](#) a new executive order further enhancing California’s ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor’s order:
 - Waives the one-week waiting period for people who are unemployed and/or disabled as a result of COVID-19;
 - Delays the deadline for state tax filing by 60 days for individuals and businesses unable to file on time based on compliance with public health requirements related to COVID-19 filings;
 - Directs residents to follow public health directives and guidance, including to cancel large non-essential gatherings that do not meet state criteria;
 - Readies the state to commandeer property for temporary residences and medical facilities for quarantining, isolating or treating individuals;
 - Allows local or state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically; and
 - Allows local and state emergency administrators to act quickly to protect public health.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Newsom [announced](#) that gatherings larger than 250 people should be cancelled or postponed.
- March 11, 2020 – California public health officials [issued](#) an updated policy on gatherings to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19. The state’s public health experts have determined that gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March.
- March 7, 2020 – California officials [issued](#) updated guidance to schools, colleges and universities, event organizers and public health officials as they plan for further spread of COVID-19.
- March 5, 2020 – California Employee Development Department [announced](#) support services to individuals affected by COVID-19 in California.
- March 5, 2020 – the California Department of Insurance [issued](#) similar direction providing cost free medically necessary testing for an additional 2 million Californians.
- March 3, 2020—California’s Public Health Department [announced](#) that it received federal approval to use some of its emergency planning reserves of 21 million N95 filtering facepiece masks in certain low-risk situations to relieve pressure on the supply chain. March 4, 2020—Governor Newsom [declared a state of emergency](#) to help state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19.

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- March 2, 2020—Governor Newsom is [requesting](#) emergency action from the legislature to make available up to \$20 million for the COVID-19 response.
- February 2, 2020—The California Department of Public Health activated its [Public Health's Emergency Operations Center](#) to respond to COVID-19 and coordinate with federal authorities quarantining passengers returning to the U.S. from Hubei Province, China, through SFO and LAX.

Legislation

- [AB 3216](#) Requires certain workforce protections related to family and medical leave due to the coronavirus. *Pending.*

Colorado

Legislature Status: Adjourned until March 30.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 9,831,323.30

- [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [issued](#) a public health order to close bars, restaurants, gyms, theaters, and casinos to slow the spread of COVID-19, effective at 8:00 AM on March 17 for the duration of 30 days.
- March 16, 2020 –The Governor [announced](#) Department of Motor Vehicles and all Department of Revenue facilities will be closed to the public for one month from March 18 – April 18. All state driver license offices will be closed to the public but will continue to process online license and ID renewals and other DMV online services.
- March 16, 2020 – The Colorado Department of Education has [received](#) a waiver from the US Department of Agriculture to continue serving free and reduced meals to r students while schools are closed.
- March 16, 2020 – The State of Colorado welcomed 50 nurses [dedicated](#) to help with the state's COVID-19 response. This was made possible with funding from the Disaster Emergency Fund freed up by the Governor's March 11 [Executive Order](#).
- March 14, 2020 – The Governor [issued](#) an executive order directing downhill ski resorts to suspend operations for one week to slow the spread of COVID-19 and conserve medical resources in the state's mountain communities.
- March 14, 2020 – The Governor and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is [restricted](#) all visitors at skilled nursing, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities to protect the health of the residents and health care workers at those facilities.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [issued](#) guidance for large gatherings, recommending canceling or postponing any events with more than 250 people unless there are steps taken to ensure a distance of at least six feet between smaller parties at the event. The Governor's update also highlighted the following actions:

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- The Division of Insurance has made allowances for seniors to get an extra month's supply of prescription medications.
- The state activated the National Guard to provide additional testing capacity around the state and train other community medical providers on standing up their own mobile testing labs.
- The Governor instructed the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies to cut through red tape on licensing medical professionals so that medical professionals with licenses in other states can be licensed in Colorado as quickly as possible. The state has already contracted to have dozens of nurses from out-of-state arrive on Monday to help with Colorado communities that have been hit the hardest. CDPHE has also authorized every EMT and paramedic in the state to administer the test.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Polis [issued](#) guidance to all K-12 schools recommending that if they have a student or faculty member who tests positive that they close for 72 hours, allowing for schools to be disinfected and for the epidemiologists to conduct an investigation and recommend next steps for those schools. More details on the guidance are available [here](#).
- March 11, 2020—Governor Polis also [instructed](#) the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment and the Colorado Department of Human Services to engage in emergency rulemaking to limit visitation to facilities that serve older Coloradans, to screen all employees and visitors to these facilities, and to take necessary steps to protect those in these facilities.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Polis signed an executive order [declaring a state of emergency](#) and requesting certain actions:
 - The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) is directed to engage in emergency rulemaking to ensure workers in food handling, hospitality, child care, health care, and education can get paid sick leave.
 - For workers who test positive and lack access to paid leave, the Governor is directing CDLE to identify additional supports and wage replacement such as access to unemployment insurance.
 - The Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration will engage in emergency rulemaking regarding state employees.
 - The Department of Revenue is directed to temporarily allow Coloradans over the age of 65 to extend their driver's licenses online to avoid having to congregate at DMVs.
 - The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment will be opening a drive-up lab at their facility in Lowry to test anyone who has a note from their doctor stating that they meet the criteria for testing.
 - Governor Polis also encouraged the private sector to voluntarily offer paid sick leave.
- March 2, 2020—In response to new coronavirus cases, Governor Polis announced that the state has raised its [emergency preparedness](#) level to level 2, with 10 state agencies having a representative available for contact at all hours of the day.

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Legislation

- [HJR 1006](#) Concerns a request to the Supreme Court of the state of Colorado to render its opinion upon a question regarding the length of legislative session outlined in the state Constitution. *Adopted.*

Connecticut

Legislature Status: Adjourned until March 30.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 7,558,270.70

- [Connecticut coronavirus resource page](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) that small businesses and nonprofit organizations in Connecticut that have been negatively impacted by the global COVID-19 outbreak are now eligible for disaster relief loans of up to \$2 million from the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed](#) his fifth executive order, which directs the following actions:
 - Revises the previously enacted prohibition on large gatherings to a capacity of 50 people, and adds religious gatherings to the list of activities subject to the limit.
 - Limits restaurants to non-alcoholic beverage and take-out/delivery services only, effective 8:00 PM on March 16;
 - Requires closure of on-side operations at off-track betting facility operations, effective 8:00 PM on March 16; and
 - Requires closure of gyms, fitness studios, and movie theaters, effective 8:00 PM on March 16.
- March 16, 2020 – Drive-through testing has been [approved](#) at seven Connecticut hospitals.
- March 16, 2020 – The Connecticut Office of Health Strategy [provided](#) guidelines for a streamlined application, review, and approval process so healthcare providers can adjust treatment services for those afflicted with COVID-19.
- March 16, 2020 – The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations will [temporarily](#) close casino and resort properties on sovereign reservation lands in eastern Connecticut amid concerns about the coronavirus. The casinos will close at 8PM on Tuesday, March 17 for a two-week period.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governors of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey [announced](#) a regional approach to combatting the novel coronavirus throughout the tri-state area.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [signed](#) an executive order taking the following actions:
 - Cancels classes at all public schools statewide effective March 17 through at least March 31, 2020.
 - Provides flexibility for municipal budget deadlines and related issues.
 - Authorizes the DMV commissioner to close branches to the public, conduct business remotely, and extend deadlines.

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- Allows restrictions on visitor access to psychiatric facilities in order to protect vulnerable residents, patients, and staff.
- Requests the Small Business Administration issue a declaration enabling Connecticut's small business owners to receive disaster assistance.
- Extends the Department of Revenue Services filing deadline for certain annual state business tax returns.
- Releases a set of rules to pharmacies so they can begin producing and selling their own hand sanitizer while ensuring its effectiveness and safety.
- March 15, 2020 – The State Department of Education received a waiver from the federal government allowing students who receive meals under the school lunch program to continue receiving those meals during school closures and consume them at home.
- March 14, 2020 – The Governor [signed](#) his third executive order since the enactment of the emergency declarations earlier in the week. The latest order:
 - Relaxes in-person open meeting requirements to minimize large gatherings, with safeguards to provide remote public access;
 - Allows pharmacists to compound and sell hand sanitizer;
 - Waives requirements for pharmacists to use certain personal protective equipment when working with non-hazardous, sterile compounds;
 - Authorizes refunds of liquor permit fees for special events that have since been canceled;
 - Waives face-to-face interview requirements for Temporary Family Assistance;
 - Authorizes the Commissioner of Early Childhood to waive certain licensing and other requirements to maintain and increase the availability of childcare; and
 - Authorizes the Office of Health Strategy to waive Certificates of Need and other requirements to ensure adequate availability of healthcare resources and facilities.
- March 14, 2020 – The Governor [directed](#) telework requirements to be eased for certain executive branch state employees, allowing an increased number of employees to work from home. He is also providing executive branch state employees who cannot report to work due to COVID-19 14 days of paid time off.
- March 14, 2020 – The Connecticut National Guard is [aiding](#) the state with requests for assistance.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [signed](#) an executive order granting the commissioner of the Department of Public Health additional authority to restrict visitation to facilities such as nursing home facilities, residential care homes, and chronic disease hospitals.
- March 12, 2020 – Connecticut [signed](#) an executive order that takes several actions:
 - Prohibits all events in the state with over 250 people;
 - Modifies the state law requiring schools to be in for 180 days;
 - Clarifies visitor restrictions at all nursing and convalescent homes;
 - Authorizes DMV to extend renewal deadlines to reduce crowds at DMV branches; and
 - Relaxes attendance rules for police academy trainees.

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- The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles [ordered](#) a 90-day extension on all license renewals.
- Connecticut has made an [emergency request](#) from the Strategic National Supply for a total of 540,000 additional N-95 protective masks.
- March 11, 2020—Connecticut Insurance Department Commissioner Mais [issued](#) a notice to all travel insurers conducting business in Connecticut. The notice instructs insurers to accommodate travel cancellation requests under the terms of the policies taking into account the seriousness of the circumstances and the civil preparedness and public health emergencies issued by Governor Lamont.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Lamont [made](#) an emergency request from the Strategic National Supply for a total of 540,000 additional N-95 protective masks.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Lamont [declared civil preparedness and public health emergencies](#). The declarations trigger price gouging laws, and make clear that municipal leaders have emergency powers to mitigate disasters and emergencies
- March 10, 2020—The Connecticut Insurance Department is notifying travel insurance companies about the emergency declarations and will be monitoring their compliance with the terms of their policies.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Lamont announced that his administration is [working with health insurance carriers in Connecticut to cover the costs for COVID-19 testing](#) and to assure access to maintenance prescription drug medications (excluding controlled substances).
- March 9, 2020—The Governor also issued an immediate freeze on state employee travel on state business outside of Connecticut until further notice.
- March 9, 2020—The Department of Insurance has a [bulletin](#) which encourages insurers to consider waiving cost sharing for COVID-19 testing and also highlights other related benefits.
- March 7, 2020—Governor Lamont announced that Connecticut is partnering with United Way of Connecticut to [launch an information hotline](#) for questions from the public regarding issues related to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Delaware

Legislature Status: Postponed until March 24.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,567,500.00

- [Delaware DHSS coronavirus resource page](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Delaware Department of Transportation [announced](#) at the state’s three toll plazas there will be no toll collectors working to collect cash payments. All traffic will be directed through the EZPass lanes and motorists without EZPass will receive a bill in the mail for the toll with no penalty or processing fee.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [modified](#) the [March 12 emergency declaration](#) to limit Delaware restaurants, taverns and bars to take-out and delivery service. The declaration that took effect at

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8:00 PM on March 16 also bans public gatherings of 50 or more people, consistent with updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and closes gaming activity at Delaware casinos. The modification also provides Delaware’s Secretary of Labor authorization to develop emergency rules to protect Delaware workers and ensure that unemployment benefits are available for Delawareans whose jobs are affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

- March 16, 2020 – The Delaware Department of Education [received](#) a waiver from the federal government to allow school nutrition programs to provide meals to students during the closure.
- March 13, 2020–The Governor [directed](#) a two-week closure of Delaware public schools
- March 12, 2020–Governor Carney [issued](#) a State of Emergency declaration to prepare for the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The emergency declaration also:
 - 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.

District of Columbia

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,148,297.80

- [D.C. coronavirus resource page](#)
- March 15, 2020 – D.C. [suspends](#) use of bar seating, service to standing patrons
- March 13, 2020 – D.C. [prohibits](#) “mass gatherings” of 250 or more people
- March 12, 2020 - Mayor Muriel Bowser has [directed](#) an additional \$5,000,000 of the District’s Contingency Cash Reserve Fund for the purchase of needed supplies, protective equipment, and other necessary equipment for DC’s response to the coronavirus (COVID-19).
- March 11, 2020 – Mayor Muriel Bowser [declared](#) both a state of emergency and a public health emergency
- March 9, 2020 - Mayor Muriel Bowser [directed](#) an additional \$1,000,000 of the District’s Contingency Cash Reserve Fund to be used for personal protective equipment and other necessary supplies and resources for first responders and front-line staff, as the District continues to prepare and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Florida

Legislature Status: For all bills but the budget – which is being changed as circumstances dictate – the 60-day legislative session otherwise concluded as planned Friday, March 13.

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Supplemental Funding: \$ 27,796,306.10

- [Florida Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 17, 2020 – CMS [announced approval for Florida’s application](#) for an 1135 waiver – the first approval of a state application for flexibility under that process. What it means:
 - The waiver provides the state of Florida with additional regulatory flexibilities, including:
 - Waiving prior authorization rules the state had previously put in place for the Medicaid program, applies to services and other benefits
 - Waiving parts of the provider enrollment process, through which providers sign up to offer services to Medicaid beneficiaries
 - Suspending screening requirements for beneficiaries admitted to nursing homes, through which providers [document the needs of the patient](#)
 - Allowing care to be provided in alternative settings in the event a facility is evacuated
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [activated](#) the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19.
- March 12, 2020 – Florida [activated](#) of the Business Damage Assessment survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida’s local business operations.
- March 9, 2020—Governor [DeSantis declared a state of emergency](#) allowing nurses and doctors from other states to work in Florida and pharmacists to issue emergency 30-day prescriptions. The order also allows officials to activate the Florida National Guard, purchase medical supplies more swiftly, and establish field hospitals.
- March 1, 2020—Governor DeSantis signed an [executive order](#) directing the state health officer to declare a public health emergency and take any actions needed to protect the public health.
 - The order directs the Florida Department of Health to actively monitor all persons meeting the CDC definition of a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for at least 14 days or until the PUI tests negative for COVID-19. Active monitoring will include at least: a) a risk assessment within 24 hours of when the individual meets the criteria for a PUI and b) twice daily temperature checks.
 - The executive order also designated the Florida Department of Health as the lead agency to coordinate emergency response activities.

Georgia

Legislature Status: Adjourned until a future date.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 15,036,284.50

- [Georgia Department of Public Health coronavirus resource page.](#)

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- March 17, 2020 – The Governor [ordered](#) all public elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools to be closed by March 18 through at least March 31.
- March, 14, 2020 – The Governor [issued an executive order](#) calling National Guard troops to active duty. The order calls up 2,000 National Guard troops to active duty to assist in response to the coronavirus outbreak in the state.
- March 13, 2020 – Governor Kemp [issued](#) a public health emergency for the state.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Kemp [ordered most state employees to work from home](#), but has not shut down the state capitol. He also initiated a “call to order” for schools and daycare, which allows them to shutdown if local administrators are in agreement to do so.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Kemp [requested](#) 100 million in state funds to combat COVID-19.
- March 2, 2020—Governor Kemp announced a [coronavirus task force](#) to assess the state’s response and procedures for preventing, identifying, and addresses cases of COVID-19.

Legislation

- [HB 792](#) transfers \$100 million from the Revenue Shortfall Reserve to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

Guam

Legislature Status: Suspended indefinitely.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 479,431.80

- [Guam GHS coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed a bill](#) that prevents price gouging during a state of emergency.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [declared](#) a public health emergency.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor and the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services [implemented a 14-day suspension](#) of non-essential Government of Guam Operations effective Monday March 16.
- March 9, 2020—Governor Guerrero implemented a Temporary Economic Assistance and Mitigation (TEAM) Plan to help small businesses:
 - Deferred 40% of BPT access to loans and 90 day interest only
 - Financial Institutes are deferring loan payments to interest only
- January 29, 2020—Governor Guerrero established a Central Interagency Task Force comprised of local, federal, and military partners.

Hawaii

Legislature Status: Suspended indefinitely.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 7,317,500.00

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- [Hawaii Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [issued a supplemental emergency proclamation](#) which directs emergency managers to take certain actions to safeguard critical infrastructure, suspends statutes and administrative rules to help state and county agencies more effectively provide emergency relief, and directs the state emergency management agency to take steps to prevent hoarding of critical materials and supplies.
- March 12, 2020 – The Hawaii Department of Transportation [installed 250 hand sanitizer dispensers and more than 12,000 boxes of anti-bacterial solution](#) in high passenger volume areas in Hawaii airports.
- March 4, 2020—Governor Ige declared a [state of emergency](#) for responding to the spread of coronavirus.

Legislation

- [HB 2459](#) Requires the department of health to conduct a study relating to the development and disbursement of vaccinations for modern disease outbreaks and procedures associated with medically authorized exemptions from mandatory vaccinations. Allows the department of health to partner with federal partners or universities to conduct relevant research for this study. Requires a report to the legislature. *Pending.*
- [HB 1629](#) Appropriates over \$10 million to various state and local authorities, including the Department of Health, Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense, in response to the coronavirus disease. *Pending.*
- [SB 75](#) Appropriates funds to the Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Defense for the public health response to the coronavirus outbreak. *Pending.*
- [HCR 74](#) & [HR 57](#) Requests the Department of Health to prioritize the containment and control of COVID-19 to those with a high probability of contracting and dying from the virus, such as the residents of care homes, nursing homes, and adult foster homes, their caregivers, and people with known comorbid medical conditions. *Pending.*
- [HR 64](#) Urges all commercial airlines operating in Hawaii to thoroughly clean and disinfect their aircraft between flights to prevent the spread of illnesses and diseases, including COVID-19. *Pending.*
- [HR 54](#) Establishes the select house committee on COVID-19 economic and financial preparedness. *Adopted.*
- [SCR 152](#) Urges state and private health care networks to allow sick employees to take time off without fear of retaliation or retribution in light of COVID-19. *Pending.*
- [HCR 127](#) Urges the President of the United States, United States Congress, United States Department of Health and Human Services, and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fully support Hawaii in the screening, prevention and containment of Covid-19. *Pending.*

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- [HR 171](#) Strongly urging the Governor of the state of Hawaii to take additional precautions to prevent a coronavirus outbreak in Hawaii. *Pending.*

Idaho

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,567,500.00

- [Idaho coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The legislature [approved](#) the Governor’s request to allocate an additional \$1.3 million to ensure essential government services.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Little [declared](#) a state of emergency.
- March 6, 2020—The [Idaho Legislature approved](#) Governor Little’s request to transfer \$2 million to the Governor’s Emergency Fund to help in Idaho’s response to the coronavirus.
- March 4, 2020—Governor Brad Little announced the [creation of new Coronavirus Working Group](#) that will support Idaho’s public health agencies and increase coordination and communication.

Illinois

Legislature Status: Session canceled for week of March 16.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 17,417,281.10 (State) \$ 10,493,674.60 (Chicago)

- [Illinois Department of Public Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [announced all restaurants and bars will close for on-site consumption](#) starting at 9 PM on Monday March 16.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor, in response to the overcrowding and wait times at Chicago airports, [announced](#) that the federal government will be doubling U.S. CBP staff at O’Hare Airport.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Pritzker [announces](#) two-week statewide school closure to minimize covid-19 spread, additional economic measures to reduce burden on Illinois families.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Pritzker [ordered the closure of public events](#) of more than 1000 people for 30 days.
- March 10, 2020—In a press conference, Governor Pritzker [announced](#) that his office would file emergency rules to allow those who are unemployed because they are sick to collect unemployment insurance if permitted under federal law.
- March 8, 2020—The Illinois Department of Insurance has released an [FAQ document](#) about insurance coverage related to COVID-19.
- March 2, 2020—The Illinois Department of Insurance issued a [bulletin](#) reinforcing the critical role that health insurance coverage plays during the COVID-19 outbreak. The bulletin encourages providers to be flexible when filling prescriptions in the event of quarantine.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

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Legislation

- [HB 5607](#) Amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code. Requires the Department of Public Health to conduct a study, subject to appropriations, of the state's disease response preparedness, in particular studying the state's preparedness against the coronavirus. At the request of the Department, requires other state agencies, in particular the Emergency Management Agency, to support the Department's efforts. *Pending.*

Indiana

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die on March 11.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 10,624,951.60

- [Indiana State Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16 – The Governor [announced](#) the following updates regarding COVID-19:
 - Indiana will adhere to CDC guidance for large events and mass gatherings. The guidance recommends canceling or postponing in-person events of more than 50 people during the next eight weeks.
 - Under the current guidance for schools, 273 public school districts are closed, using e-learning days, or on spring break and have announced a future closure. The Department of Education is working with the remaining 16 school corporations to determine their next steps and needs.
 - Bars, nightclubs and restaurants are required to close to in-person patrons and may provide take-out and delivery services through the end of March.
 - Hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers should cancel and/or postpone elective and non-urgent surgical procedures immediately.
 - The state's Emergency Operations Center has been raised to a Level 1 status and will work in conjunction with the incident command center at the Indiana State Department of Health for planning, coordination, predictive analysis and other functions.
 - State employees will maximize the use of remote work and meet virtually whenever possible while maintaining operations. Non-essential in-person meetings will be limited to 10 persons or less and should meet virtually whenever possible. High-risk individuals should not attend meetings in person.
 - State employees over the age of 60 with underlying health conditions are advised to work from home, and agencies should identify work that can be accomplished remotely for those individuals.
 - The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) suspended rules requiring certain unemployment insurance claimants to physically appear at a Work One location to engage in reemployment services for the next four weeks. The DWD will also request

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flexibility under federal and state law to expand eligibility for claimants and ease burdens on employers.

- The Indiana Economic Development Corporation will postpone the inaugural Indiana Global Economic Summit, scheduled for April 26-28.
- Communities are encouraged to work together to provide child care options for all who need assistance and delivery services of meals and other necessities for senior citizens.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [announced additional steps](#) the state is taking to assist with its COVID-19 response:
 - All state agencies are evaluating rules and regulations that should be suspended or modified to assist Hoosiers during this public emergency.
 - The Family Social Services Administration has asked federal officials to approve a request to temporarily waive the renewal process for Hoosiers who need SNAP or TANF benefits.
 - State officials are collaborating with the Indiana Department of Education to discuss solutions regarding student assessments and meals for children whose schools have closed.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Holcomb [initiated](#) several actions on March 12, including requiring that that non-essential gatherings be limited to 250 people, schools provide a 20-day waiver of the required 180 days of instructions, nursing homes restrict and screen visitors, and daycare facilities implement social distancing practices. The Indiana Department of Corrections has suspended visitation at all facilities. Those who run senior centers and congregate meal services are advised to consider suspending congregate meals and services and arrange for home delivery. The Governor is also encouraging businesses to utilize telework policies, if available.
- March 6, 2020—Governor Holcomb [signed an executive order](#) declaring a public health emergency to increase coordination across all levels of government in the state’s response

Iowa

Legislature Status: Suspended until April 15.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,347,828.70

- [Iowa Department of Public Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020– The Governor [announced](#) various forms of assistance to workers and employers in the face of potential COVID-19 layoffs or furloughs.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [recommended](#) Iowa schools close for four weeks.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Reynolds [announced](#) in a news conference that 18 of the 22 Iowans quarantined on the Grand Princess cruise ship will be returning home on a chartered flight to Iowa. The Department of Public Health will screen the returning people before they begin their travel back to Iowa and direct people to a screening center when they arrive.

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Kansas

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 5,940,546.30

- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment coronavirus resource center.](#)
- March 17, 2020 – The Governor [ordered](#) K-12 schools closed for the rest of the academic year.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [banned](#) all gatherings larger than 50 people, bringing the entire state in line with restrictions already announced in Wichita and Kansas City.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [recommended](#) K-12 school in Kansas close for the week of March 15. To address the long-term discussion of the status of schools, the Kansas State Board of Education will build a comprehensive plan to address the challenges that schools are facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- March 12, 2020 – The Governor [declared](#) a state of emergency.

Kentucky

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 7,464,394.80

- [Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [ordered](#) all bars and restaurant and dining rooms to close. The order will take effect at 5 PM on March 16.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [asked](#) all Kentucky hospitals to cease providing elective surgery and for daycare facilities to begin planning for closures.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Beshear [instructed](#) school districts to be prepared to close schools on short notice, closed all state prisons to visitors, suspended out-of-state travel for state employees, urged more businesses to allow employees to tele-commute and to provide paid sick leave, and asked places of worship to temporarily cancel services.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Beshear [announced](#) in a press conference that Kentucky nursing homes will be limiting patient visits. Patients receiving end-of-life-care are the only group allowed to receive visitors to help prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19.
- March 7, 2020—The Governor issued [guidance](#) for high risk populations, as well as state employees on how to protect themselves and others. This includes modification to state sick leave policies.
- March 6, 2020—Governor Beshear declared a [state of emergency](#) to ensure all state entities have the necessary resources to respond.

Legislation

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- [SB 282](#) Requires employers to provide accrued paid sick leave to employees. Provides mechanism for employees to accrue paid sick leave; establishes guidelines for employers to calculate paid sick leave for employees; sets forth manner in which paid sick leave can be used; creates a civil penalty for violation of provisions. *Pending.*
- [SJR 246](#) Directs the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to assess Kentucky's preparedness to address the coronavirus and report to the General Assembly. *Pending.*

Louisiana

Legislature Status: Adjourned until March 31.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 7,805,064.60

- [Louisiana Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 17,2020 – The Governor [ordered](#) bars, gyms and movie theaters to close and limited restaurants to delivery and takeout.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [signed an executive order](#) postponing elections in Louisiana, including the Louisiana Presidential Primary.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [signed a proclamation](#) that immediately halts any gathering of more than 250 people until April 13 and closes all K-12 public schools statewide effective March 16 until April 13.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Edwards [declared a public health emergency](#) to allow state agencies to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality related to public health needs and deploy additional resources to assist local authorities. The declaration also addresses efforts to prevent price gouging and limits state employee travel.
- March 2, 2020—Gov. John Bel Edwards [announced the creation](#) of a COVID-19 Task Force.

Maine

Legislature Status: Previously adjourned until March 17. Adjourned sine die after the session day on March 17.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,567,500.00

- [Maine Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15,2020—Governor Janet Mills [signed](#) a proclamation of civil emergency.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Janet Mills [recommended in a press conference](#) that gatherings with more than 250 people be postponed. The Governor also announced that she is suspending all non-essential travel by state employees.
- March 2, 2020—Governor Janet Mills [convened an Coronavirus Response Team](#) charged with coordinating the state's response across departments, local agencies and health authorities to the potential spread of novel coronavirus.

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Maryland

Legislature Status: Legislative session suspended beginning March 18, 2020. Will resume last week of May for a special session.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 10,759,226.90

- [Maryland Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [ordered the closure](#) of bars and restaurants and banned mass gatherings of over 50 people.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued an omnibus health care order](#) that:
 - Increases hospital bed capacity by 6,0000;
 - Activates the states medical reserve corps;
 - Establishes policies and procedures for rationing, distributing and stockpiling resources received from the Strategic National Stockpile;
 - Allows for interstate reciprocity of practice for any individual that holds a valid health care license;
 - Allows for inactive clinicians to practice without first reinstating their inactive license; and
 - Allows for actions to control, restrict, and regulate the use of health care facilities in responding to a catastrophic health emergency.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued an emergency order](#) that prohibits utility shutoffs and prohibits evictions for individuals who can show documentation that their inability to pay was due to COVID-19.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor, along with the Maryland Police Force, [activated the Maryland State Troopers](#) to be deployed across the state and activated two Area Support Medical Companies (under the National Guard) to carry out emergency functions.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [issued an emergency order](#) closing all casinos, racetracks, and betting facilities. To support these businesses, the Maryland Department of Commerce and Labor [compiled resources](#) for employer and worker assistance, financial assistance, and licensing and permitting to help support the industry.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Hogan [announced](#) major actions including:
 - Maryland Emergency Management Agency moving to its highest action level.
 - Activating the National Guard.
 - All state government is raised to “elevated level two” and all non-essential state employees who are approved for telework will be required to do so.
 - Closing all public schools from March 16 through March 27.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Hogan [enacted](#) several recommendations and additional state actions:
 - The Department of Motor Vehicles moved toward an all appointment system for all transactions, to reduce walk-in visits and foot traffic.

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- The Maryland Health Benefits Exchange established a special enrollment period through Maryland Health Connection for COVID-19.
- The Department of Corrections and Public Safety Services discontinued visitation services for an individual in infirmaries.
- For long-term care communities, access is restricted to essential visits only; staff are prohibited from international travel; and it is recommended that facilities screen all individuals entering the facilities.
- All state veterans' facilities are required to follow state-issued guidelines for long-term care facilities.
- March 9, 2020—Governor Hogan [signed](#) emergency legislation allowing his state to access rainy day funds, and formed a Coronavirus Response Team to advise on health and emergency management decisions.
- March 9, 2020—Governor Hogan [suspended](#) all business-related out-of-state travel for state employees.
- March 6, 2020—Governor Hogan issued a [bulletin](#) for health carriers regarding coverage for COVID-19 prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- March 5, 2020—Governor Hogan declares a [state of emergency](#) to coordinate response after coronavirus after confirming cases in Maryland.
- March 3, 2020—Governor Hogan [is submitting](#) a \$10 million emergency funding request to the General Assembly as part of a supplemental budget.
- March 3, 2020—The Maryland Higher Education Commission is coordinating with University System of Maryland institutions that are bringing home students who are studying abroad in Italy and Japan.
- March 3, 2020—MDH is coordinating with nursing homes and assisted living facilities to review and reiterate guidance on infection control and medical management.
- March 3, 2020—MDH is coordinating with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide guidance to local school systems on protocols for school closures.
- March 3, 2020—MDH is coordinating with the Maryland Hospital Association to work with all the local hospitals on surge plans and preparedness.
- March 3, 2020—The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is actively engaged with travelers to ensure they have information they need and are following the CDC guidelines. The Port of Baltimore is also engaged in similar screening protocols.
- March 3, 2020—All state agencies have reviewed their Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and submitted them to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.
- March 2, 2020—MDH has released [public service announcements](#) regarding statewide preparedness efforts.
- January 29, 2020—The State Emergency Operations Center's activation level [has been raised](#) to "Enhanced" in support of a local incident and novel coronavirus response in Maryland.

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- January 29, 2020—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has issued clinical guidance to the state’s 20,472 physicians, 2,786 nurse practitioners, 1,301 pharmacists, and local health departments. The department has held briefings for Maryland Strategic National Stockpile partners and public health and hospital emergency managers. In addition, the department has held an informational webinar for local health departments.

Legislation

- [SB 1079](#) Allows the Governor to transfer by budget amendment up to \$50,000,000 from the Revenue Stabilization Account to fund costs associated with the coronavirus. Requires the Governor to provide the Legislative Policy Committee with at least 7 days for review and comment before transferring funds from the Account. Makes the Act an emergency measure. *Enacted.*
- [SB 1080](#) Authorizes the Governor to take certain actions in a state of emergency, including prohibiting cost-sharing by carriers for disease testing, immunization and any associated costs; retailers from increasing the sale or rental price of any good or service by more than 10%; and employers from terminating quarantined or isolated employees. *Pending.*

Massachusetts

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 12,149,309.30

- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced a \\$10 million Small Business Recovery Loan Fund](#) that aims to provide emergency capital (up to \$75,000) to businesses in the state impacted by COVID-19.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) several new steps to address COVID-19, including the following:
 - All public and private elementary and secondary schools will be closed for three weeks.
 - Gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.
 - Visitors are prohibited from entering long-term care facilities and nursing homes.
 - The administration is filing emergency legislation that will allow new claims to be paid more quickly by waiving the one week waiting period for unemployment benefits.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [announced a new legislative package](#) aimed at supporting municipal governance that allows changes to the postponing of town meetings, adopting lower quorum rules, permitting municipal spending of revolving funds, and other measures.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Baker [announced](#) a ban on all gatherings of 250 people or more.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Baker [signed off on a \\$15 million dollar spending bill](#) that will cover costs of monitoring, treating, containing and educating the public about COVID-19.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Baker [declared](#) a state of emergency .

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- March 10, 2020—Broad restrictions are [imposed](#) on travel for many state employees
- March 4, 2020—Governor Baker announced that due to the emergency health situation, the state is urging colleges and universities to cancel upcoming organized international trips.
- February 28, 2020—The Massachusetts Department of Public Health established an Incident Command Structure to facilitate regular dissemination of information from federal and state partners to statewide stakeholders.
- February 3, 2020—A [supplemental appropriations bill](#) filed by Governor Baker would allow the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to use surplus funds in unrelated accounts in the event of unanticipated costs related to communicable diseases. The Massachusetts House and Senate have approved mid-year spending bills based on the Governor's request, which must be reconciled.
- March 13, 2020—The state [allowed medical professionals](#) from other states to obtain a Massachusetts license in 24 hours.

Legislation

- [HB 4502](#) Appropriates \$95,000 for the Executive Office of Education to contain, treat and prevent the coronavirus. This bill requires a report to the legislature by June 1, 2020, with recommendations if additional funds and action are needed. *Enacted.*
- [HB 4561](#) Makes appropriations for the fiscal year 2020 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for other activities and projects. Includes a reserve of \$15,000,000 to support the commonwealth's monitoring, treatment, containment, public awareness and prevention efforts against COVID-19. *Enacted.*

Michigan

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 15,317,049.90

- [Michigan.gov coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued guidance](#) that limits mass gatherings of more than 50 people.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed Executive Order 2020-9](#), temporarily closing bars, casinos, theatres, and limiting restaurants to only serve carry-out and delivery orders.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed Executive Order 2020-10](#) which temporarily expands eligibility for unemployment benefits.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed Executive Order 2020-12](#) that lifts weight restrictions for vehicles carrying and delivering necessary items, such as medical supplies, testing and treatment equipment, needed to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in the state.

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- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [signed Executive Order 2020-8](#), effective until April 13, 2020, which imposes enhanced restrictions on price gouging of goods, materials, emergency supplies, and consumer food items.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Whitmer ordered [closure of all K-12 school buildings, public, private, and boarding schools](#) in the state until April 6, 2020.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Whitmer [declared](#) a state of emergency .
- March 3, 2020—Governor Whitmer [announced the creation of four task forces](#) to combat the spread of coronavirus and assess the impact it may have on Michiganders’ day-to-day lives.
- February 28, 2020—Governor Whitmer activated the state Emergency Operations Center to coordinate with state, local and federal agencies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- February 3, 2020—The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services activated its [Community Health Coordination Center](#) (CHECC) to respond to COVID-19. The purpose of the CHECC is to develop and distribute guidelines and educational materials for coordination between local and state agencies.
- The Governor [issued guidance](#) that limits mass gatherings of more than 50 people.

Legislation

- [SR 107](#) Urges the federal government to fund the medical costs associated with testing and mandatory hospital stays for the novel coronavirus. *Adopted.*
- [HR 242](#) Urges the Congress of the United States and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide financial assistance to the state of Michigan and affected residents to address the novel coronavirus outbreak. *Pending.*
- [SB 151](#) Provides supplemental appropriations for various state departments and agencies. Makes a one-time appropriation of \$25 million from the state general fund to the Coronavirus public health emergency and response fund. Federal revenues up to \$50 million authorized by and available from the federal government for the COVID-19 public health emergency are appropriated to departments for state and local preparedness and response activities. *Eligible for Governor.*
- [HB 5633](#) Requires insurance coverage and treatment for coronavirus. *Pending.*
- [HB 5631](#) Provides for funding for the pandemic outbreak fund. *Pending.*
- [HB 5630](#) Provides for funding for the new coronavirus reporting requirements and requires Department of Health and Human Services to pay for certain costs related to coronavirus. *Pending.*

Minnesota

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announce, but lawmakers are boosting telework efforts and increasing social distancing at the Capitol.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 10,548,123.80

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- [Minnesota Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued a statement on economic conditions](#) in the state due to COVID-19, stating that experts anticipate a U.S. recession beginning in the second quarter of 2020 and lasting until the first quarter of 2021.
- The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry released [guidance](#) on worker protections for those impacted by COVID-19.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [signed Executive Order 20-02](#) authorizing the closure of all prekindergarten through grade 12 schools. This order also requires schools to provide care for elementary-age children of health care professionals, first responders, and other emergency workers during previously planned school days. Additionally, the order makes provisions for the continuity of mental health services and requires schools to continue providing meals to students in need. The Department of Health also [issued comprehensive guidance](#) for public school districts and charter schools on actions to take during these closures.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Walz restricted all state business travel for state employees.
- March 11, 2020—Proposed legislation would [grant](#) the Governor the authority to declare a peacetime emergency and allow employees to seek unemployment insurance or paid sick leave should they be quarantined due to COVID-19.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Walz [signed](#) legislation authorizing the state to use an additional \$21 million in state investments to support disease investigation, monitoring of the outbreak, public health information, and laboratory analysis of samples.

Legislation

- [HF 3532](#) Revises the protections of those under quarantine. *Pending.*
- [SF 3813](#) Permits a onetime transfer by the commissioner of management and budget of \$20 million from the general fund to the public health response contingency account, for a public health response related to a potential outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19. *Enacted.*
- [HF 4415](#) Requires compensation for hourly employees for school days canceled due to COVID-19 during the 2019-2020 school year. *Pending.*

Mississippi

Legislature Status: Session suspended until at least April 1.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 5,874,995.70

- [Mississippi State Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed two executive orders](#) which:
 - Activates the National Guard to support mobile testing units;
 - Require agencies to keep essential employees and send non-essential employees home;

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- Requests schools develop distance learning protocols and continue providing free or reduced lunches; and
- Provides paid leave for state and local employees who miss work due to COVID-19.
- March 14, 2020—Governor Reeves [declared](#) a state of emergency
- March 4, 2020—Governor Reeves [established](#) the Mississippi Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response Planning Steering Committee to coordinate efforts across state and local governments.

Missouri

Legislature Status: Senate will not return until March 30. House no suspension or postponement announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 9,888,657.30

- [Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [issued guidance limiting mass gatherings](#) of 50 or more individuals.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Parsons [signs](#) a state of emergency declaration.

Montana

Legislature Status: Not in session in 2020; interim committee meetings canceled.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,567,500.00

- [Montana DPHHS coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [activated eight Montana Army National Guard](#) soldiers to assist in the arrival and transport of Montana residents returning from quarantine.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [issued guidance](#) closing all public elementary and secondary education schools, limiting mass gatherings of more than 50 people and suspending visitors from all nursing homes. Additionally, the guidance increases the legal weight limit for commercial vehicles by 10%, in an effort to provide more supplies and resources for the state, as well as mobilizing the National Guard to respond when necessary.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Bullock [declared a state of emergency](#), which gives him the authority to use \$16 million dollars in state funds and additional personnel from the National Guard to respond to COVID-19.
- March 3, 2020—Governor Bullock [activated](#) the Governors’ Coronavirus Task Force to coordinate efforts across state government responding to COVID-19.

Nebraska

Legislature Status: Suspended until further notice.

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STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – MARCH 17, 2020

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,546,664.30

- [Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus resource page](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced new guidance](#) which limits mass gatherings to 50 people or less and requires bars and restaurants to move to takeout only (on a regional basis).
- March 13, 2020—Gov. Ricketts [issued](#) an emergency declaration for COVID-19

Legislation

- [LB 1008](#) Appropriates \$10 million from the general fund to the Department of Health and Human Services for public health emergency response and appropriates an additional \$10 million from the general fund to the Governor's Emergency Program for state aid for the response and recovery of COVID-19.

Nevada

Legislature Status: Not in session in 2020; most interim committee meetings have been canceled through March.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,532,739.10

- [Nevada Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [closed all public elementary and secondary education schools](#) through April 6.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Sisolak [declared a state of emergency](#).
- March 5, 2020—In coordination with the Nevada Department of Business and Industry's Division of Insurance, Governor Sisolak [announced](#) the adoption of an emergency regulation to ensure 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 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. Additionally, the regulation 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. Lastly, the regulation requires health insurers to provide information on available benefits, options for medical advice and treatment through telehealth, and preventative measures related to COVID-19.

New Hampshire

Legislature Status: Suspended until March 20.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,902,840.00

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- [New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [limited scheduled public gatherings](#) over 50 people and required that all bars and restaurants transition to offsite eating options.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [sent a memo](#) to municipal officials and state boards and commissioners on compliance with the state’s Right to Know law.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [issued an emergency order](#) closing all public schools in the state while also providing guidance to districts on remote learning plans.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Sununu announced a new order, issued by the states Insurance Commissioner, requiring health insurers to cover services associated with testing of COVID-19. It outlines a series of actions that health insurers must take, such as offering telehealth services and expanding access to prescription drug refills.

New Jersey

Legislature Status: No suspension or postponement of the legislative session has been announced.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 15,610,160.20

- [New Jersey Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governors of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey [announced](#) a regional approach to combatting the novel coronavirus throughout the tri-state area.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [activated the New Jersey National Guard](#) to assist in state efforts to control the COVID-19 outbreak.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [signed an executive order](#) closing all schools in the state (for an unspecified period of time). The order also provides resources for how districts can continue to provide meals to students and creates a process for virtual learning.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [issued closures](#) across the state of restaurants, bars, gyms, and movie theaters, and is limiting restaurants to only delivery and takeout. The Governor also [issued a statewide curfew](#) from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [closed all motor vehicle agencies](#) and road-testing facilities until March 30.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [requested the federal government](#) open a Special Enrollment Period for New Jersey residents to allow those uninsured or underinsured to enroll in health coverage.
- March 12, 2020—The Governor [cancelled all public gatherings](#) with more than 250 individuals.
- March 9, 2020—Governor Murphy [signed](#) an executive order declaring a state of emergency and public health emergency. The declaration [allows](#) for certain safeguards, such as the prohibition of price increases pursuant to New Jersey’s Consumer Fraud Act, as well as the ability to expedite the delivery of goods and services essential for preparedness and response efforts.

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- March 5, 2020—Governor Murphy [placed restrictions on state-related business travel for state employees](#). New Jersey suspended all international travel for state employees until further notice. All domestic out-of-state travel on state-related business must be approved by the Governor’s Office, including same-day travel.
- February 3, 2020—Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order No. 102](#) creating the Coronavirus Task Force to coordinate all state efforts to appropriately prepare for and respond to the public health hazard of COVID-19.

New Mexico

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die Feb. 20.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,474,364.70

- [New Mexico Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued five executive orders](#) which authorize up to \$3.25 million of additional funding to address the effects of COVID-19.
- March 16, 2020- The Children, Youth and Families Department, along with the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, [have expanded childcare](#) for first responders and health providers and is also delivering paid childcare for families.
- March 15, 2020-The Governor [issued a public health order](#) prohibiting gatherings of 100 people or more and also ordered that all restaurants, bars, and food establishments operate at no greater than 50 percent of maximum occupancy.
- March 12, 2020—The Governor [announced](#) that all New Mexico public schools will close for three weeks beginning March 16th.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Lujan Grisham signed an [executive order](#) declaring a state of public health emergency. The Governor is also restricted state employee travel.
- March 6, 2020—The Department of Insurance [issued](#) a bulletin stating that carriers should educate enrollees and providers on CDC guidelines around COVID, adopt new billing codes, encourage telehealth, and ensure preparedness response is ready.
- March 4, 2020—Governor Lujan Grisham said [state officials are engaging in tabletop exercises](#) for how to respond if the virus surfaces in New Mexico including the possibility of “off-site locations” that could be used to provide care and limit transmission of the virus.

New York

Legislature Status: Suspended until at least Wednesday, March 18. Two assembly members have the virus and are recovering.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 18,440,279.50 (State) \$ 19,661,778.50 (New York City)

- [New York Department of Health Coronavirus resource page.](#)

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- March 17, 2020 – The Governor said that President Donald Trump has agreed to help New York build up its health care capacity to meet the number of coronavirus-related hospitalizations expected as the virus reaches its peak in the state. Cuomo told reporters that Trump agreed to his request for FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help New York construct temporary hospital facilities for the expected surge.
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued an executive order](#) which:
 - Increases hospital capacity in the state;
 - Directs all nonessential state workers to work from home;
 - Opens drive-through mobile testing facilities in State Island and Rockland County; and
 - Waives all park fees in state, local, and county parks.
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued an executive order](#) delaying village elections until the April 28 primary election.
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued an executive order](#) directing all New York schools to close from March 19 – April 1.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governors of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey [announced](#) a regional approach to combatting the novel coronavirus throughout the tri-state area.
- March 15, 2020- The Governor [sent a letter](#) to President Trump calling for comprehensive federal action to combat COVID-19, including a national strategy for testing, school closures, and hospital surge capacity.
- March 15, 2020- The Governor [announced](#) that all NYC, Westchester, Suffolk, and Nassau Public Schools are closed for two weeks beginning on March 16.
- March 13, 2020- The FDA [issued enforcement discretion](#) and is not objecting to the New York State Department of Health authorizing certain laboratories in New York to begin patient testing after validating their tests and notifying the state.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that gatherings larger than 500 people should be cancelled or postponed.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that New York will contract with 28 private labs to increase COVID-19 testing capacity. Additionally, he announced that the state will provide two weeks paid leave for workers who are quarantined as well as \$200,000 to local food banks in New Rochelle for families who rely on free school lunches.
- March 10, 2020— Governor Cuomo [deployed](#) National Guard troops to a Health Department command post in New Rochelle to assist with the outbreak – an area with 108 confirmed cases at the time of mobilization.
- March 7, 2020—Governor Cuomo declared a [disaster emergency](#) in the state.
- March 5, 2020—The Governor has activated their [statewide emergency operations center](#) in Albany, along with two outposts in Westchester County.
- March 3, 2020—Governor Cuomo [signed into law](#) a \$40 million emergency management authorization for New York State’s novel coronavirus response.

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- March 3, 2020—The Governor also announced he will amend his Paid Sick Leave budget proposal to specifically protect from termination people who are required to stay home from work because they are being isolated or quarantined as a result of the novel coronavirus.
- March 3, 2020—State university institutions will bring back students who are in study abroad programs in countries with high prevalence of novel coronavirus and review all study abroad programs ahead of potential expanded travel restrictions by the federal government.
- March 2, 2020—Governor Cuomo announced the state will institute a new cleaning protocol at schools and in the public transportation system to help stop any potential spread of the virus.
- March 2, 2020—The Governor will also propose legislation to clarify authority for governor to take certain statewide actions and measures in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak as needed.
- March 2, 2020—The public health laboratory housed within the State Department of Health (DOH) is partnering with hospitals to expand surge testing capacity to 1,000 tests per day statewide for the novel coronavirus. The Wadsworth Center will provide these hospitals with instructions on how to replicate the State’s test, as well as help them purchase some of the equipment necessary to develop and validate the test.
- March 2, 2020—DOH is convening local health departments and hospitals statewide to review protocols, best practices and procedures to help ensure they are prepared to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- March 2, 2020—Under a directive by the Governor, the State Department of Financial Services [will require](#) health insurers to waive cost sharing associated with testing for coronavirus.

Legislation

- [SB 7919](#) Temporarily expands the definition of disaster in state law to include disease outbreak and permits the Governor to issue any directive necessary to respond to a state disaster emergency. Makes an appropriation of \$40 million from the State Purposes Account of the General Fund for responding to the outbreak of coronavirus disease. *Enacted.*
- [SB 7996](#) Provides that school districts are entitled to an apportionment of state aid for the closure of schools due in response to the novel coronavirus, even when no state of emergency has been declared. *Pending.*
- [SB 8014A](#) Provides that certain schools receive tuition payments from the state for any period of time such schools are required to close in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. *Pending.*
- [SB 8041](#) Amends the volunteer firefighters' benefit law and the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law, in relation to COVID-19 exposure during a state of emergency. *Pending.*

North Carolina

Legislature Status: Not currently in session but committee meetings canceled until April 1.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 13,820,515.20

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- [NCDHHS coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [requested](#) that the Small Business Administration grant a disaster declaration for business owners in the state that are facing economic losses due to COVID-19.
- March 14, 2020- The Governor [issued an executive order](#) to close all K-12 public schools for a minimum of two weeks. The executive order also prohibits mass gatherings of more than 100 people.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Cooper [provided guidance](#) to cancel or postpone gatherings over 100 and to telework if possible.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Cooper [declared](#) a state of emergency, which activates the Emergency Operation Center, and allows for control of cost burdens, protects consumers from price gouging, and makes it easier to purchase necessary medical supplies. The executive order also makes other recommendations around telework schedules, social gatherings, school closures, and high-risk populations, such as those in adult living facilities.
- March 3, 2020—The state is now allowing coronavirus testing at the [NC State Laboratory of Public Health](#). These tests are coordinated through the Division of Public Health’s Communicable Disease Branch.
- February 11, 2020—Governor Cooper formalized the state’s ongoing effort to monitor, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 with a state [Novel Coronavirus Task Force](#).

North Dakota

Legislature Status: Not in session in 2020. A couple of committee meetings have been canceled.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,567,500.00

- [North Dakota Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020-The Governor [ordered all K-12 schools to close](#) from March 16-March 20 to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Burgum [declared](#) a state of emergency
- March 12, 2020—Governor Burgum [released recommendations](#) around large events and public gatherings.
- March 3, 2020—The North Dakota Department of Health has [developed an online survey](#) for people who have traveled internationally within the past 14 days to complete. Upon completion of the survey, North Dakotans will receive information about how to monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if symptoms develop.

Northern Mariana Islands

Legislature Status:

Supplemental Funding: \$ 369,765.90

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- [CHCC coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) that schools and government offices will be closed until further notice due to the threat of the coronavirus. The public school system announced it would suspend classes for three days to allow the board of education time to decide its next steps.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Torres [created](#) a COVID-19 Task Force, bringing together key departments, agencies, and stakeholders, to focus on three major concerns: tourism, residents, and schools.

Ohio

Legislature Status: The next Senate session is scheduled for March 25 at 1:30 PM. The House has scheduled session for March 24, 25, and 26 all at 1:00 PM.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 15,620,977.80

- [Ohio Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued an order](#) regarding the closure of all polling locations on March 17.
- March 15, 2020- The Governor [ordered all Ohio bars and restaurants to close](#), with only take-out and delivery options available.
- March 12, 2020—Governor DeWine announced that all schools will be closed for three weeks beginning on Monday, March 16.
- March 10, 2020—Governor DeWine [issued a recommendation](#) on limiting large indoor gatherings.
- February 27, 2020—Governor DeWine [ordered](#) the following action by state agencies:
 - The Ohio Department of Transportation will post information from the Ohio Department of Health in all state rest areas on hand washing protocols including messages on Ohio Travel TV.
 - The Departments of Rehabilitation and Corrections and Youth Services will increase frequency and use of disinfectant measures in all their state facilities to protect inmates, families, and staff.
 - The Governor called on Ohio college and university leaders to urge every student and faculty member on their campuses who have not yet received a shot to get one at their health clinic immediately.
 - The Governor is asking our college and university leaders to prohibit college travel to nations where the CDC has recommended no travel, such as China and South Korea.
 - The Governor is asking college and universities to take appropriate action to accommodate students who are studying abroad and may need to come back to the United States.

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- The Governor is asking the Ohio Department of Aging to continue working with local aging networks to identify the most vulnerable older adults with the highest needs to make sure that plans are in place to meet their needs – whether that is providing additional meals or additional medication or other personal care needs.
- The Governor is asking local aging advocates across Ohio to go out into their communities to check on nursing care facilities to ensure that all illness prevention methods are in place.
- The State of Ohio will also be paying aggressive attention to common areas in state-owned buildings, including significantly increased cleaning frequency of these areas and hand sanitizer stations in common lobbies and hallways.

Oklahoma

Legislature Status: Allowing government bodies to meet via teleconference. Senators and their staff have been asked to self-quarantine in their offices after learning a Senate staffer had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,924,231.00

- [Oklahoma State Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020—Governor Stitt declared an emergency.

Oregon

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die March 8.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 7,798,826.30

- [Oregon Health Authority coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [announced new statewide actions](#) for the next four weeks regarding social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Brown [announced statewide school closures](#) for K-12 schools in Oregon from March 16th through March 31st.
- March 12, 2020—Oregon is sending an Incident Management Team to Seattle-King Co., WA to support planners and public health officials through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Brown [issued a policy](#) to limit transmission of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities.
- March 8, 2020—Governor Brown [issued a state of emergency](#) on Sunday, 9 March, 2020 as the state's identified cases of novel coronavirus COVID-19 rise to 14.
- March 5, 2020—The State of Oregon [reached an agreement with health insurance companies](#) to waive cost-sharing for patients who testing for COVID-19. The agreement means that people with insurance and group health plans won't face co-payments, co-insurance, or deductibles for

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COVID-19 testing at in-network healthcare providers or emergency rooms. It will also cover immunization for covered people, when that becomes available.

- March 3, 2020—Governor Kate Brown [wrote a letter](#) to Vice President Pence requesting the release of additional PPE supplies from the federal government’s strategic national stockpile.
- February 28, 2020—Governor Brown [convened](#) a Coronavirus Response Team tasked with coordinating state and local agencies and health authorities. The group will meet regularly and make recommendations to the Governor.

Pennsylvania

Legislature Status: Allowing House members to vote remotely, essentially putting the 203-member body on an indefinite work-from-home policy as cases of the coronavirus continue to increase. The state Senate already had a system for remote voting in place. Both House and Senate are operating under a “12-hour call time,” meaning members should be prepared to vote remotely if called upon.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 16,904,048.40 (State) \$ 3,500,000.00 (Philadelphia)

- [Pennsylvania DOH coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued statewide mitigation efforts](#) beginning on March 17 which include the following:
 - Closing of all restaurants and dine-in services
 - A no-visitor policy for correctional facilities and nursing homes
 - Restrictions around non-essential travel
 - Closure of licensed childcare centers
 - Closure of adult day care centers, adult training facilities, Provocations facilities, LIFE centers and Senior Community Centers
 - Visitor restrictions for state centers to ensure health and safety for individuals with an intellectual disability
 - Visitor restrictions for assisted living and personal care homes to minimize exposure to our seniors and individuals with disabilities
 - Telework or a 10 workday paid absence for individuals who do not have telework capability
- March 15, 2020- The Governor [issued an order to close all dine-in facilities](#) starting on March 16 in Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties for the next 14 days.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Wolf [announces](#) closure of Pennsylvania schools.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Wolf [provided guidance](#) for Montgomery County and the state of Pennsylvania on reducing the spread of the virus.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Wolf [issued guidance](#) on restricting travel for state employees as well as new directives to address large gatherings, telework, and paid leave for impacted employees.
- March 10, 2020—The Department of Insurance [issued](#) a notice regarding preparedness plans and information for educating enrollees on their benefits for COVID treatment and testing.

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- March 7, 2020—Governor Wolf is [coordinating with legislative leaders](#) on a package that would aim to allocate resources towards supporting county and municipal health departments, secure equipment and personnel, disseminate public health messaging, and support care for the senior population and those most at risk for infection.
- March 5, 2020—State officials have [updated their travel guidance](#) for residents. Anyone who has arrived from China or Iran, and anyone who has returned from Italy or South Korea, within the last 14 days, are required to contact the public health department and practice social distancing for 14 days post travel.
- March 5, 2020—The state updated their [interim guidance for healthcare professionals](#) responding to potential coronavirus cases.
- February 26, 2020—Pennsylvania [activated its Department of Health’s Emergency Operations Center](#) to allow for enhanced response coordination.

Puerto Rico

Legislature Status:

Supplemental Funding: \$ 5,870,358.00

- [Departamento De Salud coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 15, 2020- The Governor announced an island-wide curfew and the closing of all nonessential businesses.
- March 12, 2020—The Governor [announced](#) that Puerto Rico will be in a state of emergency and also announced the activation of the National Guard.

Rhode Island

Legislature Status: Session canceled for week of March 16.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 5,402,840.00

- [State of Rhode Island Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued an executive order](#) regarding restrictions for public meetings.
- March 16, 2020- The Governor [issued an executive order](#) regarding restrictions for restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, and public gatherings.
- March 15, 2020- The Governor [announced guidance](#) directing all child care centers in Rhode Island to close. She also announced that the Rhode Island Department of Education will be working with local school districts to make “grab and go” meals available to students while schools are closed.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Raimondo [issued guidance](#) for large events in Rhode Island to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

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- March 1, 2020—Rhode Island [established](#) an Incident Command System response to organize state agency preparedness and response activities. It includes staff from numerous state agencies, including emergency management, behavioral health, education, human services, environmental management, and others.
- March 1, 2020—The Rhode Island Department of Health is coordinating with other state agencies and community organizations to support anyone doing self-quarantining to ensure that people who are remaining at home have the support services they need. This includes support with everyday needs, such as prescriptions and groceries.

Legislation

- [SR 2770](#) Requests that President Donald Trump declare a National Emergency for the Coronavirus Pandemic. *Adopted.*

South Carolina

Legislature Status: Whether either chamber will return to the State House beyond this week is uncertain.
Supplemental Funding: \$ 8,926,132.50

- [South Carolina DHEC coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 13, 2020 – Governor McMaster [issued an executive order](#) that all K-12 schools, including universities, colleges, and technical colleges be closed through the end of the month.

Legislation

- [SB 1161](#) Requires all individual and group health insurance plans, health maintenance organizations and the state health plans to waive cost sharing requirements associated with testing for COVID-19 and to define applicable terms. **Pending.**

South Dakota

Legislature Status: Session concluded on March 14
Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,567,500.00

- [South Dakota Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [activated](#) the Small Business Administration’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan Fund Program in South Dakota to help eligible businesses and non-profits impacted by COVID-19.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Noem [signed](#) a state of emergency order for South Dakota.
- March 10, 2020—The South Dakota State Department of Health issued [guidance](#) to school administrators regarding prevention and mitigation in schools.

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- March 5, 2020—Governor Noem and the South Dakota Department of Health [commissioned an agency taskforce](#) for coordination and planning with partners and other state agencies, developed an action plan for information management, incident management, and monitoring for persons at risk of infection, among other actions.

Tennessee

Legislature Status: Working to pass bare bones budget, then proceed to period of at least two-month recess

Supplemental Funding: \$ 10,578,293.60

- [Tennessee Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) limiting all remaining legislative business to fulfilling the constitutional requirement of passing a balanced budget, and any associated actions that will ensure Tennessee can keep its doors open.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [issued](#) further guidance regarding mass gatherings, schools, state employees and the State Capitol Building as more confirmed cases of COVID-19 surface in Tennessee:
 - Congregations and groups are urged to consider alternatives to traditional services by utilizing live streams, pre-recorded messages and other electronic means.
 - Events larger than 250 people are discouraged to limit exposure to COVID-19.
 - School districts have been advised to exercise discretion when canceling school for K-12 students. The state will provide further support for districts pursuing this action but urge districts to consider the prevalence of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in their area. In partnership with districts, students who depend on school-provided meals will still receive this support, regardless of school closure.
 - State employees who have been trained and certified to work from home within the state's Alternative Workplace Solutions program will work from home through March 31, 2020.
 - State employees have been instructed to cease all non-essential business travel through March 31, 2020.
 - The Tennessee State Capitol is closed to tours and visitors through March 31, 2020. Members of the media will continue to have access to the State Capitol building.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Lee issued a [State of Emergency](#) to free up funds for the treatment and containment of COVID-19
- March 5, 2020—Governor Lee announced the formation of a [task force](#) to enhance Tennessee's coordinated efforts to prevent, identify and treat potential cases of COVID-19.

Legislation

- [HB 2915](#) Enacts the Coronavirus Public Protection Act of 2020. *Pending.*

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Texas

Legislature Status: Not in session in 2020; Senate interim committees postponed.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 36,976,922.50 (State) \$ 5,000,000.00 (Houston)

- [Texas Department of Health Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 17, 2020 – The Governor activated the Texas National Guard to be prepared to assist with response efforts for COVID-19.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) that he has waived the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness testing requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. Additionally, the Governor is requesting that the Department of Education waive federal testing requirements for the 2019-2020 school year.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [granted](#) the Office of the Attorney General’s request for suspension of certain open-meeting statutes. This temporary suspension will allow for telephonic or videoconference meetings of governmental bodies that are accessible to the public in an effort to reduce in-person meetings that assemble large groups of people.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) that Texas is waiving certain rules relating to vehicle registration, parking placards for persons with disabilities, and titling to aid the state’s efforts to combat COVID-19.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [declared](#) a state of disaster in Texas due to COVID-19.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Abbott [hosted a call](#) with Texas legislators, mayors, and judges, reiterating state support in the form of resources and supplies, as well as encouraging locals to track expenses for potential federal reimbursement.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Insurance [requested](#) insurers and HMOs to waive copayments, co-insurance, and deductibles for “testing and telemedicine visits for the diagnosis of coronavirus,” that is consistent with CDC guidance.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services [urged](#) Texans to take preventative measures
- March 6, 2020—Governor Abbott [issued](#) a statement regarding price-gouging of medical supplies, pointing out that should there be extensive reports of price-gouging, the Governor can grant the Texas Attorney General broader powers to prosecute those cases.
- February 27, 2020—Agencies will implement disinfecting measures at places like driver’s license offices and schools, as well as ensure high-risk populations, such as those in daycares, nursing homes, assisted living associations, and health care facilities, are prepared and properly cared for.
- January 27, 2020—The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the lead agency for response, [activated](#) the State Medical Operations Center (SMOC). The SMOC serves as a touchpoint for any requests from local entities, and ensures consistent collection, tracking, and reporting of public health activities and data. DSHS and Texas Division of Emergency management

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have begun bi-weekly meetings with all relevant state agencies at the SMOC to discuss up-to-date emergency planning documents and how plans will be implemented.

Utah

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die March 12.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 6,441,412.50

- [Utah.gov coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) that Utah’s public schools will implement a two-week dismissal, or “soft closure,” starting Monday, March 16. The dismissal is designed to help implement social distancing and slow the spread of novel coronavirus in our communities.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Herbert announced [recommendations](#) the implementation of several precautionary measures across the state of Utah to help slow the spread of novel coronavirus.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Herbert issued a [statement](#) praising the Church of Jesus of Latter-day Saints’ decision to host sessions of its General Conference remotely and to limit mass gatherings in the immediate future.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Herbert, in partnership with the Utah COVID-19 Community Task Force, issued [official recommendations](#) to: limit gatherings of 100+ people (including church); not participate in group gatherings for individuals over 60 years of age or immunocompromised; and restrict access to long-term care facilities.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Herbert approved [recommendations](#) to the Utah Systems of Higher Education and the Utah State Board of Education to transition to online teaching.
- March 6, 2020—Governor Herbert declared a [state of emergency](#), which is part of the state’s preparedness plan and came at the recommendation of the Governors COVID-19 Task Force.
- March 2, 2020—Utah [established](#) the COVID-19 Community Task Force. On 10 March, the task force [recommended](#) that hospital and health care systems establish satellite sites for testing.
- January 29, 2020—The Utah Department of Health activated its [Incident Command System](#) to ensure effective communication and coordination among state agencies.

Legislation

- [SCR 8](#) Expresses support for the Chinese people regarding the coronavirus outbreak. *Pending → Eligible for Governor*
- [HJR 24](#) Extends the state of emergency due to infectious disease COVID-19. *Adopted.*
- [SB 3](#) Modified the Budgetary Procedures Act by amending provisions relating to funding for a state response to the coronavirus. Includes an authorization for a one-time general fund appropriation of up to \$16 million to the Department of Health for the purpose of disease response. *Eligible for Governor.*

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- [SB 494](#) Authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to transfer or divert money to another department, agency, institution, or division only for the purposes of providing a state response to the coronavirus. **Eligible for Governor**

Vermont

Legislature Status: Adjourned until March 24.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,902,840.00

- [Vermont Health Department coronavirus resource page.](#)— This resource page is regularly updated with guidance for healthcare providers, long term care facilities, schools, child care centers, businesses and more.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) new guidance and action taken in response to COVID-19:
 - Restricting the size of mass gatherings to the lesser of 50 people or 50% of the occupancy of certain facilities.
 - The closure of all bars and restaurants statewide. Establishments can continue to offer food takeout and delivery service. This measure is effective beginning 2:00 PM on March 17 and is in effect until April 6; and
 - State government agencies and departments are working to transition the state employee workforce to remote work, while also implementing measures to limit person to person transactions in state offices.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) a Continuity of Education Plan for the orderly dismissal of all schools, and cancellation of all school related activities, no later than March 18.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Scott [declared](#) a state of emergency
- March 10, 2020—Governor Scott [activated](#) the State Emergency Operations Center to expand the state’s capacity to coordinate and respond to COVID-19.
- March 10, 2020—The Vermont Department of Health issued [guidance](#) to healthcare providers and workers regarding death certification and disposition of remains for patients with COVID-19.
- March 6, 2020—The Vermont Department of Financial Regulation [issued](#) an Insurance Bulletin instructing all health insurers in Vermont to cover any medically necessary COVID-19 testing with no co-payment, coinsurance or deductible.
- March 2, 2020—Governor Scott [established a COVID-19 Task Force](#) to support the state’s ongoing public health response
- February 28, 2020—The Vermont Agency of Education [issued](#) guidance to Vermont schools on materials, cleaning and disinfecting, travel guidance, school closure and absences.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – MARCH 17, 2020

Virgin Islands

Legislature Status: Committee meetings and legislative session have been postponed as several individuals either affiliated with the Virgin Islands’ legislature or who have recently visited the Legislature have been identified as “persons of interest” in connection with coronavirus.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 419,100.30

- [Virgin Islands Department of Health coronavirus update.](#)
- March 13, 2020—Governor Bryan [declared](#) a state of emergency

Virginia

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die March 12.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 13,621,612.30

- Virginia Department of Health coronavirus resource page.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor joined the Governor of Maryland and the Mayor of the District of Columbia in [calling](#) on the President to add the National Capital Region to the list of priority locations for federal supported COVID-19 testing sites.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) a temporary ban on all public events of more than 100 people.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [ordered all K-12](#) schools in Virginia to close for a minimum of two weeks.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Northam declared a [State of Emergency](#) on 12 March to address COVID-19. Guidance included a ban on out-of-state travel, implementation of telework policies, cancelling specially scheduled state events for 30 days, and urging avoidance of large public gatherings.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Northam issued a [statement](#) addressing plans to enable state employee teleworking. He also encouraged private businesses to explore telework and paid time-off options.
- March 4, 2020— Virginia’s public health and safety experts [established an Incident Management Team](#) across state government to lead the Commonwealth’s planning and response for COVID-19.

Washington

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die March 12.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 14,230,798.70

- [Washington State Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – MARCH 17, 2020

- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [announced](#) an emergency proclamation that mandates the immediate two-week closure of all restaurants, bars, and entertainment and recreational facilities, as well as additional limits on large gatherings.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor [signed an emergency proclamation](#) temporarily shutting down restaurants, bars, and entertainment and recreational facilities.
- March 13, 2020 – The Governor [signed a proclamation](#) requiring that all public and private universities, colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship and similar programs are prohibited from conducting in-person classroom instruction and lectures.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Inslee [announced](#) closures of all public and private K-12 schools in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties for the next six weeks.
- March 11, 2020—Governor Inslee issued an [emergency proclamation](#) prohibiting large public events with more the 250 people in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Inslee [issued](#) rules guiding visitor rules, screening, and protective measures for nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- March 10, 2020—Governor Inslee [announced](#) a ban on gatherings of 250 people or more in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties as part of a social distancing strategy.
- March 10, 2020—The Governor’s office published a [resource list for business and workers](#) in the state who have been impacted by the virus. These resources are aimed at supporting economic retention and recovery efforts.
- March 10, 2020—The Washington State Department of Health [developed](#) a suite of policy considerations and recommendations for school facilities, correctional facilities, and broader community-based organizations.
- March 5, 2020—Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler issued an emergency order for all state-regulated health plans to [waive co-pays and deductibles](#) for testing, allow for a one-time early refill on prescription medications, and allow enrollees to be treated by another provider within a reasonable distance at no cost (if there is not enough providers testing in network).
- March 5, 2020—The Department of Labor and Industries has changed its [workers compensation policies](#) to ensure that benefits are provided to health care workers and first responders who are quarantined.
- March 4, 2020—The state senate unanimously approved [\\$100 million funding package](#) to support state and local public health organizations respond to the coronavirus. An amendment was added that ensures individuals can access unemployment benefits without meeting the work search requirements if they are under isolation or quarantine.
- March 4, 2020—According to news sources, King County [purchased a motel](#) to expand its ability to provide quarantine.
- February 29, 2020—Governor Inslee [declared a state of emergency](#) and called for implementation of the [Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan](#). The Governor also mobilized the National Guard in state status to support efforts.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – MARCH 17, 2020

Legislation

- [HB 2965](#) Concerns the state's response to the novel coronavirus; appropriates \$100 million from the state's budget stabilization account to the state's disaster response account. Then appropriates \$100 million from the disaster response account to the office of financial management to distribute to state and local agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. *Pending → Eligible for Governor*
- [HB 2739](#) Adjusts certain requirements of the shared leave program. Includes a provision of shared leave for employees in isolation or quarantine as requested or ordered by a public health official or health care provider as a result of COVID-19. *Eligible for Governor.*
- [SR 8702](#) Encourages healthy practices to reduce the spread of the flu and other contagious diseases in Washington state. *Adopted.*
- [SB 6696](#) Makes expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events. *Pending.*
- [SB 6248](#) Provides for the capital budget; makes appropriations and authorizes expenditures for capital improvements, including an appropriation for the Poison Center Emergency Response to COVID-19. *Eligible for Governor.*
- [SB 6189](#) Clarifies eligibility for School Employees' Benefits Board coverage of substitute teachers; and of school employees during quarantine or school closures due to COVID-19. *Eligible for Governor.*

West Virginia

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die March 7.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 5,000,803.20

- [West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor **declared** a State of Emergency ordering the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, West Virginia Division of Homeland Security, and Emergency Management and the West Virginia National Guard to mobilize appropriate personnel and resources to respond to the emergency. The state of emergency orders that it is unlawful for any person, business, or other entity to sell any food items, essential consumer items, and emergency supplies in a manner that violates the West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act, which protects consumer from price gouging and unfair pricing practices during and shortly after a State of Emergency.
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor **highlighted** other steps the state is taking, including the West Virginia Department of Education's successful opening of more than 500 sites around the state to ensure children who require school breakfasts and lunches will receive meals during the recently announced statewide school closure.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – MARCH 17, 2020

- March 14, 2020 – The Governor [announced the closure](#) of K-12 schools in the state and issued the following updates:
 - All schools will remain closed to students through at least March 27.
 - Essential staff, as determined by each county board of education, will report March 16 through March 18 to develop continuity plans for students.
 - All teachers, staff, and school service personnel will report March 19 and March 20.
 - County boards of education will determine staff requirements for March 23 and beyond.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Justice [announced](#) a state employee travel ban on out-of-state and international travel and asked West Virginians to reconsider non-essential, personal travel.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Justice [issued guidance](#) to State government office to avoid hosting large meetings, authorized emergency exemptions for the acquisition of health supplies, and asked WVSSAC to suspend both the boys and girls WV High School State School Basketball Tournaments.
- March 9, 2020—The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) the creation of a hotline to answer questions of the public and medical providers concerning COVID-19.
- March 4, 2020—Governor Justice held a [meeting](#) to discuss coordination of precautionary measures and preparations for COVID-19. Following the meeting, Governor Justice announced that he had issued a [State Preparedness Plan for West Virginia](#).
- March 4, 2020—Governor Justice [issued](#) a State of Preparedness Proclamation.

Wisconsin

Legislature Status: Senate legislative session days postponed through March

Supplemental Funding: \$ 11,200,192.30

- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor [directed](#) the Department of Health Services secretary to issue an agency order prohibiting mass gatherings of 50 people or more statewide to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Restaurants and bars are required to operate at less than 50 percent capacity or have fewer than 50 people, whichever is less.
- March 14, 2020 – The Governor [ordered](#) K-12 school (public and private) to close starting March 18 with an anticipated reopening date of April 6.
- March 12, 2020—Governor Evers [declared](#) a public health emergency
- March 12, 2020—Governor Evers [declared](#) a public health emergency and restricted state employee travel.
- March 6, 2020—The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance released a [bulletin](#) with insurance-related information regarding COVID-19.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – MARCH 17, 2020

Wyoming

Legislature Status: Adjourned sine die March 12.

Supplemental Funding: \$ 4,567,500.00

- [Wyoming Department of Health coronavirus resource page.](#)
- March 16, 2020 – The Governor **created** five task forces each to be headed up by the state’s top five elected officials in response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- March 15, 2020 – The Governor **recommended** that all schools remain closed until April 3. The recommendation must go to local superintendents and school boards who have final authority on the issue.
- March 13, 2020—Governor Gordon **declared** a state of emergency in Wyoming.
- March 9, 2020—Governor Gordon **addressed** the Wyoming legislature regarding members who attended CPAC, advising members to monitor their health and follow recommendations of health care professionals.