



COVID-19 at a Glance

Region 4

*Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota,
Wisconsin*



COVID-19 at a Glance

Iowa

Overview

As the federal government leads the national response to COVID-19, states have taken a number of actions to mitigate the spread of the virus and reduce barriers to testing and treatment for those affected. This fact sheet provides state-level information on adopted social distancing measures, health policy action to reduce barriers to testing and treatment, and legislation that has been introduced in response to COVID-19.

Action to Mitigate Spread of COVID-19

As of March 16, 2020, every state has made an emergency declaration, with most taking the form of a State of Emergency or a Public Health Emergency. These declarations allow governors to exercise emergency powers and many have used this power to take additional actions to slow the spread of the virus by adopting social distancing measures.

Action Taken	
<i>Stay at Home Order</i>	N/A
<i>Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers</i>	N/A
<i>Non-Essential Business Closures</i>	N/A
<i>Mandated School Closures</i>	Yes
<i>Large Gatherings Ban</i>	>10 People Prohibited
<i>Bar/Restaurant Limits</i>	Closed except for takeout/delivery
<i>Primary Election Postponement</i>	N/A

Health Policy Action on COVID-19

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) passed by the federal government on March 18, 2020 took action to ensure access to COVID-19 testing by requiring Medicare, Medicaid, all group health plans, and individual health insurance policies to cover testing and associated visits related to the diagnosis of the virus during the federally-declared emergency period. Additionally, FFCRA gives states the option to provide Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 testing for uninsured residents with 100% federal financing.

Many states have gone a step further to implement policies to increase access to COVID-19 testing and treatment, with some states already moving to require insurers to cover a COVID-19 vaccination with no cost-sharing if and when one becomes available. Other states are requiring state-certified insurance carriers to waive patient cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatment.

States have also announced other actions, including extending special enrollment periods (SEP) in state-based health insurance exchanges, enabling early prescription drug refills, and requesting approval for Section 1135 waivers that permit them to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and HIPAA requirements during a national emergency. While the FFCRA creates a federal emergency paid sick leave program through December 2020, some states have enacted mandatory sick leave policies that will fill in gaps in the new federal emergency leave.

Action Taken	
<i>Waive Cost Sharing for COVID-19 Treatment</i>	N/A
<i>Requires Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements</i>	N/A
<i>Free Vaccine When Available</i>	N/A
<i>Early Prescription Refills</i>	N/A
<i>Premium Payment Grace Period</i>	N/A
<i>Marketplace SEP</i>	N/A
<i>Section 1135 Waiver</i>	Approved
<i>Paid Sick Leave</i>	N/A

Essential Businesses

An essential employee is a designated employee that is required to work during a business closure in order to meet operational requirements.

Essential employees' designation is determined by the state, along with the responsibilities of the employee, and the reasons for closing. There are 14 essential employment categories listed by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): healthcare employees, first responders, food and agricultural employees, energy employees, water and sanitation, transportation and logistics, public workers, manufacturing, communications and IT, community-based government operations and essential functions, financial services, hazardous material management, defense industrial base, and chemical management.

Essential employees in Iowa include those that work in healthcare, law enforcement, first responders, long-term care and residential support facility personnel, and public workers.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
N/A	N/A



COVID-19 at a Glance

Iowa

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
SB 2408	Relating to state and local finances by making and supplementing appropriations. Waives the instructional time requirement for schools that close in order to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19.	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Minnesota

Overview

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Action to Mitigate Spread of COVID-19

As of March 16, 2020, every state has made an emergency declaration, with most taking the form of a State of Emergency or a Public Health Emergency. These declarations allow governors to exercise emergency powers and many have used this power to take additional actions to slow the spread of the virus by adopting social distancing measures.

Action Taken	
Stay at Home Order	Statewide
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	N/A
Non-Essential Business Closures	N/A
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	N/A
Bar/Restaurant Limits	Closed except for takeout/delivery
Primary Election Postponement	N/A

Health Policy Action on COVID-19

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) passed by the federal government on March 18, 2020 took action to ensure access to COVID-19 testing by requiring Medicare, Medicaid, all group health plans, and individual health insurance policies to cover testing and associated visits related to the diagnosis of the virus during the federally-declared emergency period. Additionally, FFCRA gives states the option to provide Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 testing for uninsured residents with 100% federal financing.

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States have also announced other actions, including extending special enrollment periods (SEP) in state-based health insurance exchanges, enabling early prescription drug refills, and requesting approval for Section 1135 waivers that permit them to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and HIPAA requirements during a national emergency. While the FFCRA creates a federal emergency paid sick leave program through December 2020, some states have enacted mandatory sick leave policies that will fill in gaps in the new federal emergency leave.

Action Taken	
Waive Cost Sharing for COVID-19 Treatment	State-Insurer Agreement
Requires Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements	N/A
Free Vaccine When Available	N/A
Early Prescription Refills	N/A
Premium Payment Grace Period	N/A
Marketplace SEP	Yes
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	N/A

Essential Businesses

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Minnesota's essential employees fall under all 14 categories listed by CISA.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/25/20	Emergency Executive Order 20-33 and Critical Business List and Emergency Executive Order 20-33



COVID-19 at a Glance

Minnesota

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
HCR 10	Terminates the peacetime emergency relating to COVID-19.	Pending
HF 798	Relates to family law; modifies child support provisions concerning the cost-of-living- adjustment due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Pending
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
SF 4194	Relates to health; modifies employee protections related to isolation and quarantine provisions.	Pending
SF 4200	Relates to human services, granting the commissioner of human services certain temporary emergency authority relating to COVID-19.	Pending
SF 4334	Relates to public health; transfers \$50 million for deposit in the public health response contingency account and \$150 million to the health care response fund.	Enacted
HF 4415	Requires compensation for hourly employees for school days canceled due to COVID-19 during the 2019-2020 school year.	Pending
HF 4416	Requires health plan companies to cover testing, and quarantine relating to COVID-19.	Pending
SF 4425	Modifies workers' compensation and line of duty benefits for the safety of firefighters; includes quarantine due to disease exposure related to employment as a qualifying event for workers' compensation coverage.	Pending
SF 4450	Requests that Congress and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security extend the date for the full implementation of the Real ID Act and make related changes to federal law.	Pending
SF 4460	Relates to human rights; appropriates money for a consultant to develop a multilingual COVID-19 helpline to report discrimination, work with impacted communities and to educate the public on the impact of bias.	Pending
SF 4464	Relates to unemployment insurance; modifies the effect of other earnings on unemployment benefits during COVID-19 pandemic.	Pending
SF 4476	Relates to public health; appropriates money to be awarded as a grant to advance research, development, and implementation of tests necessary to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.	Pending
SF 4477	Relates to economic development; appropriates money for grants to small businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak.	Pending
SF 4484	Memorializes the President and Congress to direct the United States Food and Drug Administration to approve off-label use of certain medications to combat Coronavirus.	Pending
SF 4485	Memorializes the President and Congress to direct the United States Food	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

Minnesota

	and Drug Administration to approve off-label use of certain medications to combat Coronavirus.	
<u>SF 4486</u>	Relates to state finances; establishes an account in the federal fund; deposits money from the federal coronavirus relief fund.	Pending
<u>SF 4488</u>	Relates to economic development; establishes a process to safely reopen businesses during a peacetime emergency.	Pending
<u>SF 4492</u>	Relates to health; authorizes the use of funds in the public health response contingency account for public health screenings at long-term care facilities and for health screenings of visitors and staff.	Pending
<u>SF 4494</u>	Relates to telecommunications; establishes a grant program for distance learning equipment; establishes a grant program for telemedicine equipment purchased to deal with COVID-19; requires reports; appropriates money.	Pending
<u>SF 4495</u>	Relates to housing; provides for eviction and mortgage foreclosure protection and emergency housing assistance during a public health emergency; requires a report; prescribes penalties for false statements; appropriates money.	Pending
<u>SF 4498</u>	Relates to retirement; amends requirements relating to members who continue employment under a postretirement option available under PERA or MSRS for health care workers during peacetime emergency.	Pending
<u>SF 4500</u>	Relates to public health; establishes a grant program to advance the development of a serological test for COVID-19; appropriates money.	Pending
<u>HF 4531</u>	Relates to state government; provides Coronavirus response efforts; establishes a Coronavirus Minnesota fund; modifies certain authorities; provides exemptions and extensions; modifies certain fees; eliminates refill timelines for opiate or narcotic pain relievers; extends due date for filing property tax appeals; modifies loan programs; provides for unemployment insurance for certain employees affected by Coronavirus; requires reports; appropriates money for Coronavirus response efforts.	Enacted
<u>HF 4537</u>	Relates to workers' compensation; provides a presumption for coronavirus workers' compensation claims for certain employees; requires a report; authorizes an extension of the implementation date of the CAMPUS system.	Enacted
<u>HF 4545</u>	Relates to civil actions; creates immunity defense for manufacturers producing coronavirus products.	Pending
<u>HF 4552</u>	Relates to state government; applies a freeze on full time equivalent positions in Executive Branch state agencies due to coronavirus.	Pending
<u>HF 4556</u>	Relates to state government; provides for COVID-19 policy and certain other policy changes; extends certain deadlines; covers certain COVID-19 health expenses; provides temporary emergency authority; expands usage of electronic communication, applications, and signatures; appropriates additional money for grants to Second Harvest Heartland to purchase commodities from Minnesota farmers; modifies certain vehicle registration provisions; allowing nonposting of tax delinquency and suspension of nondelivery of liquor or beer related to delinquency;	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Minnesota

	modifies certain treatment provisions; corrects errors in health and human services appropriations; makes forecast adjustments; requires reports.	
<u>HF 4560</u>	Relates to local government; prohibits fees on merchant-provided plastic bags and reuse of bags during peacetime public health emergency.	Pending
<u>HF 4563</u>	Relates to human services and COVID-19-related reimbursement; establishes temporary fixed-cost reimbursement rates for day programs and employment service providers.	Pending
<u>HF 4565</u>	Relates to health occupations; modifies emergency prescription refill requirements during a declared peacetime emergency.	Pending
<u>HF 4570</u>	Relates to economic development; establishes a variance process for business license requirements during COVID-19 pandemic.	Pending
<u>HF 4572</u>	Relates to public health; terminates a declared peacetime emergency; extends certain executive orders; provides additional measures to protect public health.	Pending
<u>HF 4573</u>	Relates to a COVID-19 tax credit for certain purchases.	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

North Dakota

Overview

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Action to Mitigate Spread of COVID-19

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Action Taken	
Stay at Home Order	Statewide
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	N/A
Non-Essential Business Closures	All Non-Essential Businesses
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	>10 People Prohibited
Bar/Restaurant Limits	Closed except for takeout/delivery
Primary Election Postponement	N/A

Health Policy Action on COVID-19

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) passed by the federal government on March 18, 2020 took action to ensure access to COVID-19 testing by requiring Medicare, Medicaid, all group health plans, and individual health insurance policies to cover testing and associated visits related to the diagnosis of the virus during the federally-declared emergency period. Additionally, FFCRA gives states the option to provide Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 testing for uninsured residents with 100% federal financing.

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States have also announced other actions, including extending special enrollment periods (SEP) in state-based health insurance exchanges, enabling early prescription drug refills, and requesting approval for Section 1135 waivers that permit them to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and HIPAA requirements during a national emergency. While the FFCRA creates a federal emergency paid sick leave program through December 2020, some states have enacted mandatory sick leave policies that will fill in gaps in the new federal emergency leave.

Action Taken	
Waive Cost Sharing for COVID-19 Treatment	N/A
Requires Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements	N/A
Free Vaccine When Available	N/A
Early Prescription Refills	N/A
Premium Payment Grace Period	N/A
Marketplace SEP	N/A
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	N/A

Essential Businesses

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North Dakota does not have specific guidelines in place that outline essential services and employees.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
N/A	N/A



COVID-19 at a Glance

North Dakota

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
<i>No legislation has been introduced as of 4/23/20</i>		



COVID-19 at a Glance

Nebraska

Overview

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Action Taken	
<i>Stay at Home Order</i>	N/A
<i>Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers</i>	N/A
<i>Non-Essential Business Closures</i>	N/A
<i>Mandated School Closures</i>	Yes
<i>Large Gatherings Ban</i>	>10 People Prohibited
<i>Bar/Restaurant Limits</i>	Closed except for takeout/delivery
<i>Primary Election Postponement</i>	N/A

Health Policy Action on COVID-19

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) passed by the federal government on March 18, 2020 took action to ensure access to COVID-19 testing by requiring Medicare, Medicaid, all group health plans, and individual health insurance policies to cover testing and associated visits related to the diagnosis of the virus during the federally-declared emergency period. Additionally, FFCRA gives states the option to provide Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 testing for uninsured residents with 100% federal financing.

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States have also announced other actions, including extending special enrollment periods (SEP) in state-based health insurance exchanges, enabling early prescription drug refills, and requesting approval for Section 1135 waivers that permit them to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and HIPAA requirements during a national emergency. While the FFCRA creates a federal emergency paid sick leave program through December 2020, some states have enacted mandatory sick leave policies that will fill in gaps in the new federal emergency leave.

Action Taken	
<i>Waive Cost Sharing for COVID-19 Treatment</i>	N/A
<i>Requires Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements</i>	N/A
<i>Free Vaccine When Available</i>	N/A
<i>Early Prescription Refills</i>	N/A
<i>Premium Payment Grace Period</i>	N/A
<i>Marketplace SEP</i>	N/A
<i>Section 1135 Waiver</i>	Approved
<i>Paid Sick Leave</i>	N/A

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Nebraska currently recognizes healthcare services, public workers, and emergency services as essential employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
N/A	N/A



COVID-19 at a Glance

Nebraska

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
LB 1198	Authorizes the State Treasurer to transfer \$83,619,600 from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Governor's Emergency Cash fund, which will then be transferred to the Military Department for aid, related to COVID-19, in carrying out the goals for the Governor's Emergency Program.	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

South Dakota

Overview

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Action to Mitigate Spread of COVID-19

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Action Taken	
<i>Stay at Home Order</i>	N/A
<i>Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers</i>	N/A
<i>Non-Essential Business Closures</i>	N/A
<i>Mandated School Closures</i>	Yes
<i>Large Gatherings Ban</i>	>10 People Prohibited
<i>Bar/Restaurant Limits</i>	N/A
<i>Primary Election Postponement</i>	N/A

Health Policy Action on COVID-19

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) passed by the federal government on March 18, 2020 took action to ensure access to COVID-19 testing by requiring Medicare, Medicaid, all group health plans, and individual health insurance policies to cover testing and associated visits related to the diagnosis of the virus during the federally-declared emergency period. Additionally, FFCRA gives states the option to provide Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 testing for uninsured residents with 100% federal financing.

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Action Taken	
<i>Waive Cost Sharing for COVID-19 Treatment</i>	N/A
<i>Requires Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements</i>	N/A
<i>Free Vaccine When Available</i>	N/A
<i>Early Prescription Refills</i>	N/A
<i>Premium Payment Grace Period</i>	N/A
<i>Marketplace SEP</i>	N/A
<i>Section 1135 Waiver</i>	Approved
<i>Paid Sick Leave</i>	N/A

Essential Businesses

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South Dakota does not have a specific outline of essential services and employees.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
N/A	N/A



COVID-19 at a Glance

South Dakota

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
<u>HB 1295</u>	Revises provisions regarding contagious disease control and enforcement and to declare an emergency.	Enacted
<u>HB 1296</u>	Revises the authority of the Governor in times of a disaster, act of terrorism, or emergency and to declare an emergency.	Enacted
<u>HB 1298</u>	Provides for the postponement of certain elections in response to the coronavirus public health emergency.	Enacted
<u>SB 187</u>	Revises certain provisions regarding reemployment assistance benefits in response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 and to declare an emergency.	Enacted
<u>SB 188</u>	Accounts for educational opportunities provided to students during a state of emergency and to declare an emergency.	Enacted
<u>SB 190</u>	Revises certain driver licensing requirements to allow for an extension during a statewide emergency or disaster and to declare an emergency.	Enacted
<u>SB 192</u>	To create the small business economic disaster relief subfund, to provide for the transfer of certain funds into the subfund, to authorize the Economic Development Finance Authority to make a grant to the subfund, to provide for the continuous appropriation of the subfund, and to declare an emergency.	Enacted
<u>SB 193</u>	Revises the General Appropriations Act for the current fiscal year in response to the coronavirus public health emergency.	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Wisconsin

Overview

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Action Taken	
Stay at Home Order	Statewide
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	N/A
Non-Essential Business Closures	All Non-Essential Businesses
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	All Gatherings Prohibited
Bar/Restaurant Limits	Closed except for takeout/delivery
Primary Election Postponement	N/A

Health Policy Action on COVID-19

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Action Taken	
Waive Cost Sharing for COVID-19 Treatment	N/A
Requires Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements	N/A
Free Vaccine When Available	N/A
Early Prescription Refills	N/A
Premium Payment Grace Period	N/A
Marketplace SEP	N/A
Section 1135 Waiver	N/A
Paid Sick Leave	N/A

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Essential businesses and employees allowed to remain operating include banks, pharmacies, grocery stores, and gas stations. Wisconsin also recognizes the 14 categories listed by CISA as essential.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/24/20	Emergency Order #12 and COVID-19: Businesses and Employers



COVID-19 at a Glance

Wisconsin

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
SR 7	Acknowledges that the Communist Party of China deliberately and intentionally misled the world on the Wuhan Coronavirus; stands in solidarity with the Chinese people to condemn the actions of the Communist Party of China.	Failed
SB 927	Exempts pharmaceutical, treatment, and other medical supplies used for treating coronavirus from the Unfair Sales Act, also called the minimum markup law, during the public health emergency due to coronavirus.	Failed
AB 1035	Exempts pharmaceutical, treatment, and other medical supplies used for treating COVID-19 from the Unfair Sales Act, also called the minimum markup law, during the public health emergency declared on March 12, 2020.	Failed
AB 1038	Relates to the state government response to the coronavirus pandemic; authorizes limited autopsies for the death of an inmate due to COVID-19; establishes a civil liability exemption for persons who manufacture, distribute or sell emergency medical supplies to respond to the public health emergency.	Enacted