



COVID-19 at a Glance

Region 6

Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas



COVID-19 at a Glance

Arkansas

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	
Stay at Home Order	N/A
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	N/A
Non-Essential Business Closures	N/A
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.

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.

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	COVID-19 Diagnosis/Impacts Only
Marketplace SEP	N/A
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	N/A

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.

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.

Arkansas supports the 14 Essential Employees categories listed above.

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



COVID-19 at a Glance

Arkansas

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
<u>HR 1001</u>	Provides for a temporary emergency procedure of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Second General Assembly.	Adopted
<u>SB 2/HB 1001</u>	Creates a "COVID-19" Rainy Day Fund. Immediately transfers \$173,610,632 from the General Allotment Reserve Fund to the COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund to provide for appropriations to offset revenue reductions and address needs created by the coronavirus.	Enacted
<u>SB 47</u>	Provides for the Administrative Office of the Courts appropriation for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; declares an emergency due to COVID-19 necessary for the passage of this Act.	Eligible for Governor
<u>HB 1082</u>	Provides appropriations for the 2020 to 2021 fiscal year; appropriates \$2.1 billion to the Department of Finance and Administration from the Disaster Assistance Fund for miscellaneous workforce investment programs; appropriates funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for several expenditures, including the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Program; authorizes public entities to gather, meet and conduct an open public meeting through electronic means during a disaster emergency, among other things.	Enacted
<u>HB 1083</u>	Provides for the Department of Finance and Administration appropriation for the 2020 to 2021 fiscal year; provides an exemption from the income tax for recovery rebates provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.	Eligible for Governor
<u>HR 1004</u>	Authorizes the introduction of a non-appropriation bill to amend the income tax imposed on individuals, trusts, and estates.	Pending
<u>SR 5/HR 1005</u>	Authorizes the introduction of a non-appropriation bill to prohibit elective procedures during the Coronavirus Disease 2019, also known as coronavirus, public health emergency.	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

Kansas

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Action Taken	
Stay at Home Order	Statewide
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	From Certain States
Non-Essential Business Closures	All Non-Essential Businesses
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	>10 People Prohibited
Bar/Restaurant Limits	Limited On-Site Service
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	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	N/A

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Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/28/20	Executive Order 20-16



COVID-19 at a Glance

Kansas

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
SB 66	Part of a larger budget bill. Appropriates a sum of \$65 million to coronavirus response funding. \$50 will be directed to coronavirus expenditures and \$15 million will be appropriated for emergency management related to the coronavirus.	Enacted
SB 386	Appropriates \$1 million to the Division of Public Health for coronavirus prevention.	Pending
HCR 5025	Ratifies and provides the continuation of the March 12, 2020, state of disaster emergency declaration for the state of Kansas.	Adopted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Louisiana

Overview

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Action Taken	
Stay at Home Order	Statewide
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	All Travelers
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

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

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Louisiana's essential employees fall under all 14 categories recognized by CISA.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/22/20	Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020 and Essential Infrastructure Fact Sheet



COVID-19 at a Glance

Louisiana

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
SCR 22	Requests the State Board Elementary and Secondary Education to suspend statewide standardized assessments for the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19.	Pending
SCR 31	Requests the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Revenue to develop an incentive package that will make Louisiana the domestic prescription drug manufacturing leader for the United States.	Pending
SCR 33	Temporarily suspends video draw poker device operation fees due to mandatory closure of establishments in response to coronavirus pandemic.	Pending
HR 20	Urges and requests Attorney General Jeff Landry to ensure a swift, effective, and unified response to price gouging.	Pending
HCR 22	Urges and requests the Public Service Commission to temporarily prohibit energy and water companies from disconnecting services.	Pending
HCR 23	Suspends laws regarding legal deadlines, including prescription and preemption, in recognition of the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak.	Pending
HCR 25	Provides for the suspension of all civil prescriptive, preemptive, filing, and other deadlines in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declared by the Governor.	Pending
HCR 27	Provides consent for the adjournment of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature for a period longer than three days to minimize the spread of COVID-19.	Adopted
HCR 34	Suspends the severance taxes levied on oil, natural gas, distillate and condensate.	Pending
HCR 39	Temporarily suspends the payment of video draw poker device operation fees due to the closure of licensed establishments as a result of Coronavirus disease.	Pending
HCR 40	Directs the Department of Revenue to develop data on the projected impact the coronavirus pandemic will have on state business revenue and on net operating loss carry forward tax deductions for future tax filings.	Pending
HCR 43	Suspends the corporation franchise tax levied on domestic and foreign corporations and the initial tax levied on certain business entities subject to the corporation franchise tax in an effort to mitigate some financial losses suffered by businesses.	Pending
SB 426	Requires health insurance coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing.	Pending
SB 445	Provides relative to limitation of civil liability for medical personnel and healthcare providers during public health emergency.	Pending
SB 449	Requires reporting of contagious or infectious diseases to first responders.	Pending
SB 450	Exempts from seizure payments received under federal law coronavirus relief.	Pending
SB 469	Provides relative to professional and occupational licensing boards and commissions during declared emergencies.	Pending
SB 475	Provides relative to workers' compensation claims filed by essential	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

Louisiana

	workers in the workplace.	
<u>SB 477</u>	Provides relative to business interruption insurance.	Pending
<u>SB 481</u>	Provides for suspension of certain laws pertaining to elementary and secondary education for students impacted due to the coronavirus public health emergency.	Pending
<u>SB 495</u>	Creates a private fund, called the Business Compensation Fund, to expedite certain property insurance claims, resolve disputes, and provide coverage for losses sustained as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Provides for contributions to and disbursements from the fund.	Pending
<u>SB 499</u>	Provides relative to the regulation of business entities during a public health emergency.	Pending
<u>SB 500</u>	Relative to state agencies; to provide relative to the administration and regulation of state agencies during an emergency; to provide for terms, conditions, procedures, requirements, and effects; and to provide for related matters.	Pending
<u>SB 506</u>	Requires property insurance policies insuring commercial and residential buildings to cover cost of disinfecting fumigation.	Pending
<u>SB 511</u>	Suspends certain legal requirements as a result of emergency health measures relative to the coronavirus.	Pending
<u>HB 774</u>	Relative to post-emergency public procurement following COVID-19; to require purchases from Louisiana vendors in certain circumstances; to provide time limits; to provide exceptions; and to provide for related matters.	Pending
<u>HB 805</u>	Relative to the effect of obligations during certain emergencies and disasters; to provide for the suspension of prescription and preemptive periods and other legal deadlines; and to provide for related matters.	Pending
<u>HB 826</u>	Provides limited liability for healthcare providers, certain real estate owners, and certain private persons, firms, or corporations during the COVID-19 public health emergency.	Pending
<u>HB 846</u>	Provides relative to the Competitive Projects Payroll Incentive Program; expands businesses eligible to participate in the program to include those engaged in cybersecurity, renewable or a recycling process, agri-bio industry or COVID-19.	Pending
<u>HB 851</u>	Provides for the use of federal funds appropriated to Louisiana through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act for workforce training; to provide for the appropriation, administration, and use of the Workforce Training Rapid Response Fund; and to provide for related matters.	Pending
<u>HB 856</u>	Provides relative to limitations of liability related to the preparation, conditions or delivery of food or other supplies in good faith in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency.	Pending
<u>HB 858</u>	Requires coverage for business interruption claims due to coronavirus disease 2019; provides for the scope of coverage; provides for applicability; provides for retroactive application; provides for effectiveness; and provides for related matters.	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

Louisiana

<u>HB 862</u>	Provides for the Coronavirus Business Recovery and Growth Program.	Pending
<u>HB 868</u>	Provides relative to the continuity of the legislature in times of emergency or disaster.	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

Missouri

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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

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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	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	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.

The different essential employees required might depend on the county. However, Missouri does recognize most of the 14 categories as essential, especially law enforcement and emergency services, and healthcare employees.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
4/3/20	"Stay at Home" Order – Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions



COVID-19 at a Glance

Missouri

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
<u>HR 5497</u>	Resolves that school districts should take necessary steps to protect the health of children without fear of funding reductions or punishments for failing to meet minimum hours and school day levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Pending
<u>HR 5501</u>	Adopts certain guidelines for members of the Missouri House of Representatives conducting business on April 8, 2020 in light of the coronavirus pandemic.	Adopted
<u>HR 5502</u>	Calls for the immediate termination of Executive Order 20-2 declaring a State of Emergency due to COVID-19.	Pending
<u>HB 2010</u>	Appropriates money to address coronavirus preparedness and response.	Pending
<u>HB 2014</u>	Appropriates \$11 million from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund (CESF) to the Department of Public Safety for CESF grants; appropriates the following federal funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act: \$300 million to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, \$200 million to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, and \$1 billion to the Office of Administration, in addition to other appropriations.	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Oklahoma

Overview

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Action Taken	
Stay at Home Order	High-Risk Groups
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	From Certain States
Non-Essential Business Closures	All Non-Essential Businesses
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	>10 People Prohibited
Bar/Restaurant Limits	N/A
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	For COVID-19 Testing and Treatment
Free Vaccine When Available	N/A
Early Prescription Refills	State Requires
Premium Payment Grace Period	All Policies
Marketplace SEP	N/A
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	N/A

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Oklahoma's essential employees all fall under the 14 categories recognized by CISA.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/24/20	Executive Order 2020-07 and Business Closures and Essential Business Information and COVID-19 Resources



COVID-19 at a Glance

Oklahoma

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
<u>SCR 17</u>	A Resolution providing for the suspension of Senate Rules for the duration of the 2nd Regular Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature.	Adopted
<u>SB 199</u>	Transfers \$302.3 million from the Constitutional Reserve Fund to the Revenue Stabilization Fund.	Enacted
<u>SB 617</u>	Authorizes the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to withdraw up to half of the balance of the Revenue Stabilization Fund to avoid cuts to agencies and the fund for education in a revenue failure of fiscal year 2020.	Enacted
<u>HCR 1017</u>	Relates to adjournment of the legislature for a period in excess of 3 days.	Adopted
<u>HR 1033</u>	Relates to declaring emergency conditions under the House Rules.	Adopted
<u>SB 1053</u>	Appropriates \$201 million from the Constitutional Reserve Fund to the Revenue Stabilization Fund in response to the coronavirus public health emergency.	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Texas

Overview

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Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	From Certain States
Non-Essential Business Closures	N/A
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	>10 People Prohibited
Bar/Restaurant Limits	N/A
Primary Election Postponement	N/A

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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

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Texas counties differ when it comes to essential services and employees. Overall, the State recognizes the urgent need for healthcare professionals, first responders, public workers, farmers, and emergency services.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/31/20	For the Purposes of Texas Executive Order GA-14



COVID-19 at a Glance

Texas

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

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