



COVID-19 at a Glance

Region 1

*Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York,
Rhode Island, Vermont*



COVID-19 at a Glance

Connecticut

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	Statewide
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	N/A
Non-Essential Business Closures	All Non-Essential Businesses
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	>50 people prohibited
Bar/Restaurant Limits	Closed except for takeout/delivery
Primary Election Postponement	Yes

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	Yes
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	Enacted

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.

The Connecticut government recognizes the 14 categories listed above as Essential Employees. The state places a special emphasis on health care, food service, law enforcement and similar critical services.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/20/20	Executive Order 7H



COVID-19 at a Glance

Connecticut

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

Massachusetts

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

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

Essential Businesses

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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 Massachusetts government recognizes the 14 categories as essential services. However, officials are yet to release a complete list.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/31/20	COVID-19 Essential Services



COVID-19 at a Glance

Massachusetts

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
H.B. 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
H.B. 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
H.B. 4571	Makes supplemental appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of the general fund; includes one-time funding to respond to COVID-19.	Pending
H.B. 4580	Addresses challenges in town governance resulting from COVID-19.	Pending
H.B. 4586	Addresses challenges faced by municipalities, school districts and state authorities resulting from COVID-19.	Pending
H.B. 4593	Facilitates the delay of income tax filing deadline.	Pending
H.B. 4598	Addresses challenges faced by municipalities and state authorities resulting from COVID-19 related to town meetings, annual budgets, deficit amortization, local permits, the authority of the chief executive officer of a city or town, the temporary employment of a former or retired employee, and to allow certain licensed establishments to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption.	Enacted
H.B. 4611	Relative to creating a presumption of job relatedness for certain public safety personnel and first responders suffering from incapacitation or inability to perform their duties as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection or exposure.	Pending
H.B. 4615	Provides for a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the coronavirus Emergency.	Pending
H.B. 4616	Addresses challenges faced by municipalities, school districts and state authorities resulting from COVID-19 related to supportive housing, collection of taxes and fees, high school graduation, standardized testing, school budgets and 3-year plans.	Pending
H.B. 4622	Relates to relief payments for recipients of the transitional aid to families with dependent children and emergency aid to the elderly, disabled and children programs within the Department of Transitional Assistance.	Pending
H.B. 4625	Expands unemployment insurance benefits to certain employees due to the COVID-19 emergency declaration.	Pending
H.B. 4626	Appropriates funds to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for emergency funding for certain homeless services.	Pending
H.B. 4627	Relates to providing certain state employees sick leave for Coronavirus disease related absences.	Pending
S.B. 2599	Authorizes waiver of the one week waiting period for unemployment benefits.	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Massachusetts

<u>S.B. 2602</u>	<p>Provides any public safety official and 1st responder, who contracts, has symptoms of, or otherwise becomes affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), that results in a period of hospitalization, quarantine, or require self-quarantined measures as a result of being infected or coming into contact with someone who is infected with this virus, shall have their medical condition or incapacity to work presumed to be work-related. Public safety official shall not be required to use sick time, vacation time, or personal time to cover said period of incapacitation or inability to perform regular duty work.</p>	<p>Pending</p>
<u>S.B. 2608</u>	<p>Grants the authority to postpone 2020 municipal elections in the commonwealth and increase voting options in response to the declaration of emergency to respond to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Enacted</p>
<u>S.B. 2618</u>	<p>An Act providing additional support to those affected by the novel coronavirus through the unemployment insurance system.</p>	<p>Pending</p>
<u>S.B. 2621</u>	<p>An Act providing temporary protections for renters and homeowners during the COVID-19 emergency.</p>	<p>Pending</p>



COVID-19 at a Glance

Maine

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	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

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.

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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	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.

Maine essential employees and services are similar to the 14 categories listed above. However, there is a special focus on construction workers and those involved in home repair.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/24/20	An Executive Order Regarding Essential Businesses and Operations and Essential Business Operations Definitions



COVID-19 at a Glance

Maine

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
H.B. 1547	Permits the State Controller to transfer up to \$11 million from the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital to a COVID-19 response refund to address funding needs related to the novel coronavirus.	Enacted
H.B. 1549	Requires a postsecondary educational institution in the State that temporarily suspends classes and requires students, staff and faculty to remain of campus due to an infectious disease, including COVID-19 to take certain actions around student reimbursement, faculty compensation and allowing students to remain on campus.	Pending
H.B. 1516	Makes supplemental appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of the general fund; includes one-time funding to respond to COVID-19.	Enacted
S.B. 676	Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend certain rules to provide for reimbursement of case management services delivered through telehealth to targeted populations; makes other changes necessary for the delivery of telehealth services to be expanded to include case management services.	Enacted
S.B. 789	Provides the Governor, on a temporary basis, with additional powers for the duration of the state of emergency declared by the Governor due to the outbreak of COVID-19.	Enacted



COVID-19 at a Glance

New Hampshire

Overview

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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	For COVID-19 Testing
Free Vaccine When Available	N/A
Early Prescription Refills	State Requires
Premium Payment Grace Period	N/A
Marketplace SEP	N/A
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	N/A

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New Hampshire essential employees fall under all 14 categories recognized by CISA, with the addition of steam workers.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/26/20	Exhibit A to Emergency Order #17



COVID-19 at a Glance

New Hampshire

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
<i>No legislation has been introduced as of 4/10/20</i>		



COVID-19 at a Glance

New York

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	Yes

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	For COVID-19 Testing and Treatment
Free Vaccine When Available	N/A
Early Prescription Refills	N/A
Premium Payment Grace Period	COVID-19 Diagnosis/Impacts Only
Marketplace SEP	Yes
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	Enacted

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.

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Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/27/20	Guidance For Determining Whether A Business Enterprise Is Subject To A Workforce Reduction Under Recent Executive Orders



COVID-19 at a Glance

New York

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
SR 3108	Provides for special temporary procedures during a declared state of national emergency.	Adopted
SB 7500	Makes appropriations for the support of government – State Operations Budget, including funds for transfer by the governor for services and expenses related to the outbreak of COVID-19.	Eligible for Governor
SB 7503	Makes appropriations for the support of government – Aid to Localities Budget, including funds to support the state response to COVID-19 related to elementary and secondary education, and public transportation services.	Eligible for Governor
SB 7506	Enacts into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state education, labor, housing and family assistance budget for the 2020-2021 state fiscal year, including several measures to respond to and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and to provide temporary relief to individuals.	Enacted
SB 7508	Enacts into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state transportation, economic development and environmental conservation budget for the 2020-2021 state fiscal year, including measures responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.	Enacted
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/AB 10189	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 8014	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/AB 10172	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
AB 10152/SB 8090	Amends the Labor Law; provides requirements for sick leave and the provision of certain employee benefits when such employee is subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19; provides for sick leave.	Pending
AB 10169	Amends the Election Law; authorizes absentee voting where a voter is unable or averse to appear personally at the polling place because of an imminent, impending or urgent threat resulting from a disease outbreak, including but not limited to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).	Pending
AB 10182	Extends the renewal of driver's licenses, non-driver identification cards and inspections of motor vehicles for three months.	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

New York

<u>AB 10204</u>	Amends the Retirement & Social Security Law; relates to the retiree earnings cap for health care workers during a declared public health related state of emergency declared by the governor.	Pending
<u>AB 10207</u>	Establishes that all voting for the April 2020 presidential primary be conducted by absentee ballot; no application for such shall be necessary and the local board of elections shall provide such ballot at least 15 days prior to April 28, 2020.	Pending
<u>AB 10208</u>	Establishes the Coronavirus Pandemic Small Business and Not-For-Profit Organization Loan Program.	Pending
<u>SB 8091</u>	Provides provisions for certain employee benefits when such employee is subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19.	Enacted
<u>SB 8107</u>	Requires SUNY and CUNY schools to refund students for housing credits and boarding charges used or charged for the period of time when such schools are closed or shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic.	Pending
<u>SB 8110</u>	Establishes the small business containment assistance program; makes an appropriation therefor.	Pending
<u>SB 8109</u>	Suspends mortgages and loans from state-chartered banks and state-chartered credit unions for small businesses and restaurants that have closed or reduced services due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).	Pending
<u>SB 8112/AB 10160</u>	Amends the Election Law; decreases the number of signatures needed for designating petitions and independent nominations by one-third for political subdivisions, wholly or in part, within a county in which one or more residents have been confirmed to be diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) for year two thousand twenty.	Pending
<u>SB 8117</u>	Relates to a presumption regarding impairment of health caused by COVID-19 and in relation to sick leave. Provides police, sheriffs, corrections, parole and probation officers with medical care coverage and sick leave if such employee is exposed to COVID-19 while working and then tests positive for COVID-19.	Pending
<u>SB 8118/AB 10183</u>	Amends the General Business Law; prohibits negative credit reporting on consumers who have suffered financial harm as a result of the declared state of emergency relating to the coronavirus	Pending
<u>SB 8119</u>	Amends the transportation Law; relates to paratransit services within the state and city of New York during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.	Pending
<u>SB 8122</u>	Authorizes the New York city department of finance to extend until June 15, 2020, the deadline for the filing of applications and renewal applications for certain real property tax abatement programs in the interest of the health and safety of the public due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19).	Pending
<u>SB 8123</u>	Permits any individual to receive free coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing; provides that such individuals may be tested anonymously and	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

New York

	no identifying information shall be provided to any non-medical state or federal agency.	
<u>SB 8124</u>	Requires airlines and travel insurance companies to provide refunds for travel cancelled due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).	Pending
<u>SB 8125</u>	Suspends all rent payments for certain residential tenants and small business commercial tenants if such tenant has lost employment or was forced to close their place of business and certain mortgage payments for landlords of such tenants in the state for ninety days following the effective date of this act in response to the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).	Pending
<u>SB 8126</u>	Amends the Retirement & Social Security Law; relates to the retiree earnings cap for health care officials and workers during a declared public health related state of emergency declared by the governor.	Pending
<u>SB 8139</u>	Relates to suspending rent payments for certain tenants in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.	Pending
<u>SB 8140</u>	Establishes a COVID-19 emergency rental assistance program; implements a program of rental assistance in the form of emergency vouchers for eligible individuals or families; defines terms.	Pending
<u>AB 8686</u>	Establishes the empire state inclusive value ledger establishment and administration act to create a master account and system of individual wallets to make and receive payments to state entities and residents of the state; authorizes the disbursement of a portion of unclaimed remittances to workers who have been furloughed or unable to work due to Coronavirus.	Pending
<u>AB 10226</u>	Requires certain perils be covered under business interruption insurance during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.	Pending
<u>AB 10227</u>	Amends the Election Law; relates to moving the date of the presidential primary to June 23, 2020; permits absentee voting in the event of an imminent, impending or urgent threat resulting from a disease outbreak; removes certain presidential candidates and their delegates from primary ballot where the candidate has suspended their campaigns or removed themselves from consideration for election to such office.	Pending
<u>AB 10239</u>	Establishes a coronavirus disease 2019 presumption for accidental disability retirement and accidental death benefits.	Pending
<u>AB 10255</u>	Establishes a Coronavirus Emergency Small Landlord Assistance Fund; provides that local housing authorities shall provide assistance to owners of a real property portfolio whose tenants have had their rent payments suspended for the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of such properties.	Pending
<u>AB 10261</u>	Suspends all student loan, mortgage, auto loan, credit card, and utility payments for ninety days in response to the outbreak of coronavirus disease.	Pending
<u>AB 10266</u>	Enacts the Small Business Emergency Recovery Act; requires the Executive to direct all unallocated settlement funds that are reserved in the Economic Uncertainties Fund and any further settlement money that may	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

New York

	be received by the state to small business relief purposes consistent with the intent of the Act; establishes the Small Business and Not for Profit Recovery Loan Program; relates to the coronavirus state of emergency.	
<u>AB 10290</u>	Provides that no default in the payment of rent due or judgment of possession shall be entered between March seventh, two thousand twenty and a date six months after the expiration of the state disaster emergency, as such term is defined in section twenty of the executive law, declared pursuant to executive order two hundred two of two thousand twenty, as amended.	Pending
<u>AB 10297</u>	Amends the labor law, in relation to prohibiting the inclusion of claims for unemployment insurance arising from the closure of an employer due to COVID-19 from being included in such employer's experience rating charges.	Pending
<u>AB 10301</u>	Amends the public health law, in relation to allowing prescriptions for controlled substances that are normally restricted to a thirty-day supply, to be issued for greater than a thirty-day supply during the COVID-19 state of emergency.	Pending
<u>AB 10306</u>	Amends the election law, in relation to voting by proxy at a judicial district convention due to novel coronavirus, COVID-19; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.	Pending



COVID-19 at a Glance

Rhode Island

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	Statewide
Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers	All Travelers
Non-Essential Business Closures	All Non-Essential Retail Businesses
Mandated School Closures	Yes
Large Gatherings Ban	>25 people prohibited
Bar/Restaurant Limits	Closed except for takeout/delivery
Primary Election Postponement	Yes

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	
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	N/A
Marketplace SEP	Yes
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	Enacted

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.

Rhode Island does not have specific guidelines in place that outlines each essential service and employees. However, the State does recognize the need for healthcare workers and first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/28/20	Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation Critical Retail Businesses



COVID-19 at a Glance

Rhode Island

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
SR 2770	Requests that President Donald Trump declare a National Emergency for the Coronavirus Pandemic.	Adopted



COVID-19 at a Glance

Vermont

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	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

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	
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	Yes
Section 1135 Waiver	Approved
Paid Sick Leave	Enacted

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Vermont recognizes the essential employees listed above, with a special emphasis on childcare facilities and services.

Date Issued	Designation of Essential Businesses
3/24/20	Addendum 6 To Executive Order 01-20 and Stay Home Stay Safe Sector Specific Guidance



COVID-19 at a Glance

Vermont

State Legislation Responding to COVID-19

Bill Number	Description	Status
HB 681	Relates to employer registration for unemployment insurance. Contains amendments that ensure employees receive benefits when quarantined or providing care for a quarantined family member	Enacted
HB 742	Appropriates funding to the Department of Health to provide grants to emergency medical technician and paramedic training programs and concerns measures during and after the outbreak of COVID-19 in Vermont to support health care providers and services; to expand health insurance coverage related to COVID-19; to modify deductible requirements for all prescriptions drugs and related to other actions taken during a state of emergency.	Enacted
SR 10	Relates to the adoption of an emergency temporary Rule 29A to permit Senate committees to meet and vote electronically as the Rules Committee determines appropriate.	Adopted
SR 11	Relates to temporarily amending the rules of the Senate to include rules regarding remote meeting and voting during Declared Emergencies.	Adopted
SJR 48	Relates to the adoptions of an emergency temporary Joint Rule 22A to permit any joint committees of the Vermont Legislatures to meet and vote electronically.	Adopted
SJR 49	Postpones the Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of five Superior Judges and one Environmental Judge.	Adopted
HR 15	Urges that for the duration of the pandemic emergency, the federal government refrain from arresting or detaining individuals based on their immigration status in any healthcare setting and suspend implementation of the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds Rule.	Adopted
HR 16	Declares a state of emergency.	Adopted
HR 17	Allows for committee members to vote remotely during the current declared emergency.	Adopted
HR 18	Allows for remote participation during the current declared emergency.	Adopted