

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

Date	Administration Action	Congressional Action
March 2	The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) took action to make more respirators available to health care personnel. The FDA granted the CDC's request for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to allow health care personnel to use certain industrial respirators during the COVID-19 outbreak in health care settings.	
March 4		The House passed H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act 415-2 .
March 5	The EPA released a list of EPA-registered disinfectant products that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.	The Senate passed H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act 96-1 .
March 9	<p>The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published "Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19" to help companies respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace.</p> <p>The EPA notified registrants of disinfectants that due to the outbreak, the agency is expediting the review of submissions from companies requesting to add Emerging Viral Pathogens claims to their already-registered surface disinfectant labels.</p>	
March 10	The FDA postponed most foreign inspections through April. Inspections outside the U.S. deemed mission-critical will still be considered on a case-by-case basis.	
March 11	<p>President Trump signed a Proclamation to suspend the entry of most foreign nationals who have been in certain European countries (those in the Schengen Area) at any point during the 14 days prior to their scheduled arrival to the United States.</p> <p>The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) temporarily waived minimum slot-use requirements at US airports to help airlines that cancel flights due to the coronavirus (expires May 31).</p>	
March 12	<p>The Department of Labor announced new guidance outlining flexibilities that states have in administering their unemployment insurance (UI) programs to assist Americans affected by the outbreak.</p> <p>The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) announced relief provisions for exporters and financial institutions affected by the pandemic.</p>	

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

	<p>The Small Business Administration (SBA) announced disaster assistance loans for small businesses impacted by coronavirus. SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance for a small business.</p>	
<p>March 13</p>	<p>President Trump declared a national emergency and invoked the Stafford Act. 85 Fed. Reg. 15337 (Mar. 18, 2020)</p> <p>The President signed a Memorandum on Expanding State-Approved Diagnostic Tests directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to facilitate state requests for flexibility to authorize laboratories to develop and perform tests used to detect COVID-19.</p> <p>The Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) waived certain hours of service regulations for commercial drivers transporting emergency supplies.</p> <p>The Department of Homeland Security issued a Notice of Arrival Restrictions outlining the process for American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are returning home after recently visiting certain European countries, China, and Iran.</p> <p>Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai issued a Keep Americans Connected Pledge under which telephone and broadband providers agree that for the next 60 days they will: (1) not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of inability to pay bills due to disruptions caused by the pandemic; (2) waive any late fees incurred as a result of economic circumstances related to the pandemic; and (3) open Wi-Fi hotspots to any American in need.</p> <p>The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced expanded eligibility of federal assistance is available under FTA's Emergency Relief Program to help transit agencies respond to the coronavirus in states where the Governor has declared an emergency.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an expanded list of EPA-registered disinfectant products that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.</p>	
<p>March 14</p>	<p>The President issued Proclamation 9996, Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 201 Novel Coronavirus.</p>	<p>The House passed H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act 363-40, 1 present.</p>

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

	<p>The Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued new temporary guidance regarding the enforcement of OSHA’s Respiratory Protection standard aimed at ensuring healthcare workers have full access to needed N95 respiratory protection in light of anticipated shortages.</p>	
<p>March 16</p>	<p>The White House released The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America: 15 Days to Slow the Spread.</p> <p>The Department of Homeland Security announced that the United Kingdom and Ireland will also be added to the previously announced arrival restrictions that are in effect for the Schengen Area, China, and Iran.</p> <p>The FDA updated a policy originally issued on February 29 on diagnostic testing for coronavirus in order to achieve more rapid testing capacity.</p>	<p>The House passed H. Res. 904, technical corrections to H.R. 6201, by unanimous consent.</p>
<p>March 17</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) took steps to expand access to telehealth services, including expanding Medicare coverage and waiving potential HIPAA penalties.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture announced a collaboration with private sector entities to deliver nearly 1,000,000 meals a week to students in a limited number of rural schools closed due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The FDA took steps to help prevent disruptions in the food supply-chain by issuing a temporary policy for FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) supplier verification onsite audit requirements during the public health emergency.</p> <p>The Federal Reserve Board established a primary dealer credit facility (PDCF) to address illiquidity, mitigate disruptions in funding markets, support smooth market functioning and help facilitate the availability of credit to American workers and businesses.</p> <p>The Federal Reserve Board established a Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF) to provide short-term credit to American businesses.</p> <p>The Small Business Administration (SBA) issued updated criteria on states for requesting disaster assistance loans for small businesses impacted by coronavirus. Under the revised criteria, states or territories are only required to certify that at least five small businesses within the state/territory have suffered substantial economic injury, regardless of where those businesses are located, to qualify for SBA Disaster</p>	<p>Senators Markey, Blumenthal, Whitehouse, and Baldwin wrote to Senate leadership and Appropriations Committee leadership urging including consumer and labor protections in any emergency spending package to help the airline and cruise industries.</p>

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

	<p>Assistance. Further, disaster assistance loans will be available statewide, rather than only within counties identified as disaster areas by a Governor.</p>	
<p>March 18</p>	<p>President Trump signed an Executive Order on Prioritizing and Allocating Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>President Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to address medical equipment shortages. The Act, passed in 1950, is designed for use during war and allows the President to expedite and expand the supply of resources for homeland security, energy, or military purposes.</p> <p>The Administration requested an additional \$45.8 billion in FY20 supplemental funding to address the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>The White House announced a partnership with the Ad Council, major media networks, and digital platforms to effectively communicate accurate and timely information directly to the American people.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) suspended home foreclosures and evictions through the end of April.</p> <p>The Department of Labor announced the availability of up to \$100 million for Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) to help address the workforce-related impacts of the pandemic.</p> <p>The Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) issued a National Interest Exemption memorandum to facilitate response efforts. OFCCP will grant a limited, three-month exemption and waiver from some of the requirements of the laws administered by the agency.</p> <p>In view of the special circumstances in the national interest presented by the novel coronavirus outbreak, OFCCP will grant a limited, three-month exemption and waiver from some of the requirements of the laws administered by the agency.</p> <p>The FDA issued guidance on conducting clinical trials during the pandemic.</p> <p>The Federal Reserve Board established a Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility (MMLF) to provide liquidity to the financial system, smooth functioning of money markets, support the flow of credit to Americans, and help stabilize the broader financial system.</p>	<p>The Senate passed H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act 90-8.</p>

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

<p>March 19</p>	<p>The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued guidelines defining critical workers who should maintain normal working schedules during the pandemic.</p> <p>The State Department issued a Level 4 travel advisory warning Americans against traveling abroad and encouraging Americans already overseas to shelter in place.</p> <p>The Department of Energy (DOE) announced it will fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to its maximum capacity by purchasing 77 million barrels of American-made crude oil and announced a solicitation for the purchase of an initial 30 million barrels to begin filling the SPR. Solicitations for additional purchases will follow.</p>	<p>Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) introduced S. 3548, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a third phase of coronavirus response legislation.</p>
<p>March 20</p>	<p>The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) extended until July 15 the deadline to both file and pay 2019 taxes and estimated tax payments for tax year 2020 that are due on April 15.</p> <p>The Department of Education suspended federal student loan payments and waived interest during the national emergency. All borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow them greater flexibility during the national emergency.</p> <p>The Department of Education announced students impacted by school closures due to the pandemic can bypass standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>The FDA issued a new policy that allows manufacturers of certain FDA-cleared non-invasive, vital sign-measuring devices to expand their use so that health care providers can use them to monitor patients remotely. The devices include those that measure body temperature, respiratory rate, heart rate and blood pressure.</p> <p>The FDA issued two guidance documents to communicate its policy for the temporary manufacture of certain alcohol-based hand sanitizer products.</p> <p>US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) temporarily suspended premium processing for I-129 and I-140 petitions. USCIS will also accept all benefit forms and documents with reproduced original signatures, including the Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker, for submissions dated March 21, 2020, and beyond.</p>	

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

	<p>HHS announced that the CDC will provide \$80 million in funding to tribes, tribal organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations to support coronavirus response efforts.</p> <p>The HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued guidance on telehealth remote communications following its Notification of Enforcement Discretion during the public health emergency.</p> <p>In a memorandum to the Secretary of the Treasury scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on March 25, the President delegated authority to the Secretary for use of the Exchange Stabilization Fund in an aggregate amount of up to \$50 billion.</p>	
<p>March 21</p>	<p>HHS announced additional funding under its Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to support a clinical trial to evaluate Kevzara as a potential treatment for severely ill COVID-19 patients.</p>	
<p>March 22</p>	<p>The President signed a Memorandum on Providing Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19. FEMA and DHS will fund 100% of emergency assistance activities in California, New York, and Washington. The President also approved disaster declarations for all three states.</p> <p>The Department of Justice announced its first enforcement action against COVID-19 fraud.</p>	<p>A Senate procedural vote to advance H.R. 748, the legislative vehicle for S. 3548, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, failed 47-47 (60 vote threshold).</p>
<p>March 23</p>	<p>The White House announced the launch of the COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium to provide researchers worldwide with access to high performance computing resources to advance the pace of scientific discovery to stop the spread of coronavirus.</p> <p>President Trump signed an Executive Order on Preventing Hoarding of Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19, delegating to the Secretary of Health and Human Services authority to prevent hoarding of certain resources and to implement any restrictions on hoarding.</p> <p>The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced an enhanced inspection process for healthcare facilities to assess whether or not they are prepared to meet CMS expectations for preventing the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>The Small Business Administration (SBA) announced existing SBA disaster loan payments will be deferred through the end of 2020.</p>	<p>A second Senate procedural vote to advance H.R. 748, the legislative vehicle for S. 3548, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, failed 49-46 (60 vote threshold).</p> <p>House Democrats introduced their own third phase of coronavirus response legislation, H.R. 6379, the Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act.</p>

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

	<p>The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved an additional 11 state Medicaid waiver requests to provide flexibility to focus resources on combatting coronavirus. 13 such waivers have been approved.</p> <p>President Trump approved disaster declarations for Iowa and Louisiana to make funding available to state, tribal, and local governments and certain nonprofits to respond to the pandemic.</p>	
<p>March 24</p>	<p>The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in a Federal Register notice scheduled to be published on March 25 that it has tentatively decided to extend through October 24 the coronavirus-related limited waiver of the minimum slot usage requirement at JFK, LGA, and DCA airports. The notice also states the FAA has tentatively decided to extend through October 24 its coronavirus-related policy for prioritizing flights canceled at designated International Air Transport Association (IATA) Level 2 airports in the US (ORD, EWR, LAX, SFO). Both policies were originally set to expire on May 31.</p> <p>The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$100 million to over 1,300 health centers with funding provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.</p> <p>HHS announced \$250 million in grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help communities provide meals for older adults as the result of additional funding provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.</p> <p>Food and Drug Administration (FDA) provided instructions to manufacturers to increase US supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and devices.</p> <p>The FDA announced it will temporarily not enforce certain requirements to facilitate more opportunities for veterinarians to utilize telemedicine during the pandemic.</p>	
<p>March 25</p>	<p>President Trump approved disaster declarations for Texas and Florida to make funding available to state, tribal, and local governments and certain nonprofits to respond to the pandemic.</p> <p>In accordance with the President’s recent Executive Order to prevent hoarding of health and medical resources, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar announced a list of certain supplies subject to hoarding prevention measures.</p>	<p>Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced that they reached an agreement on the CARES Act, the third phase of coronavirus response legislation. It passed 96-0.</p>
<p>March 26</p>	<p>President Trump approved disaster declarations for New Jersey and Illinois to make funding available to state, tribal, and local governments and certain nonprofits to respond to the pandemic.</p>	

Federal Coronavirus Response Timeline

March 27		The House is expected to pass the CARES Act by voice vote.
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