

ADSO Government Affairs COVID-19 Information Update for March 20, 2020

We wish to highlight the ADA's call to action that was distributed earlier today. That call to action may be found [here](#) and is included within the report below.

As the US Senate works towards another stimulus package this afternoon and evening it would be good to have voices heard to ensure dentists and dentistry are not forgotten and begin to be placed in the forefront with other healthcare providers undergoing similar distress in their practices. Please look at the call to action and see if it would ultimately benefit your supported offices and businesses. Although some of the relief references small businesses, with 50 or fewer employees, many of the other provisions could help dental offices get through the current crisis. If you believe this call to action could help please feel free to forward it on to your supported and affiliated offices. We have also included the ADA's COVID Coding and Billing Guidance which was distributed earlier today.

STATE DENTAL BOARD / STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Please be advised, the States of [Alabama](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Colorado](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi](#), [Ohio](#), [Oregon](#), and [Washington](#) are prohibiting non-essential and non-emergent surgeries or procedures. A listing of all relevant Dental Board and Dental Association updates are contained within the report below.

) <https://publish.smartsheet.com/e4b57ce90a4c4474b7f1e59468ca48fa>

We also wish to highlight that the States of [California](#), [Illinois](#), and [New York](#) have issued modified shelter in place orders. Effectively, these orders direct that essential services such as gas stations, pharmacies, grocery stores, banks, and laundromats will remain open. Similarly, the order close restaurants, bars, nightclubs, entertainment venues, gyms, public gatherings, and convention centers.

STATE AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE INFORMATION

The following dashboard provides up-to-date information relating individual states and select municipal governments response to the COVID-19 National Emergency. The spreadsheet includes links to relevant Health Department COVID-19 websites, key contacts, relevant state of emergency documents, Executive Orders, legislative session changes, travel restrictions, and official sources. The spreadsheet also designates new information by highlighting that information and includes information as to when the data was last updated.

) [State and Local COVID-19 Response Information](#)

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

) Accessing State Unemployment Benefits:
<https://publish.smartsheet.com/dd12197b6dcd40228ffaef3e94669ef4>

FEDERAL INFORMATION

-) Attached is document from our federal consultants outlining federal activity today. (Coronavirus Update 032020.pdf).

United State Congress

There are now two competing proposals for the next federal stimulus package. The first, Senator McConnell's [US S 3548](#) is hyperlinked with an analysis attached to this document. The Democrats' response is attached above as the Save America's Main Street Act of 2020; a brief analysis of that package is available [here](#).

NATIONAL INFORMATION

American Dental Association

-) ADA Call to Action
<https://actioncenter.ada.org/urge-your-members-of-congress-to-include-dentistry-in-relief-packages/>
-) ADA to Congress: Include Dentist, Patients in Coronavirus Legislation
<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/march/ada-asks-congress-to-include-dentists-and-patients-in-coronavirus-legislation>
-) [ADA Calls on Dentists to Postpone Elective Procedures](#)
<https://www.ada.org/en/press-room/news-releases/2020-archives/march/ada-calls-upon-dentists-to-postpone-elective-procedures>

National Governors Association

-) [COVID-19: What you Need to Know](#) This website includes a live tracker (powered by John Hopkins) of all cases reported to CDC. Also, state resource pages are listed and updated regularly.

United States Chamber of Commerce

-) [COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#)

FISCAL NOTE – State Legislative COVID-19 Initiatives

At present, the ADSO is currently tracking 194 legislative initiatives across 25 states, the District of Columbia and the United States Congress.

A report listing all COVID-19 legislation is available here: [COVID-19 Legislation \(March 20, 2020\)](#). A list of all relevant legislation that appears to have a very high chance of receiving executive approval is listed below.

We also wanted to highlight all of the COVID-19 legislation that has received executive branch approval; that report is available here: [COVID-19 Enacted Legislation \(March 20, 2020\)](#).

Finally, Fiscal Note has prepared its own update and resource center: [Fiscal Note Coronavirus Updates & Resource Center](#). Their resource center provides a very high level view of events transpiring in the United States and with the federal government's approach to handling COVID-19.

Relevant Pending Legislation:

[AZ SB 1690](#) Establishes the Crisis Contingency and Safety Net Fund and permits the fund to be discharged by the Governor in a state of emergency for (1) Housing Assistance, (2) to secure services for the Homeless, (3) Economic Assistance for small business with less than 50 employees, and (4) Food Bank Operations,

[AZ SB 1694](#) Permits the department of economic security to implement alternative benefit eligibility and employer contribution requirements for the federal-state unemployment insurance program established pursuant to title, consistent with the federal guidance issued by the United States department of labor through unemployment insurance program letter number 10-20, for individuals and employers who are affected by a declaration of emergency related to the coronavirus disease 2019. The department may adopt rules necessary to administer this section.

[US S 3548](#) Senate McConnell's proposed legislation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). The analysis is lengthy and for the sake of brevity is attached to this report as "CARES Act Analysis".

The Senate Democrats have also release initial drafts of their most recent economic bailout plan. That bill is attached as "Save America's Main Street Act of 2020". A brief analysis of the proposal is available [here](#).

Relevant Enacted Legislation:

[MD HB 1663](#): Authorizes the Governor for the duration of the emergency to:

- Prohibit cost-sharing by carriers for testing;
- Order Dept. of Health to cover the cost of testing if costs are not otherwise paid for by a carrier or third party;
- Require carriers and Medical Assistance Program to cover the cost of immunization for COVID-19;
- Waive telehealth protocols;
- Order Dept. of Health to reimburse telehealth services provided to a patient if covered under Medical Assistance Program, providing by a participating health care provider, and authorized under the provider's scope;
- Prohibit retailers from increasing the sale or rental price of a good or service to a price that increases his profit by more than 10% for food, fuel, water and ice, medicine, medical supplies and equipment, cleaning products, building supplies and equipment, energy sources, and storage space;
- Prohibit any employer from terminating an employee solely on the basis that the employee has been required to be isolated or quarantined; and
- Order the Dept. of Health to authorize an alternative workweek for an employee of a health facility owned by the Dept. and open 24/7 and who is subject to the MOU with the American Federation of Teachers.

If Governor orders an alternative workweek, it may allow an employee to work hours or shifts not typical for State employees and work less than 40 hours per week. An employee authorized to work an alternative workweek shall be considered a full-time State employee and entitled to overtime compensation.

Authorizes the Secretary of Labor to determine that an individual is eligible for unemployment benefits if:

- the individual's employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work;
- the individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; or
- the individual leaves employment due to the risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member due to the virus.

[MD SB 1080:](#) Authorizes the Governor to take certain actions in a state of emergency, including prohibiting cost-sharing by carriers for disease testing, immunization and any associated costs; retailers from increasing the sale or rental price of any good or service by more than 10%; and employers from terminating quarantined or isolated employees

[SC H 4014:](#) From the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Contingency Reserve Fund, there is appropriated \$45,000,000 to the Executive Budget Office for use by the Department of Health and Environmental Control for the coordination of the state's public health preparedness and response to the COVID-19 virus.

Should you have any questions or comments, your ADSO Government Relations team is available at your convenience

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