
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 26, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

COVID-19 — WYOMING — 3/23/2020

Wyoming Legislature. The Wyoming Legislature's session is limited to no more than 40 days and had already adjourned session March 12, 2020, before the first COVID-19 case was reported in the state. On March 17, 2020, Governor Mark Gordon announced the creation of five task forces to coordinate COVID-19 responses across the state. The task forces include the areas of health, state services and operations, business and the financial sector, transportation and infrastructure, and education.

Statewide Public Health Order. On March 19, 2020, Governor Gordon issued a statewide public health [order](#) closing bars, restaurants, theaters, gymnasiums, child care facilities, K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools. The order included the following:

- Child care centers or home day cares that provide care for children of essential personnel may continue to operate; however, fewer than 10 people may be in a room or together at any time.
- All K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools are dismissed until at least April 3, 2020. Administrative staff and teachers may continue to work to facilitate distance learning. Food may be prepared to be available to students. Classes may be offered online at the discretion of each school.

Energy Companies. Wyoming is ranked as the top producer of coal and ranked eighth for oil and natural gas production. Recent falling oil prices had already put pressure on the state's economy. One oil producer estimated their average break-even point to be approximately \$59 per barrel; current market prices are averaging below \$30 per barrel. With deflated oil revenues as well as drops in natural gas and coal exceeding earlier projections by the state's Consensus Revenue Estimating Group, the state may need to consider cutting spending in the next budget cycle to avoid dipping further into the state's Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account.

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases. As of March 23, 2020, there are 26 confirmed cases in Wyoming and confirmed presence of community spread.

LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

Doc ID 1133513