
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 27, 2020



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PUERTO RICO — COVID-19 — 3/27/2020

State of Emergency. Puerto Rico Governor Wanda Vázquez declared a State of Emergency¹ in Puerto Rico on March 12, 2020, for suspected cases of COVID-19 on the island. On March 13, 2020, Puerto Rico confirmed its first three cases. Governor Vázquez limited access to the island from cruises and ferries and directed the Puerto Rico National Guard to implement screenings at airports.²

Emergency Funding. On March 23, Governor Vázquez presented a \$787.0 million package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.³ The package was approved by the Puerto Rico Fiscal Control Board established by the United States Congress in 2016 to oversee Puerto Rico finances. The package includes funding of bonuses for emergency workers, as well as \$250.0 million for schools to accommodate virtual learning.

Closures. On March 15, Governor Vázquez closed business and government operations deemed nonessential and established curfews for residents on the island through March 30, 2020.⁴ As of March 27, 2020, schools are also closed.⁵

Cases. As of March 27, 2020, there are 79 confirmed cases and 3 confirmed deaths from COVID-19 in Puerto Rico. The first two deaths were tourists from Italy and New York.⁶

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¹ [Government of Puerto Rico, OE-2020-020](#)

² [Governor Declares State of Emergency](#)

³ [Press Release](#)

⁴ [Government of Puerto Rico, OE-2020-023](#)

⁵ [Coronavirus Case](#)

⁶ [Puerto Rico Death](#)