
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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COVID-19 — WASHINGTON, DC — 3/23/2020

Council of the District of Columbia. On March 17, 2020, the Council of the District of Columbia passed a [Bill](#) addressing the COVID-19 outbreak. The Bill does the following:

- Extends unemployment compensation to those unemployed due to COVID-19.
- Prohibits evictions of residential and commercial tenants as well as prohibiting late fees.
- Prohibits utility shutoffs for nonpayment.
- Extends public benefit programs such as the D.C. Healthcare Alliance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Creates a small business grant program to assist nonprofit organizations and small contractors that do not qualify for unemployment insurance.
- Places limits on price gouging and stockpiling.
- Allows for delivery and carry-out sales of beer and wine by restaurants, if sold along with prepared food (pending written restaurant-by-restaurant approval by the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration).
- Delays retail sales tax payments to the government by stores, restaurants, and other businesses.
- Extends deadlines/expiration dates of corporate tax filings, driver's licenses, professional licenses, etc.
- Allows the Council to meet virtually.
- Provides meeting flexibility to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs), boards, and commissions.
- Allows flexibility in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and open meetings.
- Delays the submission date for the mayor's budget to May 6.

Related Information. Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19 on March 11, 2020. The mayor has outlined numerous findings and measures similar to other states, including closing schools, activating an emergency operations center, urging social distancing, and allowing employees who are able to work from home. A complete list of actions are available in Orders 2020-[045](#) and 2020-[046](#). All resources related to COVID-19 in Washington, D.C., can be found at coronavirus.dc.gov.

Cases. As of March 22, 2020, there were 116 cases of COVID-19 in Washington, D.C.

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