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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 30, 2020



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### OKLAHOMA — COVID-19 — 3/27/2020

As of March 27, 2020, the state of Oklahoma has reported 322 confirmed in-state cases of the COVID-19 virus and 8 deaths from the virus.<sup>1</sup>

#### Summary of Oklahoma's Actions in Response to COVID-19.

- Allowed the laboratories at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma to perform COVID-19 testing to triple the state's testing capacity once the labs are able to fully come online with resources. The state also entered into a public-private partnership with the Diagnostic Laboratory of Oklahoma to expand COVID-19 testing capacity.
- Implemented statewide reporting requirements to collect data on hospital bed capacity, equipment supplies, and COVID-19 testing capacity.
- Suspended regulations on telemedicine to ease capabilities for state residents to receive medical support from a doctor without leaving home.
- Established expedited process for nurses with inactive licenses to get recertified.
- Suspended various regulations on truck drivers and commercial vehicles for transporting medical supplies and other critical items across state lines.
- Temporarily extended licensing reciprocity for health care professionals who hold licenses to practice in other states.
- Deferred state income tax payments until July 15, 2020, without late fees or interest.
- Suspended the one-week waiting period before unemployment benefits can be paid.
- Received approval for the state request for disaster loans for small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This will allow businesses and nonprofit groups to apply for up to \$2.0 million in loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program.
- Extended expiration dates for all occupational licenses issued by any state agency, board, or commission during Oklahoma's declared state of emergency period.
- Established stronger guidelines for child care facilities to prevent and respond to a COVID-19 positive case.
- Delayed the expiration on driver's licenses issued by the state of Oklahoma until further notified.
- Closed all accredited pre-K-12 public schools until April 6, 2020, and suspended academic assessments and the Oklahoma school report cards for the 2019-2020 school year.
- On March 24, 2020, Governor Kevin Stitt issued an [Executive Order](#) that:
  - Enforces a statewide order requesting elderly and individuals who are immunocompromised or have preexisting conditions to shelter in their homes, leaving only for essential needs like groceries or prescriptions, until April 30.

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<sup>1</sup> [Oklahoma State Department of Health Website](#)

- Closes nonessential businesses that are in Oklahoma counties with confirmed cases of COVID-19.
  - Businesses explicitly listed include: hair salons, gyms, theaters, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, museums, etc.
  - Restaurants may remain open in these counties but must close their dine-in area, offering instead curbside pickup and delivery.
  - Businesses were to come into compliance by midnight March 25.
  - This is applicable to 19 counties.
- Suspends elective surgeries, minor medical procedures, and nonemergency dental procedures beginning March 25 for the next two weeks to preserve medical supplies for COVID-19 response.
- Prohibits gatherings of 10 or more individuals.
- Restricts visitors at nursing homes, retirement homes, or long-term care facilities.

LSA Staff Contact: Dave Reynolds (515.281.6934) [dave.reynolds@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:dave.reynolds@legis.iowa.gov)

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