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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### COVID-19 — KENTUCKY — 03/24/2020

As of March 23, 2020, the state of Kentucky has 124 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus and three reported deaths. According to [news](#) reports and the governor's [website](#), Governor Andy Beshear has taken the following actions in response to the COVID-19 virus:

- Signed an [Executive Order](#) declaring a state of emergency in response to the virus.
- Established a central [website](#) and hotline for Kentucky COVID-19 information.
- Issued an [Executive Order](#) to prohibit price gouging.
- Adjusted state government sick leave policies.
- Issued an [Executive Order](#) to waive copays, deductibles, cost sharing, and diagnostic testing fees for private insurance and state employees.
- Initiated changes to Medicaid, including eliminating prior authorization and any fees associated with testing or treatment for the coronavirus.
- Limited visits to nursing homes and closed all state prisons to visitors.
- Suspended out-of-state travel for state employees.
- Directed that [Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance](#) will provide wage replacement benefits for first responders and medical personnel who have been quarantined for COVID-19 as a result of their increased risk of exposure in the course of their work.
- Issued an [Executive Order](#) to close all restaurants and bars to in-person traffic. Exceptions are allowed for drive-through, delivery, and takeout.
- Waived the waiting period for unemployment for persons who lose their jobs due to coronavirus, and waived any work search requirements while the state of emergency is in effect.
- Asked child care centers to close, with some exceptions in the policy for health care workers and on-site employers.
- Delayed the primary election by the 35 days allowed under state law. The election is now scheduled for June 23, 2020.
- Made Medicaid program changes so that any person who is now unemployed and has lost benefits can immediately apply for Medicaid.
- [Recommended](#) Kentucky schools cease in-person instruction until at least April 20.
- Issued an order, through the [Department of Public Health](#), prohibiting all mass gatherings.
- Delayed tax filing deadlines by three months, from April 15 to July 15.
- Announced that all in-person retail businesses that are not life-sustaining will close effective Monday, March 23, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.
- Issued an [Executive Order](#) to cease all elective medical procedures.

The Kentucky Derby, originally scheduled for May 2, 2020, has been moved to September 5, 2020. The Kentucky House and Senate remain in session. The session is scheduled to end April 15.

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