COVID-19 — COLORADO — 3/24/20

Colorado Legislature. On March 13, 2020, the Colorado legislature temporarily adjourned until March 30, 2020. The state constitution requires that the legislative session conclude May 6. Prior to adjournment, the legislature passed HJR 1006, asking the Colorado supreme court to determine whether the session may continue past that date in light of the adjournment.

Governor’s Actions. On March 11, Governor Jared Polis declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19. The statement included activating the National Guard and encumbering $4.0 million from the state’s Disaster Emergency Fund for COVID-19 response efforts. Since then, the governor has issued a series of executive orders, highlighted as follows:

• Closure of food and beverage establishments to on-premises service, as well as closing gyms, casinos, theaters and other entertainment facilities, and cigar bars.
• Closure of downhill ski resorts.
• Directing the state’s political parties and the secretary of state to amend rules to permit the 2020 primary election to proceed without interruption.
• Closure of P-12 schools and related provisions.
• Ordering the temporary cessation of all elective and nonessential surgeries and procedures to preserve personal protective equipment and ventilators.
• Extending tax payment deadlines.
• Limiting evictions, foreclosures, and public utility disconnections.
• Ordering Colorado employers to reduce the in-person workforce by 50.0%.

COVID-19 Cases. As of March 23, Colorado has 720 cases of COVID-19 in 31 counties, with 72 persons hospitalized and 7 deaths. A total of 6,224 persons have been tested. There have been 5 outbreaks at residential and nonhospital health care facilities.

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