
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 26, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

COVID-19 — MISSISSIPPI — 3/25/2020

Mississippi Legislature. On March 17, 2020, the Mississippi legislature suspended the 2020 session until at least April 1. Prior to adjournment, the legislature adopted [HB 1647](#), authorizing local governmental entities and local school districts to grant administrative leave with pay to the employees of those local governmental entities and local school districts in the event of certain disasters or emergencies.

Governor's Actions. On March 14, Governor Tate Reeves declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19. Since that time, the governor has issued several executive orders in regard to the following:

- Requiring employees with duties deemed nonessential, as well as essential staff where possible, to work from home.
- Requiring school districts, where feasible, to provide free and reduced-price meals to eligible students with appropriate social distancing.
- Authorizing state agencies to grant employees administrative leave with pay if the employer has closed or has deemed the employee's duties nonessential; if the employee or immediate family member is in quarantine, and for other reasons necessary to prevent transmission of COVID-19.
- Activating the Mississippi National Guard to support mobile testing units.
- Closing public schools through April 17, 2020.
- Rescheduling the March 31 Republican primary runoff election for the Second Congressional District to June 23, 2020.
- Waiving certain rules to expedite the processing of unemployment claims.
- Extending tax deadlines.

COVID-19 Cases. As of March 24, Mississippi has 377 COVID-19 cases, with all counties reporting at least 1 case. The state has reported 2 deaths as a result of the virus.

LSA Staff Contact: Robin Madison (515.281.5270) robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov

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