
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 30, 2020



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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS — COVID-19 — 3/27/2020

Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the legislative session has been suspended as of March 16, 2020.

Executive Actions. Governor Ralph Torres and executive branch officials have taken the following actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak:

- January 29 — Governor Torres issued an Executive Order suspending travel from mainland China.
- March 11 — Governor Torres created a COVID-19 Task Force, bringing together key departments, agencies, and stakeholders, to focus on three major concerns: tourism, residents, and schools.
- March 23 — The Commissioner of Education announced the suspending of classes for the remainder of the school year. Instructional services will be performed online.
- March 24 — Governor Torres implemented a continued state of emergency and public health emergency, followed by an Enhanced Social Distancing Directive limiting businesses' operating hours, prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people, and closing all parks in the territory. The commonwealth also has a price freeze in effect to protect consumers.
- March 24 — Governor Torres announced the Office of the Interior has awarded the territory a total of \$367,000 for personal protective equipment and hygienic supplies for first responders.
- March 24 — Governor Torres added Directive 14 to the second amended Executive Order 2020-04 to limit public gatherings.
- March 25 — Governor Torres announced the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) will be offering a payment deferment or due date extension for residential customers.
- March 25 — The State Medicaid Agency announced all Medicaid beneficiaries will receive an automatic renewal extension for one month after expiration of coverage to avoid any disruption in medical care.

Cases. There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Northern Mariana Islands as of March 27, 2020.

Sources

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Health
National Governors Association
National Conference of State Legislatures

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