

Coronavirus Resource Document
Updated Daily
Last Update: 4/2/20

COVID-19 Related News Resources:

- **ACEC Government Affairs Update Podcast** for 4-2-20: <https://www.podbean.com/eu/pb-yfd2h-d80342>
- **Pelosi sees leverage for 4th stimulus bill with states' requests**
April 2, 2020 – 2:47 p.m. By Lindsey McPherson, CQ
As Democrats continue to push for a fourth coronavirus response bill that Republicans aren't yet convinced is needed, Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) thinks she has some leverage with states requesting more federal assistance.

"We haven't thought big enough because we still have these needs for state and local governments," the California Democrat said on a conference call with reporters Thursday. "And that's probably the biggest leverage we have to get another bill - Democrats and Republicans, mayors and governors, insisting that the need is there."

Pelosi said governors in both parties are backing calls Democratic lawmakers have been making for President Donald Trump to use the Defense Production Act to require companies to manufacture ventilators and personal protective equipment for medical workers to distribute across the country.

"They've been a strong force and hopefully will help us make the case for another bill," she said. So far, Republicans in Congress and the administration aren't convinced on the need for a fourth bill and have said they want to see the third package ([PL 116-136](#)) - which contains more than \$2 trillion in assistance to states, hospitals, businesses, individuals and families - implemented before considering additional legislation.

But funds provided in the third package - particularly the \$150 billion for states - could quickly run dry. Pelosi hopes that states needing more funds will push their representatives and help build enough support for a fourth package.

But in the meantime, House Democrats are forging ahead in drafting the legislation to fit their vision of what is needed.

"We'll be putting together our bill," Pelosi said. "I hope we can do it together. I'm always a big advocate of the four corners approach, House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans. . . . But we will be writing our bill on the basis of what we're hearing from state and local, what we're hearing from hospitals, what we know from what we wanted to do."

Democrats' interest in carrying over ideas that were rejected in previous bills is among the reasons Republicans are skeptical of a fourth phase of relief.

The rejected proposals Pelosi and her caucus are pushing include emergency worker regulations for first responders, expanded paid family and medical leave, a 15 percent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding, money for pensions and a federal mandate with funding for states to set up vote by mail for the presidential election.

Another idea Democrats are floating is to use a fourth legislative package as a vehicle for a massive infrastructure spending package. Republicans seem open to the idea, with Trump earlier this week endorsing infrastructure funding as a means to stimulate the economy. But the parties are still far from being on the same page about what a package would like and how or whether it should be paid for.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Ways and Means Chairman [Richard E. Neal](#), D-Mass., had started discussions about an infrastructure package before the pandemic but are accelerating their negotiations in light of the interest in moving something more quickly, Pelosi said.

The speaker said she spoke to Mnuchin on Wednesday evening, mostly about implementation of the phase three legislation but also her interest in a phase four.

She said one of the things Democrats are trying to work with the administration on is providing more resources to state agencies in charge of administering unemployment insurance. The phase three legislation provided for a temporary benefit expansion of \$600 per week on top of what states already pay to unemployed workers.

"Should we again do the \$600?" Pelosi said. "I certainly think so, so that the people have the purchasing power to meet their needs but also spend it, inject demand into the economy."

Pelosi said hospitals will also need more money in the fourth bill because they're not bringing in revenue from elective surgeries.

"These hospitals are hemorrhaging money because they don't have it. . . . The hospital piece of it is very big," she said.

The topic of dispersing the phase three funding for hospitals came up in a conversation Pelosi had with Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on Wednesday.

"My guidance to him, since he asked for my advice, was spend it," Pelosi said. "Don't hoard it, spend it. Get it out there. We will get you more money as the need demands, but spend the money."

Pelosi has said her caucus would work expeditiously to draft a fourth bill but she doesn't envision a bipartisan bill being ready for at least a few weeks since the House and Senate are both in extended district work periods.

She said "it's obvious what is necessary to be done" and she hopes Republicans don't let politics get in the way of the facts. "Whether some in Washington realize it or not, this virus is taking its toll very quickly and we need to be in front of it, rather than behind it," Pelosi said.

- **ENR on 4-2-20: Construction Eyes an Expected New Stimulus Bill**

The newly enacted \$2-trillion stimulus package to ease the impact of the coronavirus outbreak has benefits for engineering and construction firms—and their client companies—through provisions for small-business loans and tax breaks, plus some funding. But industry officials also are focusing on a likely follow-up measure, and they hope that it will be a vehicle for an infusion of funds for highways and other types of infrastructure.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, which President Donald Trump signed March 27, focuses on emergency responses to the pandemic. "I think these provisions and the funding levels reflect that—what do our infrastructure clients need right now to stay operational," says Steve Hall, an American Council of Engineering Companies senior vice president.

Looking ahead, Hall adds, "A broader focus on infrastructure—the kind of focus we would like to see—is really for the next package ... and lawmakers are already starting to talk about that." Even before the bill was signed, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters on March 26, "Next we'll go from emergency mitigation to recovery," with a bill aimed at boosting the economy and creating jobs.

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association and other groups wanted Congress to include a multiyear highway bill in the CARES Act, but they weren't successful. At least not yet. Dean Franks, ARTBA senior vice president for congressional relations, says, "We've been told that we ... should be in play for the next go-around or subsequent phases."

The CARES Act includes \$339.9 billion in appropriations. Of that, ENR estimates, construction could be eligible for more than \$40 billion.

But there's a crucial caveat: In some cases, it will be up to states, localities and other aid recipients to determine how much of the funds will go for operations and how much to construction. The law has \$25 billion for "transit infrastructure grants." But it says funds can be used for transit agencies' "operating expenses related to the response to a coronavirus public health emergency." It also may help offset agencies' lost revenue from recent sharp ridership declines.

The measure has \$10 billion for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants. AIP has traditionally funded runway work and other infrastructure. But the new law says nearly all of the \$10 billion can go for "any purpose for which airport revenues may lawfully be used." That would include non-infrastructure purposes.

Still, Todd Hauptli, CEO at American Association of Airport Executives, says some of the \$10 billion may finance construction. He says the funds "will help keep people at work, avoid

defaults on bonds, allow critical projects to continue and assist with recovery efforts that will be massive over time.”

Projects to add hospital capacity clearly will get CARES Act funds. The measure gives the Defense Dept. \$1.5 billion to expand health facilities and modular field hospitals. Those dollars could triple the current 4,300 beds in military health facilities, a congressional summary says. The new law allots \$606 million for Dept. of Veterans Affairs medical facilities to modify building systems for coronavirus patients. It also has \$150 million in VA grants to states to reconfigure veterans facilities, such as nursing homes.

The statute provides \$5 billion in Housing and Urban Development Dept. community development block grants and \$1.5 billion for Commerce Dept. economic development grants. Historically, infrastructure work has been eligible for both types of grants.

The law’s tax provisions include allowing all employers to increase cash flow by deferring payments to their share of Social Security payroll taxes through Dec. 31. They would have to pay half of the deferred taxes in 2021 and half in 2022.

In another move to boost companies’ cash flow, the package allows any employer to “carry back” operating losses from 2018, 2019 and 2020 to offset taxable income in the previous five years. That should give employers refunds.

The legislation also includes the \$350-billion Paycheck Protection Program, which provides loans of up to \$10 million to companies with 500 or fewer employees. If employers use loan proceeds for payroll, health insurance premiums and certain other expenses, 100% of the loan will be forgiven.

- 4/1/20 from The Hill: [House Democrats push huge jobs project in wake of coronavirus](#)
- 4/1/20 from CBS News: [Democratic National Convention cannot proceed as originally planned](#)
- 3/31/20: [New Podcast is Online](#): A conversation with Anirban Basu on the macroeconomic outlook for the country.
- 3/30/20 on Curbed.com: [How essential is construction during the coronavirus pandemic?](#)
- Subscribe to ACEC’s [Last Word](#) for Regular Updates on Coronavirus Response.
- Bookmark ACEC’s [Coronavirus Resource Center](#) for up-to-the-minute information on ACEC’s actions to respond to the coronavirus.
- State by State Coronavirus Information from the [National Governors Association](#)
- [National Council of State Legislatures](#)
- [Washington Post Live Updates](#)
- [AXIOS Continuous Coverage](#)

Federal Action on Coronavirus:

DOL issued a [temporary rule](#) to implement the emergency paid leave provisions in the FFCRA.

[Fact sheet](#) on COVID-19 and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

[Fact sheet](#) on COVID-19 and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Required poster on emergency paid leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA:)

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- Employee rights [poster](#).
- [Q&A](#) on the poster.
- Today, the IRS released [guidance](#) on the payroll tax credits connected to Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) emergency paid leave, and made available [Form 7200](#) for advance payment of these tax credits. This information and more has been posted to our resource page.
- March 27 – President signs [Memorandum](#) on Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding General Motors Company.
- March 27 – President signs [Executive Order](#) Delegating Additional Authority Under the DPA with Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19.
- March 27 – President signs [Executive Order](#) to Order the Select Reserve and Certain Members of the Individual Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to Active Duty
- March 27, 2020 — The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act was [signed](#) by President Trump.
- March 27, 2020 — The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act was [approved](#) the U.S. House.
- March 26 – Department of Health and Human Services [issues](#) designation of scarce COVID-19 resources subject to hoarding prevention measures.
- March 23, 2020 – The President issued a second Defense Production Act [Executive Order](#): Preventing Hoarding of Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19.
- March 22 – President Trump authorized the use of National Guard under [Title 32, 502\(f\)](#) for California, New York and Washington
- *March 22* – President Trump approved Major Disaster Declarations for [Washington](#) and [California](#)
- *March 20* – President Trump Approves Major Disaster Declaration for [New York](#).
- March 19 – USDA and DOL [Announce](#) Information Sharing to Assist H-2A Employers.
- March 18, 2020 – President Trump [signed](#) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- March 18, 2020 – The U.S. Senate [passed](#) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- March 18 – HUD Provides Immediate Relief For Homeowners Amid Nationwide Coronavirus Response. HUD [announces](#) a suspension of all foreclosure and evictions for the next 60 days.

Global Snapshot from the World Health Organization:¹

Useful link: [COVID-19 Situation Dashboard](#)

Globally²:

- Cases: 1,000,000+
- Deaths: 45,526+

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT: Global Level Very High

¹ All data is drawn from the WHO's COVID-19 daily [Situation Reports](#).

² <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

U.S. COVID-19 Statistics³:

COVID-19 at a Glance in the U.S.:

- Total cases: 234,483+
- Total deaths: 5,708+
- States reporting cases: 50*

List of State Testing Centers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing-in-us.html>

Regional COVID-19 Statistics:

COVID-19 Cases in DC:⁴

- Number of people tested overall: 5,070
- Number of positives: 653
- Number of Deaths: 12
- Number of People who have Recovered: 173

Current DC Health Advisory (as of March 20th)

March 30th [Stay at Home Order](#)

COVID-19 Cases in Maryland:⁵

- Number of positive COVID-19 tests: 2,331

COVID-19 Cases in Virginia:⁶

- Total tests conducted: 17,589
- Cases of COVID-19: 1,706
- Hospitalized: 246
- Deaths: 41

**Data include both confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 reported to CDC or tested at CDC since January 21, 2020, with the exception of testing results for persons repatriated to the United States from Wuhan, China and Japan. State and local public health departments are now testing and publicly reporting their cases. In the event of a discrepancy between CDC cases and cases reported by state and local public health officials, data reported by states should be considered the most up to date.*

Conventions and Event Status for Groups and Associations:

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

⁴ <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/coronavirus-data>

⁵ <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

⁶ <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

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For an updated list of events visit:

<https://www.northstarmetingsgroup.com/News/Industry/coronavirus-meetings-Postponements-Cancellations-COVID-19>

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