

COVID – 19 Update

April 17, 2020



National Update

- The White House released guidelines for [Opening Up America Again](#). The guidelines recommend that states document a “downward trajectory” in cases of COVID-19 and flu-like illnesses before relaxing stay-at-home orders. States could then proceed into a three-phase reopening process, according to the guidelines. The guidelines recommend that employers develop and implement social distancing practices, temperature checks at workplaces, testing for the virus, and increased sanitation and use of disinfection. The President said today that governors could begin reopening businesses, restaurants, and other elements of daily life by May 1st or earlier.
- Early research on underlying health conditions associated with COVID-19 is indicating that asthma is not one of the most important risk factors as originally predicted. Obesity, however, appears to be one of the most important predictors of severe illness. Data released this month by New York State shows that only about five percent of COVID-19 deaths in New York were of people who were known to have asthma.
- Weekly jobless claims and first time claims for unemployment insurance totaled 5.245 million, a decrease of 1.37 million from last week. Over 22 million Americans have filed for unemployment in the last four weeks. A Federal Reserve Bank president has predicted that quarterly unemployment could hit 30 percent, which would spiral 15.4 percent of Americans into poverty for the year.
- The stock market saw a small boost yesterday, led for the most part by the tech industry. The Dow and S&P 500 both closed with posted increases, though neither gained a full percent. Netflix and Amazon each saw increases of more than 2.5 percent.
- Americans can track the status of their stimulus payments and provide their bank-account information to get their money

faster via direct deposit on a new [IRS website](#).

- Out of the COVID-19 cases under investigation detected by U.S. surveillance, there are total cases: 632,548 and 31,071 deaths. Worldwide, there have been more than 2 million confirmed cases worldwide, with more than 147,000 deaths

MS Update

- Governor Tate Reeves is extending the shelter-in-place order for Mississippi by seven days. The order now will expire on April 27th. Non-essential businesses will be able to do curbside and delivery sales. This includes clothing stores, gift shops, and florists. Lakes and beaches can reopen. The official order is here [Executive Order 1473](#).
- Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the State of Mississippi’s Health Officer, announced 169 new cases of coronavirus. He also said there have been 11 new deaths in Mississippi from the virus.
- Mississippi’s total coronavirus cases are at 3,793 with 140 deaths.
- Earlier this week, the Mississippi Cornerstone Government Affairs team hosted a COVID-19 update with several CGA experts participating on the call. Speakers discussed agriculture, healthcare, hospitals, energy, and future stimulus packages. Mississippi’s economy also was discussed. The recording is listed here and begins at 10:15. [Cornerstone Mississippi Team COVID-19 Call](#)

stay safe!