

COVID-19

NEWS UPDATES 03/20/20

Senate GOP “phase 3” coronavirus bill includes checks up to \$1,200 for most Americans

Source: CBS News

Publication: 3/20/20, 2:31 PM

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has introduced emergency stimulus legislation to address the economic fallout from the [coronavirus outbreak](#), the third phase of the legislative response to the pandemic that has killed thousands around the world and tanked financial markets.

The [“phase three” bill](#) unveiled by Senate Republicans on Thursday includes rebates of \$1,200 for most individuals who reported less than \$75,000 on their 2018 tax returns, or \$2,400 per couple who filed their taxes jointly and made less than \$150,000. Another \$500 would be added for every dependent child. Low-income Americans with at least \$2,500 of qualified income, but who do not earn enough to pay income tax, get a smaller benefit of \$600, or \$1,200 for couples.

Continue reading [here](#).

Read the full text of the CARES Act [here](#).

Education Dept. makes changes to standardized tests, student loans over coronavirus

Source: NPR

Publication: 3/20/20, 1:38 PM

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Education announced new K-12 and higher education policies in response to disruptions caused by the coronavirus. In K-12, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos [announced the department will waive standardized test](#) requirements for states affected by the virus. States must apply for the exemption, and [many have already begun to do so](#). "Neither students nor teachers need to be focused on high-stakes tests during this difficult time," DeVos said in a statement. "Students are simply too unlikely to be able to perform their best in this environment."

Under federal law, states are required to test students each year in core subjects in grades three through eight, plus once during high school. These tests typically take place in the spring. Although [most states](#) have moved to computer-based testing, this announcement is a recognition of the reality that schools are shut down and education has been interrupted [for most students nationwide](#).

Continue reading [here](#).

Read the press release from the Education Department [here](#).

IRS pushes tax date to July 15, same as payment deadline

Source: Bloomberg

Publication:3/20/20, 10:20 AM

Tax forms and payments won't be due to the Internal Revenue Service until July 15 this year, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a tweet, as the government looks for ways to respond to the coronavirus. "We are moving Tax Day from April 15 to July 15," Mnuchin said. "All taxpayers and businesses will have this additional time to file and make payments without interest or penalties."

The announcement follows an earlier decision to delay the payment deadline, but not the filing deadline, in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Tax professionals and lawmakers from both parties have said it could confuse taxpayers to have forms and payments due on separate days.

Continue reading [here](#).

General Resources

[The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America - 15 Days to Slow the Spread](#)

[Updates on Federal Agencies' Responses to COVID-19](#)

[FEMA Guidance: COVID-19 PAndemic Eligible Emergency Protective Measures](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration - Disaster Loan Assistance](#)

[CDC Resources for Businesses and Employers](#)

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