



FROM:	Bose Public Affairs Group
DATE:	April 24, 2020
RE:	Weekly State Government COVID-19 Update

BIG PICTURE IN INDIANA

As of Friday, April 24, there are a reported 13,680 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Indiana, up from 10,154 cases this time last week. The Indiana State Department of Health also reports 741 deaths in Indiana, up from 519. Track the latest reporting numbers from ISDH [here](#), which include statistics on demographics, testing, and hospital capacity.

The State reported 641 cases alone on Friday, which is the highest number of new cases reported in a single day since the department began releasing daily reports.

Governor Holcomb and other state officials hold a daily press conference at 2:30 PM ET. To see a summary of each press conference, click [here](#).

EXECUTIVE ORDERS FOR THE WEEK OF 4/20/20

[Executive Order 20-22](#): Extension of directive for Hoosiers to stay at home; continuity of operations of government; and executive orders pertaining to restaurants and alcoholic beverages.

[Executive Order 20-23](#): Additional relief for the business community and additional health directives in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

[Executive Order 20-24](#): Resumption of elective and non-urgent medical procedures.

To see all of the Governor's Executive Orders, click [here](#).



NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Stay-at-home Order Extended to May 1

On Monday, Governor Holcomb revised [Indiana's Stay At Home order](#) to last through May 1. The revised order remains largely the same as previous revisions but now allows hospitals to conduct "medically necessary procedures" if sufficient personal protective equipment is available and other minor changes.

Executive Order Provides Further Guidance for Business Regulatory Issues

In addition to the order extending Indiana's Stay at Home provisions, Governor Holcomb issued [EO 20-23](#) on Thursday, which clarifies regulatory issues many businesses faced. These issues include reinstatement for failure to file with the Indiana Secretary of State, an extension of the deadline to file business personal property tax returns (June 15), and clarity of requirements for obtaining, renewing, or transferring alcoholic beverage permits. For more information, click [here](#).

Elective Procedures Get Green Light

Beginning Monday, April 28, Indiana hospitals can resume elective procedures "so long as they have adopted policies and best practices that protect patients, physicians, and staff against COVID-19" following [EO 20-24](#) issued on Friday. This follows Monday's executive order that allowed hospitals to conduct "medically necessary procedures."

Congress Passes New Stimulus to Replenish PPP, Encourage Testing

President Donald Trump [signed](#) the "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act" on Friday morning that will add \$321 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program in addition to funds allocated to the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and the Economic Injury Grant program. Businesses are **encouraged to act quickly** to take advantage of these programs. The Act, which passed Congress almost unanimously, also allocates \$100 billion for hospitals and a nationwide testing program. For more information or assistance with the relief programs, click [here](#).

Proclamation Suspending Immigration: What You Need to Know

On April 22, President Trump issued an executive order temporarily suspending the entry of foreign nationals seeking to enter the U.S. as permanent residents in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. The Labor and Employment Practice Group of Bose McKinney & Evans has compiled a [guide](#) on what you need to know regarding the order and how employers can help provide peace of mind to foreign national employees.



Indiana Tax Revenue Misses March Projections

As expected, tax revenue in the state came in \$70 million lower than expected in March and state budget officials are preparing for even further losses for the April monthly revenue report. However, the budget is still slightly ahead of estimates for the year. More information on the recent report can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Impact on Indiana Will Last Years – Says Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute

The State, as well as local municipalities, will be affected by today's economic disruption in 2022 and beyond according to the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute. [Read more](#) on how IFPI suggests making tough, smart decisions now in an effort to flatten the "fiscal curve" of the pandemic for state and local governments.

McCormick Provides Update on Indiana Schools

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Jennifer McCormick gave an [update](#) on the K-12 response to the pandemic this week. McCormick expanded on school remote learning plans and the challenges of e-learning, many stemming from inadequate state funding, she claims. The Indiana Department of Education has a [resource page](#) that is updated frequently with a FAQ section, weekly webinars for school leaders, and remote learning resources.

Hoosier Unemployment Claims Declining, But Remain High

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Indiana was seeing fewer than 3,000 unemployment claims per week. Now, last week saw 75,483 Hoosiers make initial unemployment claims, which is down from 113,755 the week before. On Thursday, Department of Workforce Development Commissioner Frederick Payne announced the agency will begin accepting applications for [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) on Friday. Payne said he is targeting May 8 to begin making disbursements, but it is a fluid deadline.

Indiana Freezes Hiring for State Jobs

Although no state employees have been furloughed to prepare for budget constraints caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the State has [initiated a hiring freeze](#) for all positions besides those needed to respond to the public health crisis.

Indiana Supreme Court Rule to Protect Stimulus Checks from Creditors

Creditors can't seize Hoosiers' stimulus payments received through the federal CARES Act after a [4-1 decision](#) by the Indiana Supreme Court. The decision comes after groups pushed to protect the funds from debt collectors seeking to garnish the stimulus checks. The order makes a few exceptions, such as child support payments.



Indiana DWD Continues to Update FAQs

The FAQ section of the DWD is being frequently updated to reflect popular questions and attempt to decrease call volume to the agency. The most recent additions relate to furloughed or laid off individuals who plan to go back to work for the same employer. Click [here](#) for a fluid document of the DWD's latest updates.

Indiana Chamber Releases Recommendations for Recovery

The Indiana Chamber submitted its [recommendations](#) on how to gradually re-open the Indiana economy to Governor Holcomb earlier this week. Highlights of the recommendations include return-to-work safety guidelines, COVID-19 testing standards, and continued support for telecommuting and high speed broadband.

National Credit Reporting Agencies Offering Free Weekly Credit Reports

In a joint action, the three national credit reporting agencies in the U.S. [announced](#) they are offering free weekly credit reports to all Americans for the next year to help protect their financial health during the pandemic. Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion announced the free reports will be available via AnnualCreditReport.com beginning April 20.

Kroger Extends Curbside Pickup to EBT/SNAP Shoppers

On April 21, Kroger [began accepting SNAP/EBT as payment](#) for customers using the grocer's curbside pickup service. In result of the move, Kroger hired more workers in its e-commerce department, expanded the times for when pickup is available, and waived the usual fee associated with the service.

Useful Links:

[SBA Coronavirus Relief Options](#)

[Indiana SBDC COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Indiana Stay-At-Home Order FAQs](#)

