



FROM:	Bose Public Affairs Group
DATE:	April 17, 2020
RE:	Weekly State Government COVID-19 Update

BIG PICTURE IN INDIANA

As of Friday, April 17, there are a reported 10,154 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Indiana, up from 6,907 cases this time last week. The Indiana State Department of Health also reports 519 deaths in Indiana, up from 300. Track the latest reporting numbers from ISDH [here](#).

This week saw a steady increase in the amount of confirmed COVID-19 per day, peaking at 612 new cases on Friday, the most ISDH has reported in its daily update since the pandemic. An accredited national study touted by the Trump administration claims that confirmed cases in Indiana should start leveling off slowly, but state health experts say Indiana [will not reach its peak until late April, early May](#).

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 4/13/20

[Executive Order 20-21](#): Additional directives to manage Indiana's health care response during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, to implement the Cares Act and to extend other portions of County Property Tax Bills.

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



NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Stay-at-home Order to Be Extended

Governor Eric Holcomb [announced](#) on Friday that he plans to **extend that state's stay-at-home order until May 1** once the existing order expires on Monday. Holcomb said that the revised order will provide guidance to hospitals on how to safely roll out elective procedures among other minor tweaks. Holcomb also noted that the state is "planning the safe reopening of sections of our economy," and continued to elaborate on the regional efforts Indiana is coordinating with neighboring states.

Main COVID-19 Relief Fund Exhausted

On Thursday, the small business rescue fund set up by Congress [exhausted its \\$350 billion funding capacity](#). Without further relief, the Small Business Administration can no longer approve further "Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)" loans to aid businesses in keeping employees on payroll. With Congress at an impasse, action to replenish the popular fund likely will not come until next week. Over 23,000 PPP loans have been approved in Indiana thus far, totaling just under \$6 billion.

Unemployment Benefits to be Delayed For Some

According to comments made by Indiana Department of Workforce Development Commissioner Fred Payne, independent contractors, individuals who are self-employed, and gig economy workers [may have to wait until May to receive jobless benefits](#). Payne stated the delay is caused by the state having to build a system to accept and administer those claims. April 24 is the target date to begin accepting applications, but the payment disbursement system may not be operating until May 4.

In-Person Voting a Go for Primary

Regarding the June 2 primary election, Governor Holcomb and Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson [announced that in-person voting will still be offered](#) in a eight day span, from May 26 to June 2. However, a statewide push to vote absentee will be accompanied by increased access to requesting absentee ballots.

Democratic Convention to be Held Virtually

While the Indiana Democratic Convention will still be held on June 13, officials of the party announced Tuesday the [convention will be held virtually](#) and delegates will meet virtually to conduct business. The Indiana Republican Convention is still scheduled for June 19-20 in downtown Indianapolis, but Party Chairman Kyle Hupfer has stated party officials are looking into all options for the event.



Agency Guidance for Employers

Guidance for employers in various industries on [how to properly record cases of COVID-19](#) was made available by the U.S. Department of Labor earlier this week. According to the memo, the enforcement policy will help employers focus their response efforts on implementing good hygiene practices in their workplaces.

The Indiana State Department of Health issued informative guidelines regarding [various recommendations for businesses and employers](#) (identification of essential critical infrastructure workers, authority of local health officers, etc.) and [cleaning guidance for businesses](#).

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers to Receive Support

The U.S. Department of Labor announced up to \$91.8 million in grant funding to support the economic stability of farmworkers through the [National Farmworker Jobs Program \(NFJP\)](#). The NFJP is a nationally directed, locally administered competitive grant program that provides funding for community-based organizations and public agencies in aiding eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

COVID-19 Brings Brewers Under Threat

The results of a [recent survey done by the Brewers Association](#) targeting small brewers are troubling, as many breweries do not think their business can last three months given current conditions, suggesting thousands of closings. The survey suggests over 45 percent of breweries in the U.S. would close if current conditions last for additional months.

Useful Links:

[SBA Coronavirus Relief Options](#)

[Indiana SBDC COVID-19 Resources](#)

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

