



FROM:	Bose Public Affairs Group
DATE:	May 8, 2020
RE:	Weekly State Government COVID-19 Update

BIG PICTURE IN INDIANA

As of Friday, May 8, there are a reported 23,146 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Indiana, up from 18,630 cases this time last week. The Indiana State Department of Health also reports 1,328 deaths in Indiana, up from 1,062. Track the latest reporting numbers from ISDH [here](#), which include statistics on demographics, testing, and hospital capacity.

With the State launching 20 new testing sites this week, and another 30 opening next week, it expects the number of positive COVID-19 cases to increase. Health officials have said that they will be focusing on the percentage of Hoosiers that test positive and ensuring the state retains its surge capacity for critical care beds and ventilators, which have been holding steady for the past few weeks. Indiana's contact tracing program will start Monday.

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](#).

STATE REVENUES NEARLY \$1 BILLION SHORT OF PROJECTIONS

The coronavirus pandemic has greatly impacted Indiana's economy, and the [latest numbers](#) from the Office of Management & Budget is further proof, as Indiana's April revenue came in \$964 million short of projections. The State believes about \$800M of the shortfall is due to delaying the income tax filing deadline back three months to July.

The largest portion of the deficit comes from individual income tax collections, which were almost \$669 million lower than projections. Other hits to revenue include a \$103.3M hit to the monthly sales tax projection with the largest hit looming next month, a \$135M corporate tax hit, and no revenue coming from gambling taxes due to the state's casinos being closed. The



year-to-date revenue for Indiana is now under projections by just under \$1B. A detailed breakdown of general fund revenue collections for the month of April is available [here](#).

STATE LAUNCHES PPE MARKETPLACE

On Wednesday, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation launched the [small business PPE marketplace](#) to aid small businesses in need of personal protective equipment (PPE). To take advantage of the no charge service, a business or not-for-profit must be registered to do business in Indiana and have fewer than 150 employees. The target market for the program is retailers, restaurants, and offices and the State says it has secured more than 9 million pieces of PPE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars for a historic day in the Indiana legislature. The legislative council will convene virtually on May 13 at 1:30 PM. While House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers), House Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta (D-Fort Wayne), Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville), and Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane (D-Anderson) will be in the Statehouse, the rest of the Legislative Council will meet virtually. Members of the public will be able to hear and see the members from the iga.in.gov home page.

The Council released its [agenda](#), which includes assignment of 2020 interim study topics, an update on technical session day, and the status of the 2020 NCS Legislative Summit in Indianapolis. Bose Public Affairs Group professionals will cover and provide an update to clients on the results of the meeting.

SCHOOLS REOPENING DECISION MONTHS AWAY

With all Indiana school buildings remaining closed through the end of this academic year (June 30), Governor Holcomb [announced](#) that Indiana will wait until the final phase of his reopening plan to determine when K-12 schools can resume in-person teaching. The final stage of reopening is not until July 4, which is about a month before many schools typically return for the academic year.

The Indiana Department of Education Re-Entry Advisory Work Group recently issued recommendations and guidance for safely re-opening schools. The [group](#) is made up of representatives from rural, suburban, and urban districts. The Governor has reiterated that the last stage of reopening could be pushed back if Indiana sees another spike of COVID-19 numbers or if hospital numbers become insufficient.

RESTAURANTS RELEASE COVID-19 GUIDELINES



Guidelines for restaurants and patrons were made available by the Indiana Restaurant and Lodging Association in preparation for Indiana restaurants opening at 50 percent capacity beginning on May 11 (except for Marion, Lake, and Cass counties). Some of the guidelines include all restaurant staff, including kitchen workers, will wear masks, all staff will pass a health check or complete a health survey prior to each shift, and provide single-use menus, among other steps. View the full guidelines [here](#).

MARION COUNTY REINFORCES STAY-HOME GUIDELINES

Governor Eric Holcomb has said the State will support local communities who wish to enforce stricter guidelines regarding reopening amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett announced Marion County's [stay-at-home order](#) will remain in place through May 15, which is four days longer than when Governor Holcomb said Marion County may begin reopening. Hogsett said it would be unsafe for Marion County to open on May 11. The Marion County Public Health Department's order states churches in Marion County are to remain closed over the weekend and still allows all essential businesses to remain open.

BUDGET CHALLENGES WILL LAST YEARS

The discussion at the federal level regarding COVID-19 relief now revolves around support for state and local governments. While some may characterize these funds as a "bailout" for states, Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute (IFPI) President Chris Watts notes that Indiana is in a better financial state than most, but that does not mean the State won't face budget challenges for several years down the road. Read Watts' commentary [here](#) and learn more about how every state—including Indiana—faces years of stark choices if Congress declines to act.

USEFUL LINKS

[Governor's Executive Orders](#)

[BME PPP Use of Funds and Forgiveness](#) (Updated May 6, 2020)

[SBA Coronavirus Relief Options](#)

[Indiana SBDC COVID-19 Resources](#)

[BPAG COVID-19 Resources](#)

[BME COVID-19 Resources](#)

