

# COVID-19: HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR NEVADANS

**Last Updated: May 5, 2020**

*Note: A version of this document is also available in [Spanish](#).*

The recent outbreak of SARS-CoV-2, a novel coronavirus first detected in the Hubei Province of China, has spread globally. In the United States, the disease caused by the virus, known as COVID-19, prompted U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M. Azar II to declare a nationwide public health emergency, and later, President Donald J. Trump to declare a national emergency. By March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization described the outbreak as a pandemic. In Nevada, Governor Steve Sisolak declared a state of emergency on March 12, 2020.

While much remains unknown about COVID-19, government agencies throughout Nevada and the U.S. are working to respond to this rapidly evolving situation. The links below provide information about the virus; how to protect yourself; efforts of local, state, and federal agencies to address the situation; and resources for assistance.

## LOCAL RESOURCES

- [Carson City Health and Human Services](#)
- [Southern Nevada Health District](#)
- [Washoe County Health District](#)

## STATE RESOURCES

### NEVADA HEALTH RESPONSE

The Nevada Health Response [website](#) offers information on Nevada's efforts to prepare for and respond to COVID-19; links to emergency declarations, directives, and regulations from the governor; and recommendations and guidance for schools and families, travelers and visitors, health care facilities, health care providers and first responders, local public health authorities and tribes, home care, businesses, and consumers.

### STATE AGENCY INFORMATION ON COVID-19

Many state agencies have created webpages dedicated to providing information about their responses to the COVID-19 outbreak and/or resources for those affected. More information about specific assistance programs available to Nevadans is provided on page 3 of this document.

- [Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Department of Business and Industry](#)
- [Department of Corrections](#)
- [Department of Education](#)
- [Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation](#)
- [Department of Motor Vehicles](#)
- [Department of Veterans Services](#)
- [Division of Emergency Management](#), Department of Public Safety
- [Division of Health Care Financing and Policy](#) (Medicaid), Department of Health and Human Services
- [Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#), Department of Health and Human Services
- [Nevada National Guard](#), Office of the Military
- [Nevada System of Higher Education](#)

## RESOURCES FOR STATE POLICYMAKERS

- [NCSL Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources](#), National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)  
This website offers information on a range of state policies related to coronavirus, from health, education, elections, and employment, to legislative operations during the outbreak and the pandemic's impact on the 2020 Census.
- [COVID-19 Resources for State Leaders](#), The Council of State Governments  
This website provides state-specific information about legislative sessions and executive orders related to coronavirus, as well as relevant state and other resources.

## FEDERAL RESOURCES

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
This website provides information regarding how to protect yourself and what to do if you think you are sick; resources related to travel, schools, child care, businesses, and community and faith-based organizations; updated statistics; and a summary of the current situation.
- [Government Response to Coronavirus, COVID-19](#), USA.gov  
This website offers a comprehensive list of actions taken by federal government agencies in response to COVID-19.
- [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health: Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation During an Infectious Disease Outbreak](#), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, DHHS
- [COVID-19 Demographic and Economic Resources](#), United States Census Bureau  
This interactive data hub brings together various sources of data to assist policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels in pandemic-related decision-making.
- [COVID-19: Daily Announcements From Federal Agencies](#), NCSL
- [Master Question List for COVID-19 \(caused by SARS-CoV-2\)](#), Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
This resource summarizes what is known about COVID-19, what is unknown, and who is working to answer fundamental questions about the disease. It compiles available research and information to help policymakers make scientifically guided decisions.

## OTHER RESOURCES

- [Coronavirus Resource Center and Global Cases Dashboard](#), Johns Hopkins University and Medicine
- [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Advice for the Public](#), World Health Organization

## ASSISTANCE FOR NEVADANS

### UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- [Unemployment Insurance Program](#), Employment Security Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation
- [COVID-19: Unemployment Assistance for Nevadans](#), Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (also available in [Spanish](#))

### FOOD, FINANCIAL, AND HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE

- [Access Nevada](#) offers a single portal through which state residents can apply for food, financial, and health care assistance, including:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps);
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
  - Medicaid (health insurance); and
  - Child Care Subsidy Program.
- The [Nevada Women, Infants and Children \(WIC\)](#) program provides food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to certain income eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, as well as nutritional support for certain infants and children up to five years of age.
- The State Department of Agriculture provides information about [School and Community Food Access Resources and Updates During COVID-19 Closures](#).
- Nevada Rural Housing Authority's [COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Programs](#) provide assistance with rent, mortgage, utilities, groceries, and certain household items to eligible individuals.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

- As a result of Governor Sisolak's emergency declaration, the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange announced a [special enrollment period](#) from March 17, 2020, through May 15, 2020, during which eligible individuals can sign up for a qualified health plan through [Nevada Health Link](#), the state's health insurance marketplace.

Nevada Health Link also provides [information](#) regarding the services health insurance plans must cover related to COVID-19.

### UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

- [Coronavirus Utility Shutoff Information](#), Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

### SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- [Nevada Small Business Development Center](#)
- [U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus](#)

### ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- The state's Department of Health and Human Services provides additional information on other [assistance programs](#) and helps connect Nevadans to needed services through [Nevada 211](#).

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION RELATED TO COVID-19

- Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act ([Public Law 116-123](#))

This act, which was signed into law on March 6, 2020, provides \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies to address COVID-19 both domestically and internationally. Of the \$6.7 billion appropriated for domestic response, \$6.2 billion is for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and \$20 million is appropriated to the Small Business Administration disaster loans program to support loan subsidies for businesses affected by the outbreak. The law also expands access to telemedicine services for individuals covered by Medicare by removing certain restrictions on Medicare providers.

A more detailed summary of the law is available from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act ([Public Law 116-127](#))

The second major piece of federal legislation to provide COVID-19 relief was signed into law on March 18, 2020. It addresses the domestic outbreak and, among other provisions:

- Requires public employers and employers with fewer than 500 employees to provide paid leave or paid sick leave to certain employees who are unable to work: (1) because they are following a quarantine or isolation order, have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine, or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; (2) as a result of caring for a person subject to such an order or advice; or (3) as a result of caring for a child whose school or day care is closed due to precautions related to COVID-19. The U.S. secretary of labor may exclude certain health care providers, emergency responders, or small businesses with fewer than 50 employees from these requirements;
- Requires private health insurers, Medicaid, Medicare, and other federal health insurance programs to cover the cost of COVID-19 testing and diagnosis without cost-sharing, deductible requirement, or prior authorization;
- Creates an option for state Medicaid programs to use 100 percent federal funds to cover COVID-19 testing and related services for uninsured individuals;
- Provides additional funding to states to process and provide unemployment insurance; and
- Makes certain changes to payroll and individual tax credits for qualified sick leave and family leave.

A more detailed summary of the law is available from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([Public Law 116-136](#))

On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was signed into law, providing a \$2 trillion stimulus package to address the negative effects of COVID-19 nationwide. Among its provisions are:

- \$1,200 in direct payments to many Americans and \$500 for each dependent child;
- An expansion of unemployment insurance and compensation;
- A lending fund for businesses, cities, and states;
- A coronavirus relief fund for state, local, and tribal governments; and
- Billions of dollars for education stabilization, disaster relief, National Guard deployment, public health efforts, transit systems, and election security.

A more detailed summary of the bill is available from [NCSL](#).

- Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([Public Law 116-139](#))

A fourth piece of federal legislation, signed into law on April 24, 2020, provides \$484 billion in supplementary funding to programs established by the CARES Act. Among other things, it provides an additional:

- \$310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, including \$60 billion for community banks and small lenders;
- \$50 billion for the Disaster Loans Program and \$10 billion for Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan grants;
- \$75 billion for hospitals and other health care providers for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue associated with the pandemic; and
- \$25 billion to research, develop, validate, manufacture, purchase, administer, and expand capacity for COVID-19 tests and to monitor and suppress the virus. This includes funding for:
  - State, local, territorial, and tribal governments;
  - Federal agencies including the CDC, National Institutes of Health, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, and the Food and Drug Administration; and
  - Community health centers, rural health clinics, and testing for the uninsured.

In addition, the Trump Administration must develop a national strategy to assist states with testing and increase testing capacity. States, localities, territories, and tribes must outline their testing plans and COVID-19 mitigation strategies.