Coronavirus COVID-19 – Government Action – March 26, 2020

CONGRESS

- The US Senate passed H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, its Phase III coronavirus response and economic stimulus bill on March 25 by a 96-0 vote. The House is scheduled to consider the legislation on Friday, March 27. The CARES Act contains approximately $2 trillion in overall spending, including over $300 million in emergency supplemental appropriations. The bill provides for direct loans and grants for small and medium-sized businesses and industries that have experienced significant financial losses due to the unprecedented public health crisis; $100 billion to hospitals and healthcare providers for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue; and direct cash payments for many Americans. It also makes many changes to labor, employee benefits, and tax policy.

FEDERAL AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Comprehensive Hospital Preparedness Checklist for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), March 25, 2020
- Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), March 24 update
- Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19, March 25, 2020

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

- CMS News Alert March 26, 2020
- New Medicaid Section 1135 Waivers
  - Kansas
  - Kentucky
  - Missouri
  - North Dakota
  - Oklahoma
  - Oregon
  - South Dakota
- Emergency Preparedness and Response for Home and Community Based (HCBS) 1915(c) Waivers
- Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight
  - Payment and Grace Period Flexibilities Associated with the COVID-19 National Emergency, March 24, 2020
  - FAQs on Availability and Usage of Telehealth Services Through Private Health Insurance Coverage in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), March 24, 2020
  - FAQs on Prescription Drugs and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Issuers Offering Health Insurance Coverage in the Individual and Small Group Markets, March 24, 2020

Food and Drug Administration

- Enforcement Policy for Face Masks and Respirators During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency, March 2020
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Daily Roundup, March 25, 2020
US Department of Health and Human Services
- Notice of Designation of Scarce Materials or Threatened Materials Subject to COVID-19, scheduled for publication in the Federal Register on March 30, 2020

US Department of Labor
- COVID-19 and the American Workplace
  - Families First Coronavirus Response Act
    - Fact Sheet - Employee Paid Leave Rights
    - Fact Sheet - Employer Paid Leave Requirements
    - Questions and Answers
- COVID-19 and the Fair Labor and Standards Act
- COVID-19 and the Family Leave Act

THE JOINT COMMISSION
- Personal Protective Equipment - Mask Considerations When Caring for Known or Suspected COVID-19 Patients, March 24, 2020
- Emergency Management - Duration for Continuing Disaster Privileges, March 24, 2020
- Personal Protective Equipment - Conserving Facemasks and Respirators During a Critical Shortage, March 24, 2020

STATES
- Orders: Stay at Home / Closure of Non-Essential Businesses
  - Colorado Twitter Announcement
  - Idaho Proclamation and Press Release
  - Maine Proclamation
  - Oklahoma Proclamation
  - Vermont Executive Order
- Texas
  - Executive Order, March 24, 2020 (regarding hospital bed capacity reporting)
  - Texas State Board of Pharmacy, March 23, 2020 (regarding DEA Call Center)