

**TO: County Board  
Presidents/Executives/Chairpersons/Board  
Members/Administrators**

**FROM: Joe McCoy, Executive Director  
Illinois State Association of Counties**

**DATE: March 20, 2020**

**RE: Coronavirus Update -- March 20**

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) continues to prioritize the dissemination of useful information to county leaders during the Coronavirus pandemic. Below are some items we would like to share with you today:

**Governor Invokes “Shelter in Place” Order**

On Friday, March 20, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker instituted a “shelter in place” order for Illinois residents beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 and continuing through Tuesday, April 7. Under the order, “non-essential” business and operations must cease. Grocery stores, food delivery services, pharmacies and healthcare facilities are among those businesses that will remain open. Essential local government services will not cease. Residents can still venture outdoors for a walk while practicing social distancing. The Executive Order (EO 2020-10) is [available via this link](#).

**Additional Actions by the Governor**

On Thursday, March 19, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker announced additional measures to assist Illinoisans during the pandemic. These measures are discussed in the press release [available via this link](#). A bullet point summary is below:

- Sales Tax Deferral for Bars and Restaurants ([additional information via this link](#))
- SBA Approval of Small Business Loans in Illinois
- New Grocery Store Hours for Older Residents
- Expansion of Health Care Services

**Executive Order 2020-09**

Governor JB Pritzker issued Executive Order (EO) 2020-9 on March 19, 2020. The EO expands telehealth services and requires insurance companies to cover the services. The EO is [available via this link](#).

**Unemployment Insurance and COVID-19**

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) has created a website to answer frequently asked questions about unemployment insurance. The page is [available via this](#)

[link](#). Employees laid off for seven days or otherwise separated from payroll must be provided with the document [available via this link](#). Employers must provide the document.

### **Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidance**

On March 19, 2020, the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) developed an initial list of “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” to help State and local officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The memorandum is [available via this link](#).

### **Federal Tax Payments Deferred Until July 15, 2020**

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service are providing **special payment relief** to individuals and businesses in response to the COVID-19 Outbreak. **The filing deadline for tax returns remains April 15, 2020.** The IRS urges taxpayers who are owed a refund to file as quickly as possible. For those who cannot file by the April 15, 2020, deadline, the IRS reminds individual taxpayers that everyone is eligible to request a six-month extension to file their return. Additional information is [available via this link](#).

### **Municipal Bond Market Backstopped by Federal Reserve**

One of the impacts the pandemic is having on the economy is increased borrowing costs for states and local governments as a result of a large selloff in municipal debt. According to an article in *The Washington Post*, “the Federal Reserve will make loans available to financial institutions that can be secured by ‘high quality’ state and local bonds. This will make owning these tax-exempt municipal bonds more attractive and should help ensure there is plenty of demand for these bonds as many states and cities begin to issue more debt in the coming weeks and months.” The Federal Reserve Board took this action on Friday, March 20, 2020. The *Post* article is [available via this link](#). The press release from the Federal Reserve is [available via this link](#).

### **Document Coronavirus Expenses**

As indicated in our prior e-mail communications, it is imperative that **counties keep careful documentation** about all expenses associated with their Coronavirus response. Accurate records will greatly assist in obtaining revenue reimbursements.

### **Keep Up with New Information!**

ISACo has a designated blog post ([available via this link](#)) that includes updated news about the public response to the Coronavirus and other relevant information. This blog post is updated frequently as events evolve and new information becomes available. **I would encourage you to bookmark the blog post and check in from time to time for relevant updates. This is especially the case for any developments that occur over the weekend.**

ISACo also has a dedicated webpage ([available via this link](#)) with federal, state and local resources about the Coronavirus and best practices to avoid transmission while promoting containment. **We are beginning to include policies employed by Illinois counties to contain**

**the Coronavirus among their workforces and within the general population. Please share your county's policies with ISACo in order to assist other counties seeking ideas and guidance.**

Please feel welcome to contact ISACo with any questions for which we may be helpful. My e-mail address is [jmccoy@isacoil.org](mailto:jmccoy@isacoil.org). I can also be reached on my cell phone at 217/836-9164. ISACo's website is [www.isacoil.org](http://www.isacoil.org). Thanks.