
COVID-19 & Schools

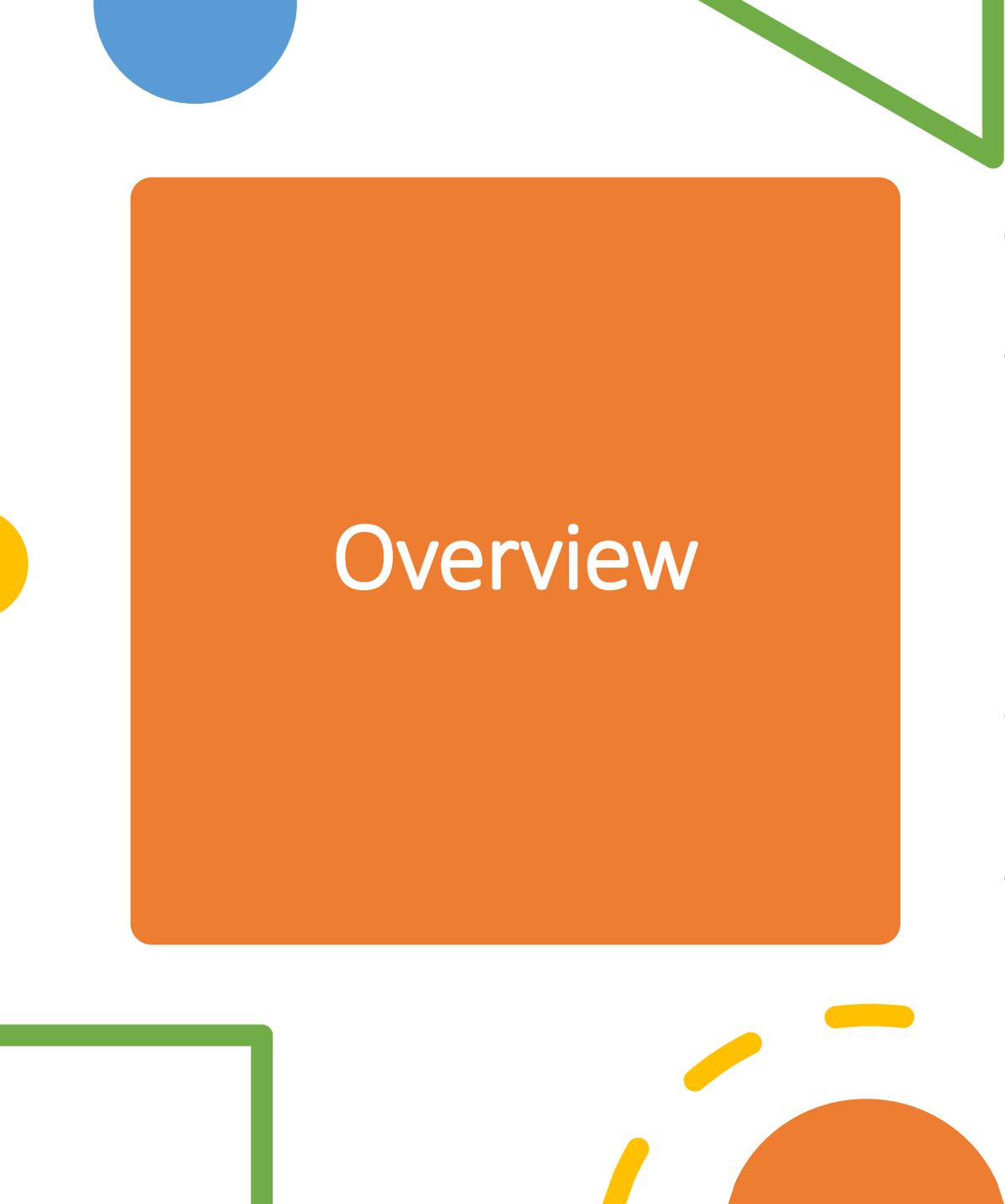
Federal Education Update

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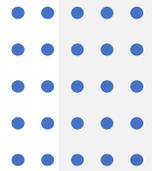
April 1, 2020





Overview

- **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Recap**
 - What's happened so far? Where are we now?
- **U.S. Federal Response**
 - How has the federal government already responded to COVID-19?
 - What additional measures is the federal government discussing now?
 - How will these legislative and regulatory actions impact schools?
- **Resources**
 - Learn how to stay informed and advocate for your schools
- **Q&A / Discussion**



COVID-19: How Did We Get Here?

- **12/1 through 1/11:** First case and death reported in Wuhan, China.
- **1/12 through 1/31:** Cases spread across Asia ahead of/during the Lunar New Year.; US and South Korea confirm first cases; World Health Organization (WHO) declares COVID-19 an international public health emergency
- **2/1 through 2/19:** Virus spreads across Asia and Europe; US cases begin to grow.
- **2/21 through 2/29:** Italy confirms first few cases and infection count surges to 655 within a week; US reports first death; WHO raises threat of COVID-19 global outbreak to 'Very High'
- **3/1 through 3/6:** US cases continue to grow; Congress passes 1st emergency COVID supplemental
- **3/7 through 3/14:** WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic; Trump declares a national emergency; Congress passes 2nd emergency COVID supplemental
- **3/15 through 3/27:** Wuhan, China reports no new cases (hits peak) as virus makes its way across Africa. Countries begin announcing widespread closure of businesses, schools, etc. and cancelling/postponing large events. Congress passes 3rd emergency COVID supplemental (CARES Act)

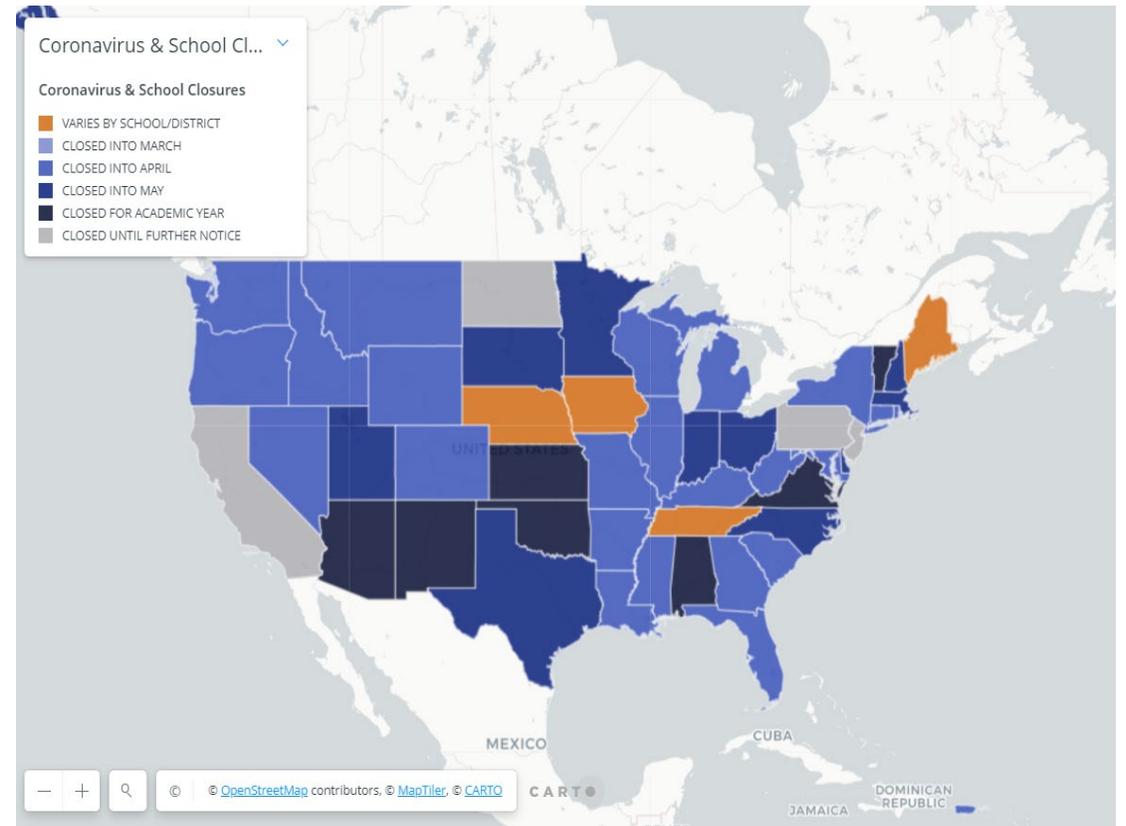
Source: <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/coronavirus-a-timeline-of-how-the-deadly-outbreak-evolved/>

COVID-19 Now: School Impact

As of March 31, 2020, 5:50 p.m.

- COVID-19 has forced **widespread closures** in varying degrees to all U.S. states and territories in an unprecedented disruption of K-12 schooling.
- School closures have impacted at least 124,000 U.S. public and private school, affecting at least **55.1 million school students**.

Source: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/map-coronavirus-and-school-closures.html>



COVID-19 Takeaways

Trump Administration Guidance: Working Until April 30 to Slow the Spread

School operations can accelerate the spread of COVID-19.

- Governors of states w/ evidence of community spread should close schools in affected and surrounding areas.
- Governors should close schools in communities near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states.
- State and local officials should close schools where COVID-19 has been identified in the population associated with the school.
- States and localities that close schools need to address childcare and the nutritional needs of children.
- In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor/outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

Source: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf



U.S. Federal Response

- **U.S. Congress**
 - Phase One: HR 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
 - Phase Two: HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act
 - Phase Three: S 3548 CARES Act
 - Phase Four: TBD
- **Federal Agencies**
 - Agency guidance, waivers, and flexibilities
 - **Check regularly for updates:**
<https://aasa.org/LeadingEdge.aspx>

U.S. Federal Response: Congress

Phase 1: HR 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (3/6/20)

- \$8.3B emergency package
 - 3x request from White House.
 - Includes \$2.2B to help federal, state, and local health agencies prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

U.S. Federal Response: Congress

- **Phase 2: HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (3/18/20)**

- Nutrition Provisions

- **\$500 million** for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to provide nutrition assistance for children and their mothers who have lost their jobs as a result of the outbreak.
- **\$400 million** for The Emergency Food Assistance Program to help local food banks meet increased need for low-income Americans.
- **\$100 million** for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.
- **A provision that allows** the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans to provide emergency Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) food assistance to households with children who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price school meals in the event that their school is closed (The MEAL Act).
- **Gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority** to approve state waivers addressing nutrition assistance with school closures even if it increases cost to the federal government.
- **Provisions to allow** child and adult care centers to serve food to go, allow the Secretary of Agriculture to waive meal pattern requirements in child nutrition programs if there is a disruption in food supply, and allow the Secretary of Agriculture to issue nationwide school meal waivers during the emergency.
- **Allows** participants to be certified for WIC without being physically present at a WIC clinic.
- **Suspends** work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the emergency.
- **Allows** states to request waivers for emergency CR-SNAP benefits to existing SNAP households up to the maximum monthly allotment.

U.S. Federal Response: Congress

Phase 2: HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Continued)

- Health Provisions

- **Provides free COVID-19 testing** to all Americans, regardless of insurance.
- **Medicaid and CHIP**, which cover over 45 million children between the two programs, will cover diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider visit to receive testing, with no cost to the patient.
- **Increases** states' federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for public health programs like Medicaid and CHIP for the duration of the emergency.
- **Increases** Medicaid allotments for U.S. Territories.
- **The bill ensures** that American Indians and Alaskan Natives do not experience cost sharing for COVID-19 testing.

U.S. Federal Response: Congress

Phase 2: HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Continued)

- Paid Sick Leave, Unemployment Insurance, and Family and Medical Leave Provisions
 - **Provides** employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to two weeks of fully-paid leave when they are sick, or two weeks of paid leave at 2/3 of their normal rate to care for a family member.
 - **Provides** employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to take up to 12-weeks of job-protected leave.
 - **Provides** \$1 billion in 2020 emergency grants to states to meet the increased need for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.
 - **Provides** several tax breaks for employers who give their employees mandatory paid leave during the emergency.

U.S. Federal Response: Congress

Phase 3: CARES Act (Passed 3/27)

- \$15.5 billion for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program;
- \$8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs to ensure students receive meals when school is not in session;
- \$3.5 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants, which provide child-care subsidies to low-income families and can be used to augment state and local systems;
- \$750 million for Head Start early-education programs;
- \$100 million in Project SERV grants to help clean and disinfect schools, and provide support for mental health services and distance learning;
- \$69 million for schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education; and
- \$5 million for health departments to provide guidance on cleaning and disinfecting schools and day-care facilities.
- The \$13.5 billion in stabilization fund money could be used to provide K-12 students internet connectivity and internet-connected devices, and a separate item in the bill for rural development provides \$25 million to support "distance learning."

Phase 4: TBD

U.S. Federal Response: Agencies

- **CDC**: Interim guidance for schools
- **USDA**: Waivers for schools to serve food in non-congregate settings (i.e., other than cafeterias)
- **ED**:
 - FERPA/Student Privacy
 - IDEA/Serving Students w/ Disabilities during COVID-19
 - COVID-19 Impact on Accountability & Assessments
- **FCC**:
 - E-Rate flexibilities and waivers on program rules
 - Allow beneficiaries to utilize funding to provide home wireless service to existing school devices and hotspots for students who lack internet access at home

Resources

- **Other Resources**

- AASA
 - AASA COVID Resources: [website](#)
 - The Leading Edge Blog: <https://aasa.org/policy-blogs.aspx?blogid=84002#>
- Department of Education (ED)
 - COVID-19 Website: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- Education Week
 - <https://www.edweek.org/>
- POLITICO Morning Education Newsletter
 - <https://www.politico.com/morningeducation/>

Get Involved, Stay Engaged!

- AASA Legislative Team on Twitter
- AASA PEP Talk Podcast
- AASA Policy Blog, The Leading Edge
- Weekly & Monthly Updates
- Websites & Newsletters
 - EdWeek
 - [Politics K12](#)
 - [Morning Education](#) (Politico)
 - [Real Clear Education](#)
 - [Cabinet Report](#)



Questions?

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