Do what you can in the space that you have.
Lisa Adams

Senior Legislative Analyst for the MMA. This is my last day! Please contact John Robertson, our Legislative Director, for issues relating to Personnel & Labor Relations.
01 Federal COVID-19 Legislation
02 Massachusetts COVID-19 Legislation
03 Reopening Safety Standards
04 Employer Liability
COVID-19 Legislation

Federal

State

Local
01 Federal COVID-19 Legislation
Federal COVID-19 Legislation

**Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act- March 4**
- Provided $8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak related to developing a vaccine, medical supplies, grants for public health agencies, small business loans, and assistance for health systems in other countries. Allowed for temporarily waiving Medicare restrictions and requirements regarding telehealth services.

**Families First Coronavirus Response Act- March 18**
- Guaranteed free coronavirus testing, established paid leave, enhanced unemployment insurance, expanded food security initiatives, and increased federal Medicaid funding.

**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act- March 27**
- A $2 trillion coronavirus relief bill, which gives $1,200 to each American making $75,000 a year or less, adds $600/week to unemployment benefits for four months, gives $100 billion to hospitals and health providers, makes $500 billion of loans or investments to businesses, states and municipalities, and $32 billion in grants to the airline industry, and more.
Federal COVID-19 Legislation

Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act)- House released May 12

- $3 trillion proposal
- **Provides $375 billion for local and county governments**
- New $1,200 stimulus check & $1,200 for up to 3 dependents
- Hazard pay for essential workers
- Funding for coronavirus testing
- Rent and mortgage assistance
- Extension of $600 weekly unemployment expansion
- Additional funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Funding for small businesses
- Emergency relief for the U.S. Postal Service
- Provisions for Election safety and facilitating voting by mail.
- **Provision that provides state and local employers with access to tax credits for paid sick and paid family leave mandated under the FFCRA**
02
Massachusetts
COVID-19
Legislation
Massachusetts Legislature
2019-2020

House
- Holding virtual formal sessions
- The world’s oldest constitutional democracy voted remotely for the first time in its history on May 7
- Had not been in formal session since mid-March

Senate
- Senators voting from Senate chamber, from their offices through a court officer, or from home by sending a letter to the clerk authorizing another senator to vote on their behalf.

Session end date still June 30
Massachusetts COVID-19 Bills

- 3 bills related to local government so far (see MMA website)
- Senate passed a 4th bill last week- it’s now with the House
  - Extend deadlines for mayors to submit FY21 budgets
  - Allow select boards to lower quorum requirements for open town meeting
  - Gives representative town meetings the option to meet remotely
  - Allows towns to hold town meeting in a nearby community to facilitate social distancing
  - Allows communities to make payments under existing contracts for services
Massachusetts COVID-19 Bills

- **Elections Bill**
  - safe conduction of elections
  - committee hearing today (see MMA letter)

- **Budget**
  - last MTF forecast is that revenue could drop by $4.4 billion next year (14%)
  - still waiting on state budget
  - Federal relief bill will help define state spending plan
Personnel & Labor Relations COVID-19 Bills

- Unemployment Insurance
- Some add healthcare costs
- Provide financial relief to municipalities
- Some add personnel costs
- Some prolong pension funding
Personnel & Labor Relations COVID-19 Bills

**H. 4631**
Requires public employers to pay time-and-a-half compensation, or provide paid compensatory leave instead of additional salary, for every day employees are required to work outside their homes during the SOE. (Retroactive)

**S. 2602**
Creates a presumption for COVID-19 illnesses, including quarantine. MMA advocating for a paid sick leave program in lieu of a presumption.

Check MMA website for letters of testimony
Pending Bills of Interest

**S. 1096**
Extends current 300-day SOL at MCAD to 6 years  
(SW&M)

**S. 1410**
Creates an extractor bulk purchasing program for fire departments.  
(SW&M)

**S. 2677**
Establishes a municipal public safety building authority.  
(SW&M)

**S. 1100**
Extends whistleblower protections to municipal employees.  
(SW&M)

**H. 1681**
PFML for municipal employees.  
(Reporting extended to June 5)

Parkinson’s Disease & Contagious Diseases Presumptions
03

Reopening Safety Standards
DPH Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces

Standards will apply universally to all workplaces that are open in Phase 1, and are designed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to employees and customers.

- Social Distancing
- Hygiene Protocols
- Staffing and Operations
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Sector Specific Safety Protocols
04
Employer Liability
Employer Liability: COVID-19

- More on this as workplaces reopen
- Follow state guidelines for safety standards and plan development
- HAVE A REASONABLE REOPENING PLAN for reducing COVID-19 exposure at work
- Keep track of what is happened in Congress
- Consult an attorney
Keep in touch!
Commonwealth Human Resources Division

I’ll miss you!
Thanks!

Please type all questions in the Q&A section.

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