



Legal Issues Related to the COVID-19 Outbreak: An Overview

Updated March 30, 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak has rapidly shifted the congressional agenda in recent weeks, while altering the [daily lives](#) of millions of American residents. Alongside the many medical, economic, social, and public policy questions raised by the pandemic are a range of legal issues. These include both short-term legal questions related to the unfolding outbreak as well as longer-term legal issues that are anticipated to persist in the wake of the crisis. Among the most immediate questions are those related to the scope of state and federal authorities concerning [quarantine measures](#), [travel and entry restrictions](#), the movement of [medical goods](#), [health care coverage](#), and the like. Of more ongoing concern may be legal issues ranging from those related to the [development of vaccines](#), testing, treatments, and other [medical countermeasures](#), to [postponing national elections](#), to civil liability for COVID-19 exposure, to [criminal actions](#) related to hoarding and price gouging, to providing economic assistance to individuals and businesses, to [foreclosure](#), [eviction](#), and debt collection moratoria.

This Legal Sidebar provides a list of legal resources discussing these and other legal topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be updated intermittently as additional legal issues emerge.

Health Care, Health Coverage, and Medical Countermeasures

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10436, *COVID-19: International Trade and Access to Pharmaceutical Products*, by Nina M. Hart.

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10422, *COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures: Intellectual Property and Affordability*, by Kevin J. Hickey.

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10430, *Section 1135 Waivers and COVID-19: An Overview*, by Jennifer A. Staman.

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10427, *COVID-19: Legal Considerations for Bringing a New Vaccine to Market*, by Erin H. Ward.

Congressional Research Service

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

LSB10433

Quarantine, Isolation, and Travel Restrictions

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10415, *COVID-19: Current Travel Restrictions and Quarantine Measures*, by Edward C. Liu.

Medical Goods, Procurement, Government Contracts

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10428, *COVID-19 and Federal Procurement Contracts*, by David H. Carpenter.

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10424, *COVID-19: An Overview of Trade-Related Measures to Address Access to Medical Goods*, by Nina M. Hart.

Economic Issues

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10434, *COVID-19 Response: Constitutional Protections for Private Property*, by Sean M. Stiff.

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10435, *The Federal Reserve's Legal Authorities for Responding to the Economic Impacts of COVID-19*, by Jay B. Sykes.

Elections

CRS Legal Sidebar LSB10425, *Postponing Federal Elections and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Legal Considerations*, by Jacob D. Shelly.

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