PHTA Government Relations Update

4/15/2020

As we continue to monitor the expanding impact of COVID-19 across the nation, we have outlined some key information you need to be aware of. PHTA continues to monitor several State Orders being put forth by all 50 Governors and the Mayor of D.C. in response to the virus. PHTA houses also relevant information on these orders, and how they impact the pools and spa industry here: [https://www.phtacoronaupdate.com/state-and-local-government-information/](https://www.phtacoronaupdate.com/state-and-local-government-information/)

For the week of April 13, only 10 state legislatures are still actively meeting. Twenty-four state legislatures have suspended session or adjourned early due to COVID-19.

**Here are some recent developments you should be aware of:**

**Colorado:**
The Colorado Legislature has suspended session until at least May 18.

**Maryland:**
Governor Larry Hogan (R) has announced steps to address a huge potential state revenue loss of up to $2.8 billion this fiscal year due to the coronavirus. Hogan said the projected revenue loss would represent a 50% drop in projected revenues over the next 90 days and up to a 15% reduction in revenues for the fiscal year that ends July 1. As a result, Hogan said the state is immediately instituting a budget freeze across state government agencies, except for COVID-19-related expenses and payroll. Hogan also announced a $2.5 million investment in a joint partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine to provide technology to launch a large-scale testing initiative to enable their lab to run up to 20,000 tests a day. See more info here.
New York:
Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) has announced that he will issue an executive order that directs, "employers to provide essential workers with a cloth or surgical facemask to their employees when they are interacting with the public. And they should provide those masks cost-free."

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has recently issued a similar order. New Jersey's order also required customers in places like supermarkets to wear masks. Governor Cuomo has not given any indication on whether he will issue a similar mandate. An executive order is expected to follow this announcement, which can be found [here](#).

North Carolina:
North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper (D) has ordered retail establishments to limit capacity to 20% or only allow 5 customers inside for every 1,000 sq. ft. and to post staff at entrances and exits to enforce the limit; to clearly mark 6 feet of spacing in lines at cash registers and in other high-traffic areas; to clearly mark 6 feet of spacing in a designated line outside the establishment; and to perform frequent cleanings. This order preempts any local government order.

Rhode Island:
Governor Gina M. Raimondo (D) has issued an executive order to extend various executive orders. The order extends various executive orders which include Executive Order 20-03 (Supplemental Emergency Declaration), Executive Order 20-04 (Second Supplemental Emergency Declaration - Restaurants, Bars, Entertainment Venues, and Public Gatherings), except the entire paragraph 1 regarding public gatherings. Public gatherings of more than 5 people are prohibited pursuant to Executive Order 20-14, Executive Order 20-08 (Sixth Supplemental Emergency Declaration - Economic Support for Restaurants, Bars and Establishments that Offer Food), Executive Order 20-09 (Seventh Supplemental Emergency Declaration - Public Gatherings, Close-Contact Businesses, Public Recreation and Business Service Providers), except the entire paragraph 6 regarding public gatherings as public gatherings of more than 5 people are prohibited pursuant to Executive Order 20-14, and Executive Order 20-14 (Amended Supplemental Emergency Declaration - Staying at Home, Reduce Gatherings, Certain Retail Business Closures, and Further Quarantine Provisions). See the order [here](#).
Virginia:
Governor Northam signed and amended a mountain of legislation over Easter weekend, up against a midnight Saturday deadline to act on all 1,291 measures passed during this year’s General Assembly session. Gov. Ralph Northam wants lawmakers to put $2 billion in new spending on pause while the economic impact from the coronavirus pandemic plays out in Virginia, his top fiscal adviser said Sunday. Northam is asking the General Assembly to approve freezes of $874.6 million in the fiscal year that starts July 1 and $1.4 billion in the next fiscal year. They would last until the state has a better idea of how much less money is coming in. Northam would then ask lawmakers to come back to Richmond sometime in late summer or early fall to reshape the budget. See the order here.