

## **MELICK & PORTER, LLP COVID-19 MEMO:**

Melick & Porter, LLP provides you with the below update regarding the impact of COVID-19 on issues relating to insurance in the United States. The below is not meant to be all-inclusive, but provides an overview as to the trends in the United States. If you have any questions regarding any of the updates below, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION AND EMERGENCY ORDERS AND DIRECTIVES:**

Below we provide an overview as to the types of legislative actions that have been occurring, both on a federal and state level.

- President Donald Trump is expected to issue an executive order prohibiting the entry into the U.S. of various nonimmigrant workers, including H-1B, H-2B, L-1, and J-1 visa holders. The ban is expected to last 120-180 days and is expected to apply to those currently living abroad.
- Last Thursday, June 18, 2020, the House Democratic leadership announced a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan, which outlines investments in bridges, water systems, roads, and other infrastructure. The House Ways and Means Committee released a fact sheet summarizing the details of the proposal, which includes tax code changes to permanently reinstate Build America Bonds and Advance Refunding Bonds, and the expansion of the issuance of Private Activity Bonds. A vote may be scheduled for the week of July 6.
- The Department of Health and Human Services has announced an initiative to make face coverings available for community-based organizations at no cost. More information on how to how to order can be found [here](#).
- The CDC updated its information on [contact tracing](#) and case investigation.

### **BUSINESS AND COMMERCE NEWS AND LEGISLATION RELATED TO COVID-19:**

Below we discuss news regarding the economic impact of COVID-19 and measures being taken to address that.

- On Friday, June 19, 2020, the markets ended with mixed results for the day, with the Dow down 208 points, the S&P 500 down 17 points, and the NASDAQ up 3 points. Weekend trading in stock futures were pointing to losses as of Sunday night.
- The Department of Treasury announced jointly with the Small Business Administration a [statement](#) that they would release business names and loan range for PPP Loans, as well as demographic and location information. The announcement noted that steps would be

taken to protect personally identifiable information to protect proprietary or confidential data.

- After noting that some PPP loan applicants could not find lenders, the SBA has launched a [Lender Match](#) tool to aid small businesses and non-profits to be matched with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs), Certified Development Companies (CDCs) Farm Credit System lenders, microlenders, and traditional smaller asset size lenders.
- The Department of Labor with the CDC have released [guidance](#) on Returning to Work.
- The CDC updated or released guidance for reopening:
  - Reopening Resources for [Businesses and Workplaces](#)
  - [Casinos and Gaming Operations](#)
  - [Critical Infrastructure Workers](#)
  - [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
  - [Travelers](#) Prohibited from Entry to the United States
- Small Business Administration (SBA) announced it had reopened the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and the Advance Program to small businesses and nonprofits.

#### **LITIGATION/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM UPDATES AND ORDERS:**

Below we highlight additional judicial orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The State of Massachusetts courts are open to conduct business virtually, court buildings remain closed until July 1, 2020 except for some emergencies.
- The Connecticut Judicial branch is expanding its remote capabilities, for more information see [announcement](#).