



Throughout the upcoming weeks, our Healthcare Law Team will share a collection of the latest news and procedural updates affecting the industry during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Governor Edwards Announces all Louisiana Parishes Eligible for COVID-19 Business Aid

Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that small businesses in all 64 Louisiana parishes will have access to federal Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster aid in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza confirmed that Louisiana's more than 440,000 small business are eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans, which will be made available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations to help alleviate economic injury caused by COVID-19. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for non-profits. The terms of the loan may be up to 30 years (the term is determined on a case-by-case basis). According to Release Number 20-27, released March 23, 2020, the SBA defers on loan repayment have been extended through December 31, 2020, automatically. Borrowers of home and business disaster loans do not have to contact SBA to request a deferment.

To apply, please begin to gather tax returns, bank statements, P&L statements, payroll statements, contracts, invoices, and any other evidence of operations now to show past, present and projected income and expenses.

For more information on how to apply, please [click here](#).

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Hospitals Allowed to Exceed Licensed Bed Capacity

At the direction of the Louisiana Department of Health, a Memorandum was issued stating that in the event that a licensed hospital receives an influx of patients as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital will be allowed to exceed its licensed bed capacity until April 13, 2020 **OR** until a later expiration date determined by LDH in a subsequent memorandum. This waiver to a hospital's licensed bed capacity shall only be extended to provide for the essential care and treatment to patients resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure that the needs of the patients are met.

A hospital may request one extension beyond the expiration date of April 13, 2020 (or a later expiration date determined by the La. Dept. of Health in subsequent memorandum), not to exceed fifteen (15) days, to continue to exceed its licensed bed capacity. The hospital shall immediately return to its licensed bed capacity by 11:59pm on April 13, 2020 (or a later expiration date determined by La. Dept. of Health in subsequent memorandum) or upon the expiration of the one-time written extension granted to the hospital. In the event that a patient(s) cannot be discharged from the hospital or cannot reasonably be placed in another facility with an available licensed bed after April 13, 2020 (or later expiration date determined by La. Dept. of Health in a subsequent memorandum) or upon expiration of the one-time written expiration granted to the hospital, the hospital may apply for a temporary hardship exception to the licensed bed capacity.

To see the official memorandum, please [click here](#).

Hospital Service Districts and Open Meetings Law Relaxed

Requirements under the Open Meetings Law have been relaxed by [Executive Order JBE 30-2020](#). The order provides that all state agencies, boards and commissions, and local political subdivisions of the state shall provide for attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference and such attendance shall be allowed during the period of this emergency. All efforts shall be made to provide for observation and input by members of the public. Before any meeting conducted pursuant to this section, the state agency, boards and commission, or local political subdivision of the state shall first provide a written certification that it will otherwise be unable to operate due to quorum requirements. In addition, the Louisiana Attorney General has also [issued guidance](#) that is in accordance with the executive order.



Should you have any specific questions or needs, please contact the
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