ESSENTIAL INFORMATION
July 2020

COVID-19: State Emergency Declarations & Mitigation Policies – Batch 5 of 5
Prepared by the Policy Surveillance Program Staff

SUMMARY
This dataset displays laws and policies intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. It currently captures laws and policies from 50 states and the District of Columbia, in effect as of July 1, 2020.

ABOUT COVID-19 STATE EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS & MITIGATION POLICIES AND THE DATA
Since the arrival of COVID-19 in the United States, state governments have been responding by passing laws and emergency orders to mitigate the spread of the virus. These varied legal actions have developed rapidly across the United States. This dataset covers a multitude of statewide measures, including school and business closures, restrictions on restaurant operations, travel limitations, stay-at-home orders, medical procedure restrictions, requirements related to the operations of correctional facilities and state preemption of local governments instituting their own mitigation measures.

This dataset is being developed in real time, exploring state emergency declarations and mitigation policies from January 20, 2020 through July 1, 2020. Data published on August 17, 2020, include features of laws and policies from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Some findings from the dataset include:

- The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on January 21, 2020. Among the 51 jurisdictions in this dataset, the first to act was Washington on February 29, followed by Florida on March 1. The respective state governors each issued an emergency proclamation declaring a state of emergency.

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia still have an emergency declaration in effect as of July 1, 2020. However, only five states still have a stay-at-home order in effect on July 1, 2020: California, Hawaii, Maine, New York and Oregon.

- As of July 1, 2020, while none of the 51 jurisdictions instituted curfew requirements, 38 states have instituted some type of face mask requirement as states begin to reopen.
• As of July 1, 2020, only 22 states still have business closures in place, down from 32 states on June 1, 2020.

NAVIGATING THE DATA

There are two ways to navigate the data by clicking the Filter tab or the Explore tab — for each option, the data can be visualized in a map and table format or in jurisdiction profiles.

Filter

The dataset homepage will default to the Filter tab. Here, users may answer a series of questions to learn more about the characteristics of the laws. Answering more than one question will show all the jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria. Criteria selected will be listed above the questions, and can be removed by clicking the white X or by clicking “Reset” above the questions.

Explore

Users can access Explore by clicking the Explore tab in the bar above the questions. Using Explore, users will see the answers to one question across all jurisdictions.

The primary questions in this dataset are:

1. Has the state instituted legal action aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19?
2. Is there an emergency declaration in effect in the state?
3. Is there a restriction on travelers?
4. Is there a requirement that residents stay home?
5. Is there a required curfew?
6. Is there a requirement that residents use masks?
7. Is there a requirement that businesses close?
8. Is there a restriction on restaurant operations?
9. Is there a requirement that schools close?
10. Is there a ban on gatherings?
11. Is there a restriction on medical procedures?
12. Is there a requirement regarding the operations of correctional facilities?
13. Does the state explicitly preempt local regulation of social distancing?
14. Does the state explicitly allow local authorities to impose additional requirements?

DISPLAYING THE RESULTS

There are two display modes once criteria have been selected by using either the Filter or Explore tab — Map display mode and Profiles display mode.

Map Display

LawAtlas.org dataset homepages default to the map display mode. When querying the data using the Filter tab, all jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display in one tone of yellow. Those jurisdictions that do not meet the criteria selected will be colored gray. When querying the data using the Explore tab, the map will illuminate with colors from yellow to red that are associated with the various answer choices (the color-coding is defined by the key to the left of the map).

Below the map, a table will appear. Using the Filter or Explore tab to navigate the questions will change the display:
• Using the Filter tab, you can select an unlimited number of criteria and the applicable jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria will be displayed in the table below.
• Using the Explore tab, you can isolate a single criterion and the applicable jurisdictions will appear in the table below.

Profiles Display
The Profiles display presents the results of the criteria selected in a text-based format for each applicable jurisdiction. Using the Filter tab, jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display. Using the Explore tab, jurisdictions that meet the criterion selected will display. If no criteria are selected, the full profiles for each state will appear under both Filter and Explore.

Profile Legend
Within each Profile box, above the questions and answers, there are additional options and information useful in exploring the law:

| $|$ §§  | Toggle Legal Text – Selecting this option will show all the legal text used to answer questions for this jurisdiction. |
| --- | --- |
|  | Toggle Full Place Profile – Selecting this option will show all questions and answers for this jurisdiction, regardless of what was selected using the Filter or Explore tabs. |
|  | Toggle Size – Selecting this option will make the profile larger, but will not change the information displayed. |

Legal Text History – This interactive timeline displays when changes in the law have occurred within a jurisdiction. Using the arrows to the left or right, users may explore how the law has changed over time as new amendments to the law have been enacted. The timeline will change from gray to a shade of yellow when the jurisdiction passed its first relevant law. Each change in the law after that is marked by a break in the timeline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
<td>7/1/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map and Profile Legend
There are a few symbols to be aware of in both Map and Profiles display modes:

| $|$ | Section Symbol – Clicking this symbol will open a window that displays excerpts from the law correspond to the question and answer. |
DATASET RESOURCES

Each dataset homepage includes the following resources available for download:

- **Data**: The Data file exports in CSV format and may contain two tabs. The “Statistical Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset, displayed as values defined in the accompanying Codebook. The “Summary Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset in text form, as well as the accompanying citations and any caution notes that may be included.

- **Codebook**: The Codebook defines all of the coded variables in the dataset. The Codebook lists the question, question type, variable name, variable value and variable label. The Codebook should be used in conjunction with the Statistical Data extract.

- **Research Protocol**: The Research Protocol is a comprehensive document that outlines the entire methodology of the project, including the scope, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data collection methods, definitions, coding scheme decisions, as well as the quality control process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- This dataset does not cover all aspects of state mitigation policies in response to COVID-19. To see more about scoping inclusions and exclusions, be sure to review the Research Protocol.

- Several of the COVID-19 Legal Research Resources catalogued at [http://lawatlas.org/page/covid19-legal-research-resources](http://lawatlas.org/page/covid19-legal-research-resources) were utilized as secondary sources during the research and coding phases.

CONTACT US TO REPORT AN ISSUE WITH THE DATA

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