

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.

- Pfizer on Friday requested to expand use of its Covid-19 vaccine to adolescents ages 12 to 15. The request asks the Food and Drug Administration to amend the emergency use authorization, which the FDA originally granted late last year for people ages 16 and up.
- Johnson & Johnson will allocate 86 percent fewer doses across the United States next week than are currently being allocated, according to CDC data, dealing a setback to a national vaccination campaign that has just found its footing. Around 15 million doses at a Baltimore factory had been contaminated, delaying the plant's authorization.
- For the first time since the COVID-19 vaccination effort began, Massachusetts has [reported](#) more than 100,000 new doses in a single daily report. The report, issued Friday afternoon by the Department of Public Health, reports the state has now administered 4,317,085 doses of the three authorized vaccines.
- Massachusetts residents over the age of 16 won't only be [eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts on April 19](#). They'll also be eligible to get the vaccine in New Hampshire. New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu [announced Thursday](#) that the state will drop its residency requirement for vaccine appointments beginning April 19, 2021.
- The Vaccination Credential Initiative is planning to finalize two implementation guides in April, and expects to start integrating the [SMART Health Cards](#) spec into an array of consumer-facing apps and systems in May.
- Boston is now back up above its ["threshold for concern"](#) for the coronavirus positive test rate as the latest uptick continues.
 - The positive test rate crossed the 5% threshold on March 26, and as of a week ago, the most recent complete data available in the report the city released this week the rate remained at 5.1%, according to the Boston Public health Commission's report.

INSURANCE AND COVERAGE RELATED NEWS AND ORDERS/LEGISLATION:

Below we provide an update as to regulations, news, and litigation specifically related to insurance and potential coverage.

- The UK and the US have held the [first meeting](#) of the Joint Committee established under the UK-US bilateral agreement on insurance and reinsurance prudential measures.
 - During this first Joint Committee meeting under the agreement, participants on both sides discussed progress made toward implementation of the agreement, including the removal of collateral and local presence requirements for reinsurers and the provisions on group supervision measures.

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.

- The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced on April 2, 2021 that the 2019 and 2020 EEO-1 Component 1 data collection will open on Monday, April 26, 2021.
 - The EEOC has advised all EEO-1 filers to begin preparing to submit 2019 and 2020 data in anticipation of the April 26 opening. All private employers with 100 or more employees, as well as federal contractors with 50 or more employees, are expected to submit EEO-1 Component 1 data to the EEOC, indicating the composition of their workforces by sex and by race/ethnic category.

LITIGATION/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM UPDATES AND ORDERS:

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

- The state of Maine courthouses will be reduced in response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Unless a court is closed due to inclement weather, [remote proceedings](#) will continue as scheduled.
- All New Hampshire Judicial Branch courts are open during regular business hours. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public access to courthouses and/or clerk's offices has been restricted. With narrow exceptions, only individuals who are filing for emergency relief or who are scheduled for in-person court proceedings may be admitted.