

# FAQ and Legal Experts on COVID-19 — UPDATED 3/24/20



*We've heard from many reporters who have found this guide helpful, and we will continue to update it as the scope of coverage on COVID-19 expands to consider longer-term impacts on business and the economy.*

*Looking for an attorney expert source? Email us at [info@page2comm.com](mailto:info@page2comm.com).*

## Bankruptcy

If the economic slowdown related to the outbreak forces large numbers of businesses into bankruptcy, how will our legal and financial systems cope with this?

Michael Gesas is the Vice Chair of the Bankruptcy and Restructuring practice at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr. He represents creditors and commercial debtors in complex bankruptcy proceedings and business reorganizations. Gesas is also the managing partner of the firm's Chicago office.

## Class Action Litigation

As plaintiffs' lawyers move to market consumer class actions in response to the crisis, with suits already being filed against the manufacturers of hand sanitizer, how can businesses limit potential liabilities while maintaining operations?

Joseph Cancila is a nationally recognized leader in class action defense, having brought several dozen class action cases to successful resolution in jurisdictions widely dispersed across the country. He is a partner at Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila.

## Mass Torts

With jury trials on hold and other resources stretched to the max, judges are likely to push litigants in mass tort cases and other large-scale proceedings toward making out-of-court settlements. How might this impact ongoing mass tort matters such as asbestos cases?

Noted class action litigator Ed Casmere counsels clients in these matters on effective ways to circumvent litigation and negotiate mutually beneficial settlement agreements. He can speak to the way strategies are already evolving in this area. He is a partner at Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila.

## Tax

What's changing in how businesses are taxed and how they'll handle taxes this year and next?

Richard Tracanna, Chair, Tax Group; Co-Chair, Corporate & Securities Practice Group at Benesch can help with this. Richard focuses his practice on corporate, partnership and real estate taxation. He leads his clients through complex corporate reorganizations and restructurings, as well as acquisitions and divestitures, and IRS audits.

## Transportation

How are airlines and other related businesses dealing with the long-term financial and legal fallout of the crisis?

Jeff Morof serves clients in the aerospace and transportation industries, advising them on how to minimize their liability exposure, developing crisis management programs, and contractually limiting their liability exposure. He is a partner at Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila.

## Health Care

What are the best practices regarding safety precautions and responsiveness for healthcare providers and institutions to mitigate exposure?

Kara Friedman, Shareholder in the Hospital & Health Systems Practice Group at Polsinelli, helps health care providers navigate the complex federal and state regulatory environment and can explain how they should approach the current crisis.

What privacy and reporting requirements should employers, individuals and providers be aware of, including FERPA, HIPAA and state laws, like PIPA?

Sara Shanti, Partner in the Health Care & Life Sciences Practice Group at Benesch, represents health care providers and technology companies in matters related to data privacy and security, and health care regulatory compliance.

Nursing homes serve an especially vulnerable population. What questions should family members of nursing home residents be asking?

Steven Levin, Founding Partner of Levin & Perconti, has spent his career representing nursing home patients and their families in cases of abuse and neglect and can speak to the particular dangers around staffing and infection control in nursing homes.

## Loss of Business

Small businesses across industries are facing a drop in demand for their products and services as well as disruptions to the supply chain. What role does business insurance play here, and what steps should business owners take to put themselves on solid footing to file claims?

David Goodman, Founding Partner of Goodman Law Group, advises business owners on risk management and advocates for their rights in litigation against insurance companies.

## Data Protection

As people grapple with the reality of working from home, potentially for long periods of time, what steps should employers be taking to protect data and comply with regulations?

Daniel Farris, Partner at K&L Gates, is coordinator for the data protection practice group and counsels clients on cloud computing, information governance, and privacy and data security.

## Labor and Employment

Employers are trying to figure out how to keep their employees safe, stay in business, and comply with laws and regulations. What do they need to know?

Andy Cripe, Shareholder and Chair of the Employment Advice and Investigations Group at Polsinelli, counsels management, human resources and in-house legal teams on compliance and can speak to how employers can maintain employees' privacy rights.

Margo Wolf O'Donnell, Partner and Co-Chair of the Labor and Employment Practice Group at Benesch, counsels clients on best practices for employment policies, including remote work policies, leave requests, and the prevention of litigation involving these issues.

## Corporate Governance

How is COVID-19 impacting SEC filings?

Sarah Hesse, Partner at Benesch, counsels public companies in mergers and acquisitions and can provide information on disclosure requirements and the SEC's announcement regarding filing extensions for companies that have been hit by COVID-19.

## Digital Crisis Planning and Response

Every crisis in 2020 is a digital crisis, and that includes COVID-19. What kinds of issues and pitfalls do companies need to consider as they plan their policies and online communications to manage their response to the pandemic?

Desiree Moore, Partner at K&L Gates, is a founding member of the firm's Digital Crisis Planning & Response team and counsels corporations, universities and high-profile individuals in managing crises.

## Public Health and Government Enforcement

What do companies need to know about their responsibilities and liabilities when it comes to public health measures?

Mark Silberman, Partner and Chair of the White Collar, Government Investigations & Regulatory Compliance Practice Group, Benesch, counsels clients on navigating this challenging crisis with an eye toward maintaining governmental and regulatory compliance.