

## **Rent and Evictions:**

**“This virus has significantly impacted our economy here at home and across the world. We know this has been challenging for our local businesses and workers, and we are working to provide relief including deferral of taxes and suspension of evictions to Colorado families and individuals. These times are difficult, but they are temporary. Coloradans should rest assured that we will get through this together and we will be well-positioned for success when this all blows over,”** said Governor Jared Polis.

I direct the Executive Directors of the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), and Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to work with property owners and landlords to identify any lawful measure to avoid removing or executing eviction procedures against tenants or mobile home owners without cause or as a result of late or non-payment of rent or minor tenancy violations until April 30, 2020. The Executive Directors also shall work with property owners and landlords to exempt tenants and mobile home owners from fees or penalties for the late payment or nonpayment of rent until April 30, 2020. **The Governor announced that the state will be taking action to provide relief from evictions, foreclosures, and utility shut-offs.** The Governor is directing the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to work with state-chartered financial institutions to address the threat of residential and commercial foreclosures and displacement. The Governor is requesting that municipal and county governments refrain from using law enforcement to carry out evictions or foreclosures against Colorado families unless there is a threat to public safety. He is also encouraging banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions holding residential or commercial mortgages to follow the lead of the Federal Housing Finance Agency and halt foreclosures and related evictions that are due to income reductions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Governor is requesting these financial institutions consider providing a 90 day deferment of payment for all consumer loans, including residential and commercial mortgages, refinances, auto loans, and student loans, and small business loans. The state is also requesting that all public utilities suspend service disconnections for delayed or missed payments from residential and small business consumers.

The Governor is also requesting that all property owners and landlords refrain from removing tenants or mobile home owners without cause or as a result of late rent payment or minor tenancy violations through April 30, unless public safety requires it. Finally, he is asking that all property owners and landlords refrain from imposing a fee for the late payment or nonpayment of rent through the end of April.

The Governor will also be directing the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment’s (CDLE) Unemployment Insurance Division to expedite claim payments during this state of emergency. CDLE has seen a ten-fold increase of claims filed from last week to this week. Coloradans can visit the Department of Labor’s website at [www.coloradoui.gov](http://www.coloradoui.gov) for more information. To learn more about these actions and read the executive order, click [here](#).

## **Utilities:**

I direct the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), within DORA, to work with all public utilities in the State to suspend service disconnections for delayed or missed payments from residential and small business consumers related to the impacts of COVID-19.

I further direct the PUC to work with all public utilities to waive reconnection fees and suspend accrual of late payment fees for all residential customers and small business consumers most significantly burdened by the impacts of COVID-19 as well as to make reasonable efforts to reinstate service for those customers currently disconnected for nonpayment or arrearage related to the impacts of COVID-19.

I further direct the PUC to work with all public utilities to develop and provide payment assistance programs to aid customers, particularly customers qualified for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, in the payment of their utility bills, related to the impacts of COVID-19.

### **Health Insurance:**

**“We want to do everything we can to ensure Coloradans have the resources they need during this difficult time,”** said Gov. Jared Polis. **“As this pandemic continues, we know that having health insurance will be critical, which is why we are extending this enrollment period. Everyday my administration is evaluating what steps we can take to minimize the health impact and economic impact of this crisis.”**

**“I’m pleased that our team, and the folks at Connect for Health Colorado, have worked to make this happen,”** said Colorado Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. **“I urge everyone that doesn’t have insurance to work with Connect for Health Colorado to determine what insurance plans are available to them and to see if they qualify for financial assistance.”**

Only people who are currently uninsured are eligible to enroll, as this is not a period for people with coverage to change plans. Uninsured spouses and children will also be allowed to enroll at this time, even if one spouse or a child’s parent may already be insured.

All individual insurance plans (meaning plans NOT from an employer) are available. People enrolling during this period only have to verbally attest that they are currently uninsured, and the insurance companies cannot require further proof of being uninsured.

Colorado consumers are encouraged to enroll through our state’s exchange, [Connect for Health Colorado](#). Financial assistance for those who qualify is only available when enrolling through Connect for Health Colorado. Contact Connect at 855-752-6749 or find in-person assistance through their statewide network of certified experts at [connectforhealthco.com/person-help](https://connectforhealthco.com/person-help), including appointments with a broker or assister by phone. In addition, Connect for Health offers tools such as the [Quick Cost & Plan Finder](#) that can help check eligibility for financial assistance while finding plans that fit consumers’ needs.

Coloradans who lose their job, or who may lose their job in the coming weeks, and thus lose their employer-based health insurance, are reminded that loss of such coverage allows them a 60-day window to enroll in individual coverage, whenever that might happen throughout the year. See Connect for Health Colorado’s [“When can I buy insurance?” page](#) for details.