

LOUISIANA

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

TASKFORCE



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COVID-19 Phase 1 update:

Decrease in hospitalizations:

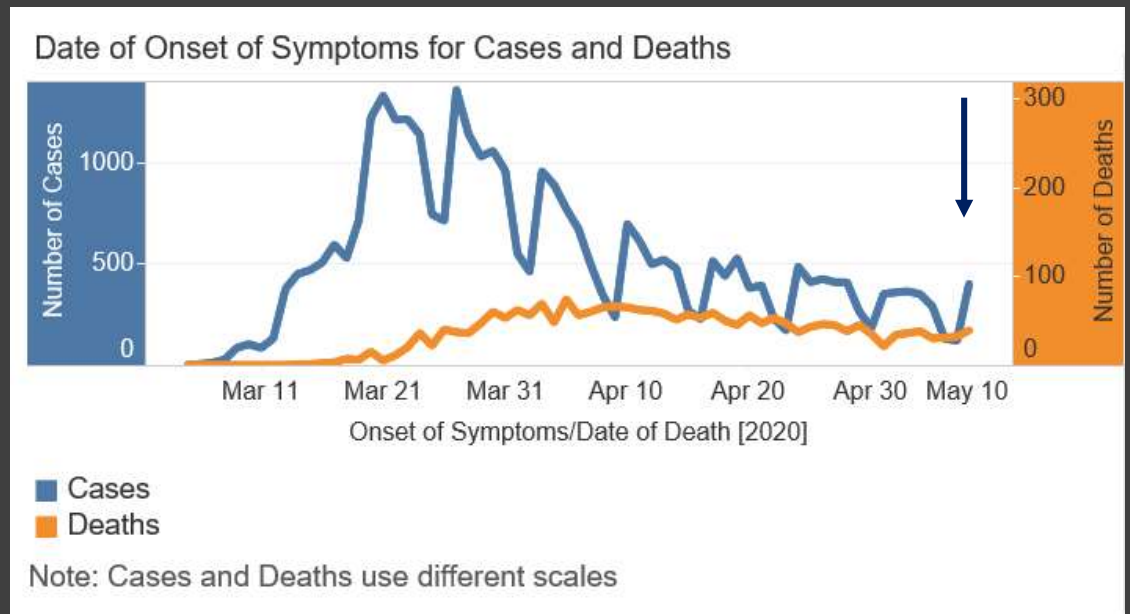
- Social distancing
- Isolation of cases
- Improved testing

Decrease in LOS:

- Statewide treatment strategy
- New treatments available

Decreased death rate:

- Improved initially as treatment improved
- Worsened with outbreaks





Protecting vulnerable population is key to phase 1 success

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'Elbow to elbow': Coronavirus outbreaks at crawfish plant migrants' working conditions

BY SAM KARLIN | STAFF WRITER MAY 19, 2020 - 6:11 PM 4 min to read



4. Screen Employees For Symptoms.

- Screen for symptoms when staff arrive at work (this is crucial in order to ensure employee health and reduce workplace outbreaks).
- Make sure the symptoms are updated to reflect new information from the CDC. Symptoms screening should include symptoms beyond fever.
- Put in place a plan for positive symptoms and educate your employees so they feel safe and not discriminated against for reporting symptoms.



5. Create Plans So Your Employees Can Be Tested.

- Employees who show signs of COVID-19 infection should be sent for testing as soon as possible.
- Testing improves safety while minimizing lost work days. If positive, the employee is quickly able to quarantine at home. If negative, the employee continues work, minimizing missed work waiting on test results.
- Develop messaging to announce any employee exposure to the team, including proper procedures for team members who were exposed.

6. Manage and Monitor Employees' Return To Work.

- Adopt and communicate to employees recommended guidelines for when and how employees can return to work.
- Set expectations for necessary follow-up and provide guidance for when the employee calls in sick.
- Develop a policy for return to work if an employee is caring for someone with COVID-19 in their home.



Understanding testing and contact tracing

Diagnosis

- PCR, Antigen
 - Tests for symptomatic patients
 - Debate on asymptomatic patients
- Antibody
 - False positives occur
 - May be an indication of prior disease in patients with previous symptoms

Contact tracing

- Isolation of positive patients
- Quarantine of contacts



1. Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work

Phase II Recommendations

Chair: Dr. Craig Greene

Membership: Scott Ballard, Jeff Drozda,
David Ellis, Friday Ellis, John Finan,
Stan Harris, Quentin Messer, Pete November,
Dr. Catherine O'Neal, Allyson Pharr, Doug Shipley

Special Advisor: Beverly Haydel

Top Priorities for Phase II

Get available CARES Act money directly in the hands of business owners to encourage re-hiring and investment in workforce training.

Many employers continue to face challenges in re-hiring workers, in some cases because federal unemployment benefits are higher than weekly wages. This additional money could help businesses raise wages or provide additional workforce training programs.

Recommendation

Establish a program to provide direct funding to eligible businesses, including small businesses that did not/could not access PPP loans, businesses in certain sectors that have faced significant business interruption, and minority-owned businesses.

Instrument

SCR 65 (Sen. Heather Cloud) urges the Legislature to establish such a program. During a Special Session, the Legislature can formally establish the program and include funding in budget.

Top Priorities for Phase II

Establish a coordinated campaign to position Louisiana as a national leader in workplace health and safety and consider additional incentives to help Louisiana attract tourism and events in the future.

Psychological safety of employees and consumers will significantly impact how quickly the Louisiana economy is able to rebound. As we work to compete with other states for major events and tourism business, this issue will be a new factor that we must consider and ensure we have a leg up on.

Recommendation

Establish programs to encourage best practices and communicate to employees, consumers, and visitors that Louisiana is open for business while working hard to protect people's health and safety.



2. Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana

Phase II Recommendations

Chair: Nathalie Simon

Membership: Dr. Stephen Barnes, Tommy Faucheux, Cody Gielen, Vic Lafont, Nanette Noland, Deborah Randolph, Erich Schouest, George Swift

Special Advisor: Jim Bourgeois

Top Priorities for Phase II

- Worker, employer, and place of employment safety continues to be of paramount importance, as is overall consumer confidence
- Enact any recommendations from Phase I not acted on/still pending in Regular Legislative Session:
 - Limited liability protection for employers
 - Scaling of COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and tracking
 - Clear guidance, not regulation, on PPE/hygiene protocols
 - Postponement of employer unemployment compensation contributions by two months for the second and third quarters
 - Prioritization of childcare workers/industry for COVID testing and liability protection
 - Restraint from reduction of budgets of education and workforce training providers, such as community colleges or technical training schools that can mobilize quickly to meet market demands and best maximize/leverage technology
 - Expansion of the scope of Quality Jobs and/or Enterprise Zones to include industries currently omitted (e.g., hotels, restaurants, retail) on a short-term basis
- Enable workforce training infrastructure to quickly adapt and remain coordinated following a declared emergency, such as COVID-19
- Incentivize capital and other investment & programs
- Support tourism industry and provide flexibility and access to funds for marketing
- Renew and maintain commitment to bipartisan criminal justice reforms with a renewed and steadfast focus on reentry to facilitate gainful employment for reentering citizens and address their unique employment needs considering the increasingly uncertain economic landscape

Empower rapid workforce training and disaster response



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Give legislators appointed to the Workforce Investment Council authority to call meetings to ensure the state's workforce and education infrastructure will quickly adapt and remain coordinated following a declared emergency such as COVID-19	RS 23:2043	Louisiana workers, employers, and workforce and education system	Creates shared responsibility and authority between Governor's and Legislature's appointees to convene the WIC to quickly revise education / training plans and priorities	Amendments to existing statutes can establish an alternate process for calling meetings and develop short-term plans to deal with a declared emergency	Minimal
Create a Task Force on Innovative Funding and Strategies for Post-Secondary Education and Training	N/A	Louisiana workers, employers, and workforce and education system	Identify new solutions to ensure access to education and training with minimal and deferred budget impact	Resolution	None

Expand programs to incentivize investment



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Incentivize new capital investment in the state and consider broadening the industry scope of the Industrial Tax Exemption Program to include distribution and other projects on a temporary or short-term basis	Title 13 (Economic Development)	All Louisiana citizens	Attraction of new investment and jobs by better Incentivizing businesses putting money into the economy	HB 347 (Ivey), HCR 4 (Beaulieu), SB 187 (White)	No fiscal impact on the state
Broaden the scope and inclusion of Quality Jobs and/or Enterprise Zones to industries currently omitted (e.g. hotels restaurants, retail) on a temporary or short-term basis	TITLE 51 - Trade and Commerce	All Louisiana citizens	Provide tax rebates to employers expanding their workforce		None, incentive for additional hiring will result in additional spending (i.e. sales tax receipts, property tax)

Create programs to incentivize investment

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Create an incentive framework to aggressively pursue re-shoring of PPE and medical related manufacturing (e.g. tax abatements, tax rebates)	Title 13 (Economic Development)	All Louisiana citizens	Attraction of new investment and jobs to Louisiana; gaining control over critical supply chain of medical equipment		Will be determined on size and number of projects

Support tourism by providing flexibility and access to funds for marketing



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Urge and request the Governor to work with HUD to request and obtain a waiver to utilize unspent community development block grant disaster recovery dollars (CDBG-DR) for the purpose of tourism marketing	Concurrent Resolution	Tourism related small businesses	With existing funding sources strained, resources for marketing Louisiana will be limited at a time most critical	N/A	None, use of Federal dollars
Temporarily suspend the provision of law capping amount of marketing funds (10%) which can be spent on in-state advertising through the end of July 2021	Suspends R.S. 51:1286(C)(2)(c)	Tourism related small businesses	Suspension of law would temporarily waive the 10% cap on in-state advertising through the end of July 2021	HCR 31	None, rededication of existing funds

Renew and maintain commitment to bipartisan criminal justice reforms, particularly with a focus on reentry

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Renew and maintain commitment to bipartisan criminal justice reforms, with a renewed and steadfast focus on reentry to facilitate gainful employment for reentering citizens and address their unique employment needs in light of the increasingly uncertain economic landscape		Reentrants, business owners, overall Louisiana citizens, including families of the previously incarcerated.	Provide access to gainful employment for those most at risk/the most obstacles, grow workforce and tax base, reduce recidivism and crime rates, provide for families of the previously incarcerated (17K released every year statewide).		



3. Supporting Diverse Industries Across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper

Phase II Recommendations

Chair: Stephen Waguespack

Membership: Jim Bernhard, Chett Chaisson, Blake Chatelain, Hank Danos, Lavelle Edmonson, Meryl Kennedy Farr, Adam Knapp, Scott Martinez, Matt McKay, Richard Neal, Dave Roberts, Ruffin Rodrigue

Special Advisor: Ileana Ledet

Top Priorities for Phase II

- Enact any legislation that was not acted on in Regular Legislative Session (e.g. legal liability protection for employers, legal reform)
- Systemic Tax Structure Simplification
- Explore Constitutional Convention
- Expanded, short-term programs that incentivize investment



4. Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth

Phase II Recommendations

Chair: Scott Poole

Membership: Greg Bowser, Gifford Briggs, Jeff Copeskey, David Cresson, Bryan Hanks, Ray Lasseigne, Chris Leopold, Jude Melville, Chris Schouest, Dawn Starns

Special Advisor: Barker Dirmann

Top Priorities for Phase II

- Pursue Phase I proposals not enacted during the Regular Legislative Session
 - Legal liability protection for employers
 - Tax relief for recovering businesses
 - Protection from frivolous lawsuits
 - Relief from burdensome licensing requirements/regulations
- Simplify Louisiana's complicated tax structure to encourage investment in the private sector
 - Inventory Tax Reform
 - Suspend taxes on manufacturing inputs like business utilities
 - Extend tax filing deadlines and suspend tax audits to coincide with declared disaster
- Offer a tax credit to reduce tax liability to business for qualified expenses related to COVID-19
- Working with LCTCS, develop a post COVID-19 training program designed to fill workforce gaps resulting from the COVID-19 economic shutdown



5. Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth

Phase II Recommendations

Chair: Maura Donahue

Membership: Stephanie Calhoun, Art Favre, Kelisha Garrett, Tyler Gray, Steven Grissom, Michael Hecht, Todd Murphy, Art Price, Dr. Loren C. Scott, Craig Spohn, Dennis Stine

Special Advisor: Camille Conaway

Top Priorities for Phase II

- Enact legislation that was not acted on in **Regular Legislative Session** (e.g. severance tax reduction, centralized sales tax collection, ITEP improvements, legal liability protection for employers, legal reform)
- Streamline the deployment process for **broadband** to expand capacity and connectivity.
- Re: the impending budget challenges: 1) Reform legacy **pension systems** to stabilize costs and attract a modern workforce and 2) Establish a **Streamlining Government** Commission.
- Consider “**smart incentives**” to support technology growth and higher education.
- Pursue deliberate actions to build a more **inclusive economy** such as expanding the small business purchasing policy and encouraging local certified DBE/Hudson/veteran businesses on state-funded public infrastructure projects.
- Invest in **infrastructure**, particularly large-scale projects and public-private partnerships.
- Establish a coordinated effort to position Louisiana to help **onshore critical industries** from overseas.

Upcoming Task Force Meeting Dates

- Task Force Meetings—Thursdays, 8:30 am
- Work Group Meetings—
Mondays and/or Tuesdays (TBD by Chair of
Work Groups)

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