



FACT SHEET: Coronavirus Response Phases 1 and 2 Benefits for Marylanders

The coronavirus (COVID-19) is an unprecedented medical and economic crisis affecting virtually every Americans. Senator Van Hollen is taking action to enhance the medical response and protect all Marylanders from the economic fallout. He helped craft and voted for Congress's three response bills and worked with state, local, and federal officials to ensure Maryland gets all the federal resources we need.

Phase 1 (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act)

This \$8.3 billion package, signed into law March 6, provides initial support to the coronavirus response. It funds public health systems and state and local governments, gives initial help to small businesses, and enables strategic federal action to stem the pandemic.

You can find more details on his work on our [coronavirus website](#), including our [Fact Sheet on Phase 3, the CARES Act](#).

Get resources to health professionals on the front lines

- Provides \$2.2 billion in immediate funding to support preparedness at our nation's hospitals and health centers, to bolster their capacity to handle coronavirus on the frontlines.
- Provides nearly \$1 billion to buy protective equipment like masks, other medical supplies, and prescription drugs. And it expands the use of telehealth to protect patients and care providers and reduce the need to travel to appointments.
- Provides more than \$3 billion for research, development, and approval of a potential vaccine, treatments, and diagnostics – work that is being done at Maryland's NIH and FDA facilities among other places. And it requires that these vaccines and treatments be available at a reasonable price.
- Recognizing the need to fight the virus globally in order to protect Americans, the bill provides \$435 million to support overseas health systems responding to the pandemic.

Support small businesses and non-profits

- Enables the Small Business Administration to provide an estimated \$7 billion in loans to small businesses suffering losses due to the outbreak – a provision Senate Democrats worked to include after hearing the concerns of Maryland small business owners.
- Using disaster loan authorities, these loans can be made available quickly and can be as large as \$2 million at 3.75% interest (2.75% for non-profits), with repayment terms of up to 30 years. They can be used to pay employees and cover fixed costs.

Phase 2 (Families First Coronavirus Response Act)

This much larger package, signed into law on March 18, ensures free coronavirus testing, expands paid sick leave and unemployment insurance, and increases food assistance. It helps workers and families put food on the table and pay rent and expenses even if they lose their job – provisions that were built on in the Phase 3 legislation.

Free testing

- Requires health insurers to offer free coronavirus testing.
- Provides more \$1.2 billion to cover testing for uninsured Americans, our military and veterans, and others who receive government-funded health care.

Paid sick leave for small business and self-employed workers

- Most Marylanders who work full-time for businesses with fewer than 500 employees, as well as government employees, get two weeks paid sick leave at full pay (up to \$511/day) for coronavirus-related reasons, or two weeks at two-thirds pay (up to \$200/day) to care for someone else affected by coronavirus.
- In addition, most Marylanders at businesses with fewer than 500 employees get up to 12 weeks of leave at two-thirds pay (up to \$200/day) to care for children whose schools or daycares are closed due to coronavirus.
- **Refundable tax credit:** Employers get a refundable tax credit to fully cover the cost of paying sick leave wages and health benefits paid under this bill. Self-employed workers can also claim this credit.

Food aid

- The bill includes more than \$1.1 billion to provide food to women, children, seniors and other low income Americans, and make up for school lunches that can no longer served because schools are closed.
- The assistance is provided through the WIC, SNAP, TEFAP, National School Lunch, Senior Nutrition, and other programs.

Medical funding to states

In addition to the unemployment and other assistance above, the bill increased Medicaid payments to states by 6.2% to help them respond to the virus.