

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: Kinney Pike Insurance

Trump Announces National Guidelines to Limit Coronavirus Spread

On Monday, March 16, 2020, President Donald Trump held a news conference to reinforce guidelines intended to slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). He asked Americans to follow the guidelines for the next 15 days.

Many of the recommendations listed during the conference should be familiar to individuals following the COVID-19 pandemic: Wash your hands, avoid social gatherings and stay at home as much as possible.

Avoiding social gatherings is an especially critical point, according to the administration. Trump and his advisors now say to limit gatherings to under 10 people (down from the “under 50 people” recommendation days earlier), but ideally not to have them at all.

Similarly, Trump emphasized the importance of self-isolation. This means children should be schooled at home, and employees should do their work from home, too.

This isolation strategy will hopefully contain individuals who are sick and don’t know it. The administration acknowledged the prevalence of young, healthy individuals without severe symptoms who continue to unknowingly spread COVID-19.

What’s Next?

No one can be certain how long this pandemic will last, even the president. When prompted, Trump suggested the virus may “wash through” the country

by July or August, if the administration’s proposed guidelines are followed.

Experts are trying more than anything to reduce how many people are infected by COVID-19 at once, as a huge surge of patients would cripple the American health care system. Ideally, the spread would be more gradual, hence the self-isolation guidelines.

Trump’s advisors stressed that these measures were not an overreaction, but necessary steps toward containment.

If the situation worsens further, Trump said he was open to using the Army Corps of Engineers or FEMA to build hospitals for surge capacity, but that it was not something he was considering at the moment.

Employer Takeaway

Unfortunately, little is known about how far COVID-19 may spread and its further impact on the economy. As it stands, individuals and businesses are uncertain how they will recoup their financial losses during this time.

Stay tuned for more updates from Kinney Pike Insurance about this ongoing pandemic.

