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# Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 7, March 27, 2020

## Message from CML Executive Director Kevin Bommer



On behalf of the entire staff at CML, I want to convey to you our thanks and appreciation for your dedication and commitment to your community.

This is an unprecedented time, filled with uncertainty, fear, and confusion, as the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) continues to impact every aspect of our lives.

However, it is often in times of crisis that governments and their leaders are at their best. Each of you is working hard to ensure health, safety, and order in your cities and towns, while doing everything possible to ensure no Coloradan is left behind and goods and services can continue to flow.

We know that you have had to make hard decisions and watch local businesses and industries try to stay open, if possible. We know that our state and local economies are going to take a hit, and it will take some time to recover. Our hearts and thoughts go out to each and every one of you.

The team at CML is dedicated to our members. The League exists for you and because of you. We are hard at work (remotely) coordinating with state and federal partners and advocating on your behalf. In addition to your intergovernmental communication networks, we are also working to facilitate rapid transfer of best practices and information via our information page, [www.cml.org/covid19](http://www.cml.org/covid19). We are working with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to connect every municipality with a regular check-in call with state agencies.

CML's vision of "empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado" has never been

more appropriate than it is now. You have my commitment that CML will continue to provide the advocacy, information, and training throughout this crisis and beyond.

Finally, you will note that we are still planning to hold our annual conference from **June 23–26** in Westminster and have cut our cancellation fee in half. Early registration goes through **May 15**, and we continue to encourage you to register. If circumstances require rescheduling, then we will make all appropriate arrangements and accommodations. It is important to our staff that the premier event for municipal training and networking still goes on one way or another.

Thank you to our elected officials, staff, first responders, and all those who work to make Colorado municipalities great. You inspire us all every day, and we will continue to work hard for you.

## Colorado delegates travel to Washington, D.C.



Wade Troxell (standing), Fort Collins mayor and CML immediate past president, and municipal officials from Colorado and elsewhere met with the Federal Aviation Administration while in Washington.

From March 8–11, 80 municipal leaders from 22 Colorado municipalities participated in the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.

The conference consisted of meetings and sessions with a variety of federal officials, policymakers, and thought leaders providing the latest information on issues affecting municipalities at the federal level. Attendees had opportunities to discover the latest funding opportunities to support economic growth and learn emerging practices to strengthen local communities.

In addition, Colorado attendees participated in meetings on Capitol Hill with some of Colorado's congressional delegation and staff. Attendees also participated in updates from key federal agency partners with the assistance of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado**

## Frequently asked questions about COVID-19 and April elections

CML has created a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document on COVID-19 and April municipal elections. For more information, visit [bit.ly/39mianu](https://bit.ly/39mianu).

Information includes:

- Can a town or city cancel or postpone their April election?
- Does the Secretary of State have the authority to cancel or postpone municipal elections?
- What can municipalities do to reduce the threat of COVID-19 spread during polling place elections?

### Where can I find more information?

- For CML's updates related to COVID-19 and municipalities on our webpage, visit [www.cml.org/covid19](https://www.cml.org/covid19).
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information about COVID-19 and polling place elections. For more information, visit [bit.ly/2xNpD1v](https://bit.ly/2xNpD1v).
- The United States Postal Service statement on COVID-19 is available at [bit.ly/396DjBI](https://bit.ly/396DjBI).

## Castle Rock councilmembers make special motion to light The Star as beacon of hope



*The Star atop The Rock. Photo credit: Nick Lucey*

At the March 17 Castle Rock council meeting, Castle Rock councilmembers voted unanimously on a special motion to light The Star atop The Rock as a symbol of hope during the pandemic, and as a reminder that Castle Rock is a strong and united community that will persevere.

The 40-foot star atop Castle Rock's iconic Rock was originally constructed in 1936, during the Great Depression, as a symbol of hope that could be seen for miles around. "When times get hard in Castle Rock, the community comes together," said Mayor Jason Gray. "We will get through this, and my wish is that everyone who sees The Star will ask themselves what they can do in the community to help those who need support."

The Star was lit by Castle Rock Fire and Rescue firefighters and a long-time volunteer, also known as The Keepers of the Star. Watch [CRgov.com](https://CRgov.com) and Town social media (@CRgov) for specifics on when The Star will light up.

Unlike at the annual Starlighting, the town asked that the community not gather centrally to watch The Star light up.

The Star is typically lit each year from the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the National Western Stock Show. Outside the holiday season, the Star has been lit a handful of times for special occasions. Town council consent is required to light The Star at times other than the holiday season.

## What is happening at the COGCC?

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the General Assembly and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), and the Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) have made significant changes to their schedules. Currently, the General Assembly is recessed until **March 30** and the COGCC has rescheduled Wellbore Integrity rulemaking to **April 29–30**. The APCD has canceled the Oil and Gas Methane and Other Hydrocarbons Monitoring Forum planned for **April 7**. In lieu of this forum, the APCD will make available two informative oil and gas monitoring presentations. For more information, visit [bit.ly/2vzxZcx](https://bit.ly/2vzxZcx).

In preparation for Wellbore Integrity, the COGCC has worked for several months with numerous stakeholders to develop a comprehensive review and consensus on revisions to the COGCC Wellbore Integrity rules. Additionally, the COGCC is working to eliminate any duplicative, irrelevant, or unnecessary rules as well as working with local governments to better coordinate with their existing rules and new authority granted in SB 19–181. With this in mind, Jeff Robbins, COGCC director, has provided

an overview of each rulemaking series and the intent for cooperative and collaborative discussions as rules are being developed. To listen to the presentation overview given at the February 27 hearing, visit [youtu.be/fw\\_oy48z2Wg](https://youtu.be/fw_oy48z2Wg).

Finally, on March 16, the COGCC published the Mission Change draft rules for the 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600 Series Rules that reflect SB 19-181's new mission to "regulate" instead of "foster" oil and gas development.

### COGCC Rulemaking

- Wellbore Integrity: Originally scheduled for March 25–26 now moved to **April 29–30**.
- Mission Change/Cumulative Impacts/Alternative Location Analysis: **April–May**.
- Professional Commission Established: **July 1**.
- Worker Certification: Professional Commission — after **July 1**.
- Financial Assurance: Professional Commission — after **July 1**.
- Application Fees: Professional Commission — after **July 1**.



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## Newsletter

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# Retail food establishment implementation of COVID-19 public health order

It is important to note that Public Health Order 20-22 still allows for and encourages takeout and delivery of food. The overriding goal of this order is to minimize in-person interaction, which is the primary means of transmission.

- Establishments may continue to offer food and beverage using delivery service, window service, walk-up service, drive-thru service, or drive-up service, and must use precautions in doing so to mitigate the potential transmission of COVID-19, including social distancing.
- Establishments may allow up to five members of the public on the premises at one time for the purpose of picking up their food or beverage orders, so long as those individuals are at least six feet apart from one another.
- In addition, the order does not apply to grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, food pantries, room service in hotels, health care facilities, residential care facilities,

congregate care facilities, juvenile justice facilities, crisis shelters or similar institutions, airport concessionaires, and any emergency facilities necessary for the response to these events.

If an establishment remains open during this Public Health Order to provide food for delivery or pickup, the establishment will take all reasonable steps to avoid the congregation of patrons in or out of the establishment and:

- Establishments with a drive-thru shall close walk-up service for patrons arriving by vehicle, place signage on the door indicating the dining area is closed, and guide patrons arriving by vehicle through the drive-thru.
- Where practicable, establishments without a drive-thru shall provide signage on doors and elsewhere that prevents walk-up service for patrons arriving by vehicle and have waitstaff take orders from and deliver food to vehicles.

For establishments where one of the options above cannot be implemented for patrons arriving by vehicle, and for pedestrians or bicyclists, the establishment must put into place processes that ensures no more than five patrons are in the establishment at one time and that a six-foot distance is maintained between patrons. This can include:

- Having staff outside during peak hours ushering in new patrons as others leave.
- Allowing access through one door and monitoring that door; marking indications on the establishment floor and on the ground outside to show the six-foot required distancing.
- Closing down all indoor and outdoor seating except a few designated areas for the five or fewer patrons that can be in the establishment, only during pickup or walk-up service.

For further information about this guidance, visit [bit.ly/2QG9rFY](https://bit.ly/2QG9rFY).

# State health department calls on people, especially those who think they might have the illness, to self-isolate

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is urging self-isolation or self-quarantine for some Coloradans and visitors to Colorado.

Self-isolation applies to people who:

- Have a positive COVID-19 test.
- Have symptoms of COVID-19 (coughing, shortness of breath, and/or fever).
- Are getting ill and think they might have the coronavirus.

Symptoms, especially early on, may be very mild and feel like a common cold. Symptoms could include a combination of cough, body aches, fatigue, and chest tightness. Some people may not develop fever, or fever may not appear until several days into the illness.

Self-quarantine applies to people who are close contacts of a person who either has a positive test or symptoms — even early symptoms — of illness.

Self-isolation is for people who have symptoms of the coronavirus and means staying away from others until seven days have passed since the symptoms began and until any fever has been gone for 72 hours and all other symptoms are improving.

Self-quarantine is for people who do not have symptoms but are close contacts of people who have symptoms. It means staying away from others for 14 days to see if one becomes ill. People who become ill with the coronavirus symptoms (even early symptoms)

while self-quarantining should then start the self-isolation period.

CDPHE has put together how-tos for people who are self-isolating and self-quarantining. They are available at [bit.ly/3doc7BM](https://bit.ly/3doc7BM).

"We are calling on all people in Colorado now to take personal responsibility and self-quarantine and self-isolate in order to protect people and our health care system," said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, CDPHE executive director, "and we are counting on everyone, including the media, to share this information quickly and responsibly."

Continue to stay up to date by visiting [covid19.colorado.gov](https://covid19.colorado.gov).

# Interim guidance for homeless shelters

Persons experiencing homelessness may be at risk for infection during an outbreak of COVID-19. This interim guidance is intended to support response planning by homeless service providers, including overnight emergency shelters, day shelters, and meal service providers.

COVID-19 is caused by a new virus. There is much to learn about the transmissibility, severity, and other features of the disease. Everyone can do their part to help plan, prepare, and respond to this emerging public health threat.

CDC has developed recommendations for homeless service providers about how to protect their staff, clients, and guests. The before, during, and after sections of this guidance offer suggested strategies to help homeless service providers plan, prepare, and respond to this emerging public health threat. For more information, visit [bit.ly/39cjMQC](https://bit.ly/39cjMQC).

# Coronavirus and the markets: Short-term and long-term impacts and considerations

Provided by: ICMA RC

The worrying global spread of the coronavirus and the failure of the alliance of OPEC and 10 non-OPEC members led by Russia to agree on a unified position in recent weeks have sent stock and oil prices sliding with a quickness and velocity not seen since the 2007–2008 financial crisis. However, in terms of investing and saving for retirement, we believe it is important to distinguish between short-term and long-term potential impacts.

## Short-term impacts

In the short term, we expect the coronavirus-related disruptions to negatively impact global and domestic supply chain routes, the business climate, and consumer confidence. This will have at least a short-term impact on the global economy. Much of the future impact on the stock market will depend on the duration and severity of the disruptions both in the U.S. and abroad.

Governments and central banks are attempting to mitigate the damage. On Sunday, March 15, the U.S. Federal Reserve delivered a surprise second intermeeting cut, lowering the target range for the Federal funds rate by 1 percentage point to 0 to 0.25% and indicating it will purchase \$700 billion in Treasury and mortgage-backed securities in an effort to bolster the economy. Other central banks around the world have cut their own key interest rates or indicated they are considering reducing interest rates and providing stimulus in other forms. Meanwhile, in the U.S., politicians on both sides of the aisle have proposed legislative efforts to assist individuals and businesses impacted by

the coronavirus. However, what legislation is eventually approved remains to be seen.

In short, at this point, many of the details about the virus' economic and human impacts remain unknown. That means from a market perspective, based on the current data, it is difficult at this point to determine the virus' fallout on an economic scale. We are in a period where most of the existing data, be it company forecasts or economic measures, was compiled prior to the virus' global spread. Nor do we anticipate a near-term end to the ongoing market volatility.

## Long-term impacts and considerations

When saving and investing for retirement, it is important to step back from the daily headlines and take a long-term perspective. Investors' skittishness during periods of high volatility is understandable, however, we believe that building long-term wealth requires the mental fortitude and discipline to control one's emotions and avoid costly investment mistakes.

Research shows that when investing for long-term goals such as retirement, asset allocation, diversification, dollar-cost averaging, and investor behavior are critical determinants of long-term investment success. We are very mindful of the recent market dynamics and are monitoring our portfolios accordingly. We also are advocates of diversification and have long believed in investing in high-quality securities and focusing on those with solid long-term fundamentals. Of course, diversification does not assure a profit, but spreading assets across a wide variety of investments is a good way to reduce risk during volatile times.

Eventually, when the market is able to correctly apprise the facts of the situation, it should get back to focusing on company and economic fundamentals, which are ultimately what drive stock prices.

In most retirement plans, participants at or near retirement are likely to have available one or more investment options designed to seek capital preservation such as certificates of deposit (CDs), money market mutual funds, and stable value funds. These investment options seek to lower the impact of market volatility.

The goal of these funds is to primarily provide capital preservation and secondarily, to provide a steady source of return, while cushioning the impact of short-term market volatility.

Short-term performance, however, should never be the sole criterion used in assessing an investment's long-term prospects because no investment is immune from the ups and downs of the market. With that in mind, our funds are designed for the long term, while recognizing the volatility inherent in any market cycle. We continue to monitor the market closely and to take steps to try to mitigate any market risks that may arise.

At times like this, one of the most important things people can do as they save for retirement is to remember that investing starts with saving. And saving for retirement during a market downturn, such as the one we are currently experiencing, can be very beneficial over the long term. That is because by continuing to contribute to a retirement account, an individual is buying investments at lower prices and in doing so better positioning themselves for retirement years down the road.

## CML canceled events

Due to the current environment surrounding the coronavirus, CML has made the difficult decision to cancel the following events to maintain the health and safety of our members:

- Introduction to Municipal Government workshops
- Spring Outreach meetings

CML will continue to do our best to keep all of our members up to date on our upcoming events. We want to thank all of the municipalities that wanted to host the meetings and workshops, and CML is looking forward to the opportunity to be in a community near you.

## CML during the coronavirus

While CML continues working diligently for all of our members, CML has taken the following actions effective immediately:

- As of March 16, CML offices are closed and employees are telecommuting to encourage social distancing.
- A COVID-19 information page with resources for our members is available on the CML website at [bit.ly/3a4FcjO](http://bit.ly/3a4FcjO).

The CML Annual Conference is a vital resource for our members, and we encourage members to plan to attend. Early bird registration does not end until **May 15**, and the cancellation fee

has been reduced for anyone who registers now and ultimately has to cancel. In the event the coronavirus is still impacting large gatherings, CML is creating contingency plans.

We will keep our members posted on any actions or modifications via our website at [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org).

CML will remain available to you, regardless of circumstances. Should you need any information or assistance, contact Kevin Bommer, CML executive director, at [kbommer@cml.org](mailto:kbommer@cml.org).

# Scrapbook: NLC Congressional City Conference



Archana Sridhar, NLC's senior specialist for grassroots advocacy, speaks to Colorado municipal officials at the Colorado Issues Briefing.

# CML scrapbook: Staff members working hard for you



Meghan Dollar, CML legislative advocacy manager, enlisted the help of her assistant to answer urgent emails.



Morgan Cullen, CML legislative and policy advocate, having his assistant take phone calls while he answers emails.



Courtney Forehand, CML training and marketing specialist, getting feedback from her coworker about her lack of pettings.



Allison Wright, CML finance and administration manager, teaching one of her goldens, Leo, the ins and outs of financing.



Kevin Bommer, CML executive director, working hard from his home office during the coronavirus outbreak.



Jude providing support to Brandy DeLange, CML legislative and policy advocate, while she works hard for CML members.

# Federal legislative update: Families First Coronavirus Response Act

President Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201). There are two major sections of the bill that need your urgent attention: emergency paid sick leave (subtitle division E) and the emergency Family and Medical Leave Act expansion (subtitle division C):

## Emergency paid sick leave

The Act expands access to emergency paid sick leave to a specific set of employees, including those who work for local, state, or federal governments. Eligible full-time employees are entitled to two weeks (80 hours) of fully paid time off, up to \$511 per day, to self-quarantine, seek a diagnosis or preventive care, receive treatment for COVID-19, or care for a child due to a school or daycare closure due to COVID-19 precautions. Eligible part-time employees are entitled to two weeks of paid time off at two-thirds their regular pay, up to \$200 per day, for the average number of hours worked in a two-week time period to care for a family member or to care for a child whose school has closed, or if their child care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19.

Employers of employees who are health care providers or emergency responders may elect to exclude the employee from the application of this subsection.

## Emergency paid family leave

The Act ensures employees, including those who work for local, state, or federal

governments, can care for their children by expanding FMLA. Full-time employees and part-time employees who have been on the job for at least 30 days are entitled to 12 weeks of job-protected leave only to take care for their children who are under the age of 18 in the event of a school closure or if their child care provider is unavailable due to a public health emergency. A public health emergency means a state of emergency declared by a federal, state, or local authority.

The 12 weeks of job-protected leave include two weeks of unpaid leave, followed by 10 weeks of paid leave. Eligible employees may elect or be required to overlap the initial two weeks of unpaid leave with two weeks of other paid leave they have available. Eligible employees will receive a benefit from their employers that will be no less than two-thirds of the employee's usual pay. The paid family leave pay is capped at \$200 per day or \$10,000 total.

Of note, the standard provisions of FMLA apply; this bill expands the two aforementioned sections to directly address concerns of workers during the current crisis.

## Reimbursement

As it stands, this bill implements significant mandates on local governments as employers, but unfortunately, the bill expressly prohibits government employers from receiving the tax credits to offset the costs of providing such leave. Both the

National League of Cities (NLC) and the Colorado Municipal League are advocating for credits to be given to local governments.

For a copy of NLC's letter to congressional leadership, visit [bit.ly/33JS6kL](https://bit.ly/33JS6kL). You may also consider sending an email or letter to Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner, as well as your member of Congress, urging them to incorporate the requested changes into the next round of COVID-19 relief legislation.

The bill goes into effect no later than 15 days after President Trump signed it into law, which means it will go into effect sometime on or before April 2, 2020. The bill has a sunset date of Dec. 31, 2020, as it is meant to specifically address concerns around COVID-19.

Additional information on the leave provisions can be found on a factsheet available by visiting [bit.ly/2vJTMjy](https://bit.ly/2vJTMjy). A detailed breakdown of the entire bill, including other provisions, can be found on another factsheet, available at [bit.ly/2y4ovH9](https://bit.ly/2y4ovH9). Both documents are from the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee staff.

CML will continue to apprise you of developments on this and other federal legislation that impacts municipalities. Please be aware that many additional resources for municipalities are available on CML's COVID-19 resource page. For more information, visit [bit.ly/2UaaKiG](https://bit.ly/2UaaKiG).

## Could your city attorney use a hand?

CML has joined with the University of Colorado Law School to identify law students who are interested in interning with our member municipalities. This is the ideal time to advertise summer internship opportunities

at the law school. Creating a job posting is easy and can be done at [bit.ly/3aJDELQ](https://bit.ly/3aJDELQ).

Colorado Law does not place minimum requirements on the rate of pay, the scope of work, or the length of the internship.

If you have questions about the internship program, or to discuss other programs at Colorado Law, contact Marci Fulton, assistant dean for employer relations, by email at [marci.fulton@colorado.edu](mailto:marci.fulton@colorado.edu) or at 303-492-7015.

## Governor secures federal loan assistance for small businesses

As municipalities across the state prepare for the public health implications related to the coronavirus in Colorado, our cities and towns will be looking for resources to help support their community's small businesses from the inevitable economic fallout that is sure to be felt for some time.

As of this week, Colorado small businesses impacted by COVID-19 can seek individual small business loans up to \$2 million as part of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Small businesses throughout all 64 counties may seek SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Small business owners are encouraged to apply online via the Disaster Loan Application

Portal at [bit.ly/2Urgmnq](https://bit.ly/2Urgmnq). The electronic loan application will be screened by their processing center when it is received.

For program questions or assistance in completing the application online, businesses can contact the Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

## Research corner: 72% of Americans trust information about coronavirus from state and local governments

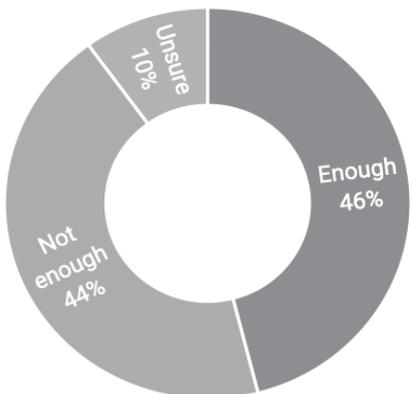
According to a March 2020 NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll, 70% of Americans are concerned or very concerned about the spread of coronavirus to their community, an increase of 26 percentage points from the month before. The percentage of

respondents reporting that they were "very concerned" more than doubled, from 14% in February to 31% in March. The survey, conducted from March 13 through March 14, in advance of many state and municipal orders closing schools,

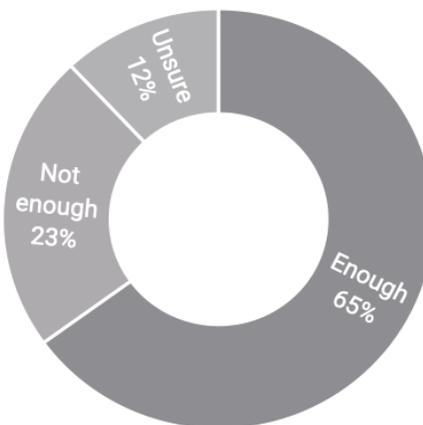
canceling large events, and shutting down restaurants and bars, so public sentiment and experience may have continued to shift in recent weeks.

Other results from the March poll include:

Do you think the federal government is doing enough or not doing enough to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the United States?



Do you think your state government is doing enough or not doing enough to prevent the spread of coronavirus in your state?

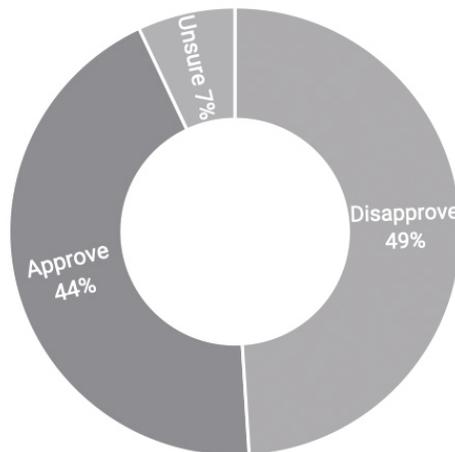


Have you, yourself, or someone in your household experienced any of the following because of coronavirus?

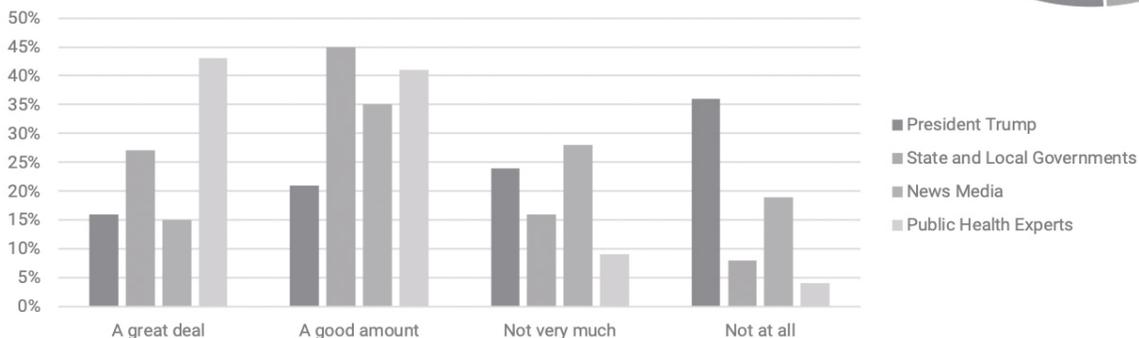
- 48% canceled plans to avoid crowds
- 46% decided to eat at home more often
- 42% stocked up on food or supplies
- 33% changed their work routine
- 30% changed travel plans
- 18% been let go or had work hours reduced
- 2% tried to be tested but have not been able

For more results, please visit [bit.ly/2UrwDcm](https://bit.ly/2UrwDcm).

Do you approve or disapprove of how President Donald Trump is handling the coronavirus pandemic?



Do you trust the information about coronavirus from:



Source: NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist Poll Adults. Interviews conducted March 13 through March 14, 2020, n=835 MOE +/- 4.8 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=784 MOE +/- 4.9 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.



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