

List of COVID 19 legislation

March 2020

1-7 March

Instrument	Date registered	Description
Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 1 of 2019-2020) [F2020L00220]	04/03/2020	The instrument increases the amount allocated to the Department of Health for Administered Assets and Liabilities by \$100 million. The purpose of the increase is to enable the Department of Health to fund the procurement of masks and other emergency medical or emergency health equipment for the National Medical Stockpile as part of the Australian Health Sector Emergency Response for Novel Coronavirus.

8-14 March

Instrument	Date registered	Description
Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 2 of 2019-2020) [F2020L00235]	09/03/2020	The instrument increases the amount allocated to the Department of Health for Administered Assets and Liabilities by \$200 million. The purpose of the increase is to enable the Department of Health to fund the procurement of masks and other emergency medical or emergency health equipment for the National Medical Stockpile as part of the Australian Health Sector Emergency Response for Novel Coronavirus.
Social Security (Ordinary Waiting Period Exemption) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00247]	12/03/2020	The instrument provides an exemption from the ordinary waiting period for persons who claim Parenting Payment, Youth Allowance or Newstart Allowance to allow recipients who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic to receive social security payments immediately.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Determination 2020 [F2020L00248]	12/03/2020	The instrument provides for the payment of Medicare benefits for ten Medicare Benefits Schedule items to allow specialists, consultant physicians and consultant psychiatrists to provide telehealth consultations to patients who have been diagnosed with, or are vulnerable to contracting, the COVID-19 virus.

Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – GP and Allied Health COVID-19 Services) Determination 2020 [F2020L00249]	12/03/2020	The instrument provides for the payment of Medicare benefits for Medicare Benefits Schedule items to allow general practitioners to provide telehealth consultations to patients who have been diagnosed with, or are vulnerable to contracting, the COVID-19 virus.
Health Insurance (Section 3C Pathology Services – COVID-19) Determination 2020 [F2020L00250]	12/03/2020	The instrument provides for the payment of Medicare benefits for pathology services to test for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The instrument also requires that testing for the virus must be conducted in conjunction with other separate viral respiratory tests to determine if the patient has COVID-19 or another respiratory virus such as influenza.
Health Insurance (Pathologist-determinable Services) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00251]	12/03/2020	The instrument provides that a pathologist may test for other respiratory viruses as necessary if a treating practitioner has requested a test for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Amendment Determination No.1 2020 [F2020L00254]	13/03/2020	The instrument adds ten new temporary Medicare Benefits Schedule items to expand the types of services which specialists, consultant physicians and consultant psychiatrists may provide via the phone when video conferencing is unavailable to patients who have been diagnosed with, or are vulnerable to contracting, the COVID-19 virus.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – GP and Allied Health COVID-19 Services) Amendment Determination No.1 2020 [F2020L00255]	13/03/2020	The instrument provides for the payment of Medicare benefits for Medicare Benefits Schedule items to allow nurse practitioners and mental health allied health workers to provide these services via the phone when video conferencing is unavailable to patients who have been diagnosed with, or are vulnerable to contracting, the COVID-19 virus.

15-21 March

Instrument	Date registered	Description
Health Insurance (Section 3C Pathology Services – COVID-19) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00258]	16/03/2020	The instrument removes the requirement to test for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 in conjunction with other separate viral respiratory tests to determine if the patient has COVID-19 or another respiratory virus such as influenza due to the unnecessary burden placed on pathology testing resources.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – GP and Allied Health COVID-19 Services) Amendment Determination No. 2 2020 [F2020L00259]	16/03/2020	The instrument provides for the payment of Medicare benefits for Medicare Benefits Schedule items to allow midwives to provide certain services via telehealth and the phone when video conferencing is unavailable to patients who have been diagnosed with, or are vulnerable to contracting, the COVID-19 virus.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Amendment Determination No.2 2020 [F2020L00260]	16/03/2020	The instrument clarifies attendance time requirements for the provision of temporary Medicare Benefits Schedule items related to psychiatrist telehealth and phone services to patients diagnosed with, or vulnerable to contracting, the COVID-19 virus.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – GP and Allied Health COVID-19 Services) Amendment Determination No. 3 2020 [F2020L00261]	17/03/2020	The instrument allows telehealth services provided by GPs, other doctors in general practice, and nurse practitioners to be bulk billed if there is a risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements) Determination 2020 [F2020L00267]	18/03/2020	The instrument prohibits international cruise ships from entering Australian ports before 15 April 2020.
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) Declaration 2020 [F2020L00266]	18/03/2020	The instrument declares that a human biosecurity emergency exists for the purposes of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> . This declaration allows the minister to give directions deemed necessary to prevent or control the entry, emergence, establishment or spread of COVID-19 in Australian territory or prevent its spread to

		another country. The emergency is declared to last for three months.
Biosecurity Repeal (Human Health Response Zones) Determination 2020 [F2020L00270]	19/03/2020	The instrument repeals three instruments which specified the Howard Springs Accommodation Village, the North West Point Immigration Detention Centre on Christmas Island, and the Royal Australian Air Force Base Learmonth as human health response zones for the purposes of the Biosecurity Act 2015 to temporarily quarantine individuals who requested repatriation from Wuhan city, China, and the Diamond Princess cruise ship.
Defence Determination, Conditions of service Amendment (COVID-19 response) Determination 2020 (No. 6) [F2020L00278]	19/03/2020	The instrument amends the domestic and overseas conditions of service for Australia Defence Force members to account for special circumstances related to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

22-31 March

Instrument/Bill	Date registered/ introduced	Description
Poisons Standard Amendment (Hydroxychloroquine and Salbutamol) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00291]	23/03/2020	The instrument amends the Poisons Standard February 2020 in relation to the substances, hydroxychloroquine and salbutamol to ensure the continued availability of medicines containing these substances in Australia during the public health emergency caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Services) Determination 2020 [F2020L00292]	23/03/2020	The instrument consolidates all the temporary Medicare Benefits Schedule items that prescribe COVID-19 medical services into one legislative instrument and expands the definition of “health professional at risk of COVID-19 virus.
Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 1) 2019-2020	23/03/2020	The Act appropriates \$1,651,133,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the ordinary annual services of the Government in relation to the Coronavirus Economic Response, and for related purposes.
Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 2) 2019-2020	23/03/2020	The Act appropriates \$740,050,000 in additional money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure in

		relation to the Coronavirus Economic Response, and for related purposes.
<u>Assistance for Severely Affected Regions (Special Appropriation) (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</u>	23/03/2020	The Act appropriates up to \$1 billion in funds for the purposes of making payments to support communities, regions and industry sectors affected by the economic impacts of Covid-19, for specified purposes. Any payments under this appropriation must be made by 30 June 2021.
<u>Australian Business Growth Fund (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</u>	23/03/2020	The Act appropriates \$100,000,000 to be invested in an Australian Business Growth Fund for the purpose of providing small and medium Australian enterprises with access to capital.
<u>Boosting Cash Flow for Employers (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</u>	23/03/2020	The Act provides that two sets of cash flow boost payments may be made to businesses which have made payments for wages or salaries, where the Commissioner for Taxation is satisfied that they are eligible to receive such payments.
<u>Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Act 2020</u>	23/03/2020	The omnibus Act, containing 16 schedules, amends a number of Acts in order to provide an economic response, and deal with other matters, relating to the coronavirus, and for related purposes. For example, schedule 4 of the bill amends social security and taxation Acts to provide for a \$750 stimulus payment to some recipients of social welfare and veterans payments; schedule 11 provides for a temporary fortnightly supplement of \$550 to some social welfare payment recipients; and schedule 13 enables the release of up to \$10,000 of superannuation on compassionate grounds.
<u>Guarantee of Lending to Small and Medium Enterprises (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</u>	23/03/2020	The Act provides that the minister may grant a guarantee to a financial institution in connection with loans made, or to be made, by the financial institution if granting the guarantee is likely to assist in dealing with the economic impacts of the coronavirus. It also provides that up to \$20 billion from the Consolidated Revenue Fund may be appropriated for

		the purpose of meeting any liabilities that the Commonwealth incurs under those guarantees.
Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020	23/03/2020	The Act sets up the Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response) Fund. The Fund, consisting of the Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response) Fund Special Account and investments of the fund, must be credited with \$15 billion.
Child Care Subsidy Amendment (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Minister's Rules 2020 [F2020L00295]	24/03/2020	The instrument creates additional reason for absence from childcare where self-isolating re COVID-19; expands the circumstances in which a child may be absent from childcare without needing to provide a medical certificate; allocates an extra 20 allowable absence days; and provides an exemption to the current obligation of child care providers to take reasonable steps to enforce payment of gap fees from individuals in response to COVID-19.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Application of GP and Allied Health COVID-19 Services and Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00298]	24/03/2020	The instrument specifies that the temporary Medicare Benefits Schedule items that prescribe COVID-19 medical services only apply to services supplied between 13 March 2020 and prior to the commencement of the Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Services) Determination 2020 on 23 March 2020.
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Overseas Travel Ban Emergency Requirements) Determination 2020 [F2020L00306]	25/03/2020	The instrument prohibits an Australian citizen or permanent resident from travel outside Australia (by air or sea or as the operator of an outgoing aircraft or vessel), unless an exemption is granted to them. The instrument commenced at 12.00 pm on 25 March 2020 and is in force for an initial period of 4 weeks.
Biosecurity (Human Health Response Zone) (Swissotel Sydney) Determination 2020 [F2020L00313]	25/03/2020	The instrument specifies the Swissotel Sydney as a human health response zone for the purposes of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and sets requirements for individuals entering and leaving the zone. The instrument commenced on 25 March 2020 and is in force for three months from that day.

Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Rules 2020 [F2020L00309]	25/03/2020	<p>The instrument sets out matters relevant to the implementation of the Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response) Fund. Specifically, it specifies the Australian Office of Financial Management as a listed entity whose officials may be 'eligible delegates' for the purposes of the Minister's delegation powers under the <i>Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</i>. It also prevents first loss securities from being invested in as authorised debt securities under that Act.</p>
Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response—2020 Measures No. 1) Determination 2020 [F2020L00310]	25/03/2020	<p>The instrument modifies the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i> to enable persons receiving Youth Allowance who are undertaking full-time study, or new apprentices, to receive the COVID-19 supplement from 27 April 2020; ensure that claimants for parenting payment are able to qualify for the payment where they do not meet the qualifying residence period requirements; and ensure that claimants for Austudy are able to qualify for payment where they do not meet the assets test, or where the liquid assets waiting period, the newly arrived resident's waiting period or the seasonal workers preclusion period would otherwise apply. The instrument also modifies the Social Security (Administration) Act 1999 to enable people who tried to make contact during the period 23 March 2020 to 29 March 2020, or who made contact during this period but did not complete their claim, to be taken to have lodged a claim on 23 March 2020 or the date of eligibility, if later, provided they complete a claim by 19 April 2020.</p>
Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response—2020 Measures No. 2) Determination 2020 [F2020L00311]	25/03/2020	<p>The instrument specifies the criteria a person must meet in order to qualify for youth allowance, jobseeker payment or crisis payment under the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i> in circumstances relating to COVID-19, and provides for recipients of Austudy payment to receive the COVID-19 supplement from 27 April 2020.</p>

National Health (COVID-19 Supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Special Arrangement 2020 [F2020L00312]	25/03/2020	This instrument is an interim measure for some patients who are confined at home. It allows prescribers and patients to provide a pharmacy with a digital image of their prescription via fax, email or text message, enabling the pharmacy to dispense their medicines, and deliver or post them to the patient. The patient or prescriber would then be required to supply the pharmacy with the paper prescription within 15 days.
Biosecurity (Exit Requirements) Determination 2020 [F2020L00323]	26/03/2020	The instrument requires persons who are departing from prescribed airports and arriving in prescribed countries to be screened by a biosecurity officer or human biosecurity officer for the purposes of establishing whether the individual may be, or may have been, infected with human coronavirus with pandemic potential. Screening may be by equipment or by being required to answer questions or provide information in writing.
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020 [F2020L00324]	26/03/2020	This instrument, made under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> , establishes rules regulating entry to remote communities, in order to prevent or control the entry or spread of COVID-19 in designated parts of Australia in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory.
Defence Determination, Conditions of service Amendment (COVID-19 response) Determination 2020 (No. 7) [F2020L00336]	27/03/2020	The instrument seeks to enable the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to respond to COVID-19 in relation to members of Reserves who are absent from their place of duty when they are required to
CASA EX57/20 — Licensing, and Operator Training and Checking (Extensions of Time Due to COVID-19) Exemptions Instrument 2020 [F2020L00337]	27/03/2020	This instrument exempts pilots, air traffic controllers, air operator certificate holders and air traffic service providers from certain regulatory requirements related to medical certification, continued operational proficiency and training (as action to avoid such breaches may involve testing, checking, training or other activity that would break, weaken or undermine

		the social distancing rules required in Australia because of the COVID-19 pandemic).
Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response—2020 Measures No. 3) Determination 2020 [F2020L00338]	27/03/2020	This instrument temporarily modifies the Social Security Act in respect of the rates of payment paid to people who only qualify for a social security payment on 25 March 2020 because of the temporary modifications made to the Social Security Act relating to COVID-19. The first instalment of such a person's payment will include an additional amount that represents two days' worth of their daily rate of payment.
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements) Amendment Determination (No. 1) 2020 [F2020L00339]	27/03/2020	The instrument prevents cruise ships from entering Australian territory and requires cruise ships to leave Australian territory before 15 June 2020, subject to limited exceptions, to prevent or control the entry or spread of COVID-19 in Australian territory.
Therapeutic Goods (Excluded Goods—Hand Sanitisers) Determination 2020 [F2020L00340]	27/03/2020	The instrument excludes specified hand sanitisers from the operation of the <i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</i> , so that those goods may be manufactured and supplied urgently within Australia.
Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (Bulk-billing Incentive) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00341]	29/03/2020	The instrument temporarily increases the fees for bulk-billing incentive items as part of Stage Four of the Government's health care package to protect all Australians from COVID-19.
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services - COVID-19 Telehealth and Telephone Attendances) Determination 2020 [F2020L00342]	29/03/2020	The instrument provides that all Australians can access certain prescribed COVID-19 medical services via telehealth and phone services. It commenced on 30 March 2020 and ceases as if revoked on 30 September 2020.
Customs (Prohibited Exports) Amendment (COVID-19 Human Biosecurity Emergency) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00343]	29/03/2020	Subject to certain exceptions, the instrument implements a temporary prohibition on the export of goods which are considered essential to preventing the spread of COVID-19. These include face masks and hand sanitizers.

Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements—Retail Outlets at International Airports) Determination 2020 [F2020L00344]	29/03/2020	Subject to limited exceptions, the instrument requires retail outlets at international terminals and in the international area of joint domestic and international terminals at Australian international airports to cease trading to prevent or control the entry, emergence, establishment or spread of the declaration listed human disease COVID-19 in Australian territory.
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Essential Goods) Determination 2020 [F2020L00355]	30/03/2020	The instrument imposes requirements to prohibit the practice of price gouging of prescribed essential goods (including face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer), and ensures that those who breach the relevant restrictions surrender these goods to law enforcement (who will be required to redistribute the surrendered goods to the National Medical Stockpile, provided they are not deficient).
Banking (BEAR) determination No. 1 of 2020 [F2020L00347]	30/3/2020	The instrument determines that the time for lodging changes to accountability statements and maps is 30 days.
Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Deferral of Sunsetting – Financial Management and Accountability Determination 2010/02) Determination 2020 [F2020L00348]	30/3/2020	The instrument extends the operation of the Financial Management and Accountability Determination 2010/02 – Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys – Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Special Account Establishment 2010 before it sunsets on 1 April 2020. The operation is extended to 1 October 2020.
Aged Care (Subsidy, Fees and Payments) Amendment (Workforce Continuity Funding) Determination 2020 [F2020L00352]	30/03/2020	The instrument implements temporary increases to the rates of aged care basic subsidy, viability supplement, and homeless supplement, designed to support continuity of the aged care workforce due to the impacts from COVID-19.
Aged Care (Transitional Provisions) (Subsidy and Other Measures) Amendment (Workforce Continuity Funding) Determination 2020 [F2020L00353]	30/03/2020	The instrument implements temporary increases to the rates of aged care basic subsidy, viability supplement, and homeless supplement, designed to support continuity of the aged care workforce due to the impacts from COVID-19.
Private Health Insurance	30/03/2020	The instrument sets the rebate

(Incentives) Amendment Rules (No. 1) 2020 [F2020L00354]		adjustment factor (used to calculate the rebate contribution from the Australian Government) for the adjustment year commencing on 1 April 2020 to one (1).
Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Excluded Goods—Hand Sanitisers) Determination 2020 [F2020L00359]	31/03/2020	The instruments amends the requirements for the contents required on a front label on hand sanitisers to ensure that the contact details of the manufacturer or supplier are included on that label.
National Health (Continued Dispensing – Emergency Measures) Amendment Determination 2020 (No.2) (PB 23 of 2020) [F2020L00361]	31/03/2020	The instrument expands the list of pharmaceutical benefits that can be supplied without a prescription, and provides the conditions for such a supply (a ‘Continued Dispensing’ supply) so that consumers have subsidised access to their medicines to assist in managing the demand on the health system during the COVID-19 outbreak.
Medical Indemnity Amendment (Eligible Run-off Claims) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00363]	31/03/2020	The instrument enables retired doctors to retain their eligibility under the Run-Off Cover scheme for prior practice if they return to private practice in order to provide treatment during the COVID-19.
Veterans' Entitlements (Provisional Access to Medical Treatment) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00368]	31/03/2020	The instrument extends the intake period of the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment Trial by three months in response to COVID-19.
Health Insurance (Section 3C Pathology Services – COVID-19) Amendment (No. 2) Determination 2020 [F2020L00373]	31/03/2020	The instrument increases the Medicare benefits payable for COVID-19 testing.