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# Winter and COVID-19 Utility Shut-off Moratoriums - NEADA.ORG

8-10 minutes

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If this was a normal year, 40 states would have implemented some form of utility shutoff moratoriums during the winter months to protect customers from losing their home heating when the temperature drops. Under normal circumstances, these policies can be difficult to track since they vary between states. This year, the addition of temporary shutoff moratoriums put in place to protect customers affected by the pandemic has muddied the waters even further. As spring approaches and many winter moratoriums end, millions of utility customers are finding themselves unprotected by moratoriums for the first time in over a year. This is a list of all utility actions and state-mandated moratoriums that NEADA is aware of at the time of release. Please contact Mark Wolfe ([mwolfe@neada.org](mailto:mwolfe@neada.org)) or Cass Lovejoy ([clovejoy@neada.org](mailto:clovejoy@neada.org)) with questions and Elizabeth Eagles ([eeagles@neada.org](mailto:eeagles@neada.org)) with additions or updates with source documentation.

## 1. How many people were covered by COVID moratoriums

## on utility shutoffs?

Over the summer and into the fall of 2020, a patchwork of states implemented temporary moratoriums to prevent shutoffs for customers affected by the pandemic. Some moratoriums were extended beyond their initial end dates to coincide with annual winter shutoff moratoriums that many states implement every year to protect customers during cold winter months. Others were allowed to expire.

**Table 1. Population covered by COVID-19 moratoriums, Jul. – Oct. 2020**

	<b>31-Jul</b>	<b>31-Aug</b>	<b>30-Sep</b>	<b>31-Oct</b>
<b>Population covered</b>	184,944,156	155,527,034	138,112,481	131,102,944
<b>% of U.S. covered</b>	56%	48%	42%	40%

## 2. Projected population covered by utility moratoriums January 31 – April 30, 2021

The number of people protected from utility shutoffs is projected to decrease as annual winter moratoriums begin to expire in March and April of 2021. There are three types of state moratoriums currently at play: 1) emergency COVID-19 moratoriums that were first implemented in the spring and summer, 2) annual date-based winter moratoriums that cover all customers for a set period of time, and 3)

temperature-based winter moratoriums, which only prevent utility shut-offs when the temperature drops below a certain threshold. Table 2 shows the actual and projected number of people covered by COVID-19/date-based winter moratoriums. We have combined these because they provide guaranteed coverage for a set time period. Table 3 shows the actual and projected number of people covered by temperature-based winter moratoriums, which only provide temporary protection during cold snaps.

**Table 2. Projected population covered by COVID-19/date-based utility moratoriums, January – April 2021**

	<b>31-Jan (actual)</b>	<b>28-Feb (actual)</b>	<b>31-Mar (projected)</b>	<b>30-Apr (projected)</b>
<b>Population covered</b>	185,786,993	185,786,993	174,061,751	107,094,651
<b>% of U.S. covered</b>	57%	57%	53%	33%

**Table 3. Projected population covered by temperature-based utility moratoriums, January – April 2021**

	<b>31-Jan (actual)</b>	<b>28-Feb (actual)</b>	<b>31-Mar (projected)</b>	<b>30-Apr (projected)</b>
<b>Population covered</b>	104,354,835	104,354,835	93,737,412	51,665,872

<b>% of U.S. covered</b>	32%	32%	29%	16%
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### 3. Active Moratoriums

The intersection of COVID and annual winter moratoriums complicates matters significantly. Some states that had COVID moratoriums in place extended them until winter date-based moratoriums went into effect. Others let theirs lapse for a month or more before winter set in. Some states that would normally have temperature-based moratoriums are still operating under COVID shutoff bans that protect customers regardless of the weather. And then there are states that do not normally have an annual winter shutoff moratorium, some of which have ongoing COVID moratoriums, while others either never had any or let them expire. A full list of COVID and winter shutoff moratoriums, including start and end dates, can be found at the bottom of the page.

<b>Type of moratorium</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>States</b>
<b>No active COVID-19 or winter moratorium</b>	11	Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, West Virginia
<b>Active annual winter</b>	10	Alabama <sup>+</sup> , Arizona <sup>+</sup> , Michigan,

<b>moratorium (no additional COVID protection)</b>		Minnesota, Missouri <sup>+</sup> , Nebraska, Nevada <sup>+</sup> , Oklahoma <sup>+</sup> , South Dakota, Wyoming <sup>+</sup>
<b>Moratoriums that will expire between March and July of 2021</b>	27	Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware <sup>+</sup> , Hawaii, Illinois <sup>*+</sup> , Iowa <sup>*+</sup> , Kansas <sup>*+</sup> , Maine, Maryland <sup>+</sup> , Massachusetts, Mississippi*, Montana <sup>*+</sup> , New Hampshire*, New Jersey*, New Mexico, North Carolina*, Ohio*, Pennsylvania*, Rhode Island*, South Carolina <sup>+</sup> , Tennessee <sup>+</sup> , Texas <sup>+</sup> , Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin
<b>Indefinite COVID moratoriums</b>	3	DC, New York, Virginia
<p><sup>+</sup> States that only have temperature-based winter moratoriums.</p>		
<p><sup>*</sup>States with an unprotected gap between COVID-19 moratoriums and winter moratoriums.</p>		

## When do COVID-19 and winter utility moratoriums start and end in each state?

	<b>COVID-19 Start Date</b>	<b>COVID-19 End Date</b>	<b>Winter Start Date</b>	<b>Winter End Date</b>	<b>Tem bas</b>
<b>Alabama</b>					≤32°
<b>Alaska</b>	4/9/20	11/15/20			
<b>Arizona</b>					≤32°
<b>Arkansas</b>	4/10/20	5/3/21	11/1/20	3/31/21	≤32°
<b>California</b>	3/16/20	6/30/21			
<b>Colorado</b>	3/20/20	6/12/21			
<b>Connecticut</b>	3/12/20	10/31/20	11/1/20	5/1/21	
<b>Delaware</b>	3/24/20	11/1/20	11/15/20	4/15/21	≤20°
<b>DC</b>	3/17/20	15 days after emergency			≤32°
<b>Florida</b>					
<b>Georgia</b>			11/15/20	3/15/21	≤32°
<b>Hawaii</b>	3/27/20	3/31/21			
<b>Idaho</b>			12/1/20	2/28/21	
<b>Illinois</b>	3/18/20	8/1/20	12/1/20	3/31/21	≤32°

<b>Indiana</b>	3/19/20	8/14/20 (protections till 10/14/20)	12/1/20	3/15/21	
<b>Iowa</b>	3/13/20	7/1/20	11/1/20	4/1/21	≤20°
<b>Kansas</b>	3/16/20	5/31/20	11/1/20	3/31/21	≤35°
<b>Kentucky</b>	3/16/20	11/6/20			
<b>Louisiana</b>	3/13/20	7/16/20			
<b>Maine</b>	3/16/20	11/1/20	11/15/20	4/15/21	
<b>Maryland</b>	3/16/20	11/15/20	11/1/20	3/31/21	If 72 forec ≤32°
<b>Massachusetts</b>	3/13/20	7/1/21	11/15/20	3/15/21	
<b>Michigan</b>			11/1/20	3/31/21	
<b>Minnesota</b>			10/15/20	4/15/21	
<b>Mississippi</b>	3/15/20	6/14/20	12/1/20	3/31/21	
<b>Missouri</b>			11/1/20	3/31/21	≤32°
<b>Montana</b>	3/30/20	6/30/20	11/1/20	4/1/21	≤32° or in
<b>Nebraska</b>			11/1/20	3/31/21	
<b>Nevada</b>					≤20°

<b>New Hampshire</b>	3/17/20	7/15/20	11/15/20	3/31/21
<b>New Jersey</b>	10/15/20	6/30/21	11/15/20	3/15/21
<b>New Mexico</b>	3/19/20	Large IOUs (>100,00 meters) under moratorium until 5/14/21 followed by 90-day transition period. Water utilities and smaller gas and electric under moratorium until 3/20/21 with 45-day transition period.	11/15/20	3/15/21



<b>New York</b>	3/13/20	180 days after emergency or 3/31/21	11/1/20	4/15/21	<32 <sup>°</sup>
<b>North Carolina</b>	3/31/20	8/31/20	11/1/20	3/31/21	
<b>North Dakota</b>					
<b>Ohio</b>	3/13/20	4/1/20	10/20/20	4/15/21	
<b>Oklahoma</b>			11/15/20	4/15/21	≤32 <sup>°</sup> ≤20 <sup>°</sup>
<b>Oregon</b>					
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	3/13/20	11/9/20 if above 300% FPL	12/1/20	3/31/21	
<b>Rhode Island</b>	3/17/20	7/17/20 (11/1/20*)	11/1/20	4/30/21	
<b>South Carolina</b>	3/16/20	5/15/20	12/1/20	3/31/21	Fore F for
<b>South Dakota</b>			11/1/20	3/31/21	
<b>Tennessee</b>	3/31/30	8/29/20			<32 <sup>°</sup>
<b>Texas</b>	3/26/20	8/31/20, (9/30/20*)			≤32 <sup>°</sup>
<b>Utah</b>			11/15/20	3/15/21	

<b>Vermont</b>	3/18/20	Ended 10/15/20, then on 12/22/20, was extended through 3/31/21	11/1/20	3/31/21	≤10° F for
<b>Virginia</b>	3/16/20	Ended 10/5/20, then on 11/18/20, was extended until 60 days after emergency			
<b>Washington</b>	3/19/20	7/31/21	11/1/20	3/31/21	
<b>West Virginia</b>					
<b>Wisconsin</b>	3/13/20	11/1/20	11/1/20	4/15/21	
<b>Wyoming</b>			11/1/20	4/30/21	≤32°

\*Extended moratorium for qualified low-income customers

**Note:** the above table is only meant to provide a generalized summary of temperature-based moratoriums,

which in some states, have a number of caveats and further age/income restrictions. For a comprehensive list of temperature-based moratoriums, visit <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/SeasonalDisconnect.htm>