

## California Advocates Update on COVID- 19 Responses

### April 7, 2020 – 10:00 am

- **Action from Governor Newsom**

- **Executive Orders.** A summary of the first 11 **executive orders** Governor Newsom has signed as of March 24<sup>th</sup> in response to COVID-19 can be found in this [SacBee Article](#). Below are the 20 he has signed in response to COVID-19 as of April 7, 2020:
  - [Executive Order N-26-20](#), March 13, ensures that schools continue to receive funding and outlining key efforts that schools should pursue ([press release](#).)
  - [Executive Order N-27-20](#), March 15, regarding guidance for the Department of Social Services, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the Department of Public Health, the Health and Human Services Agency, and Emergency Medical Services.
  - [Executive Order N-28-20](#), March 16, authorizes local governments to halt evictions for renters and homeowners, slows foreclosures, and protects against utility shutoffs for Californians affected by COVID-19. ([press release](#))
  - [Executive Order N-29-20](#), March 17, to protect ongoing safety net services for most vulnerable Californians during COVID-19 Outbreak. ([press release](#).)
  - [Executive Order N-30-20](#) March 17, suspends standardized testing for students in response to COVID-19 outbreak. ([press release](#))
  - [Executive Order N-31-20](#), March 17, allows timely delivery of vital goods during COVID-19 Outbreak ([press release](#).)
  - [Executive Order N-32-20](#), March 18, issued regarding emergency actions & authorizes \$150 million in funding to protect homeless Californians from COVID-19 ([press release](#)).
    - Provides flexibility to local governments to spend their emergency homelessness funding on immediate solutions tailored to combatting COVID-19 and its impacts on the homeless population. The Governor also waived certain regulatory barriers for any shelters or facilities built with this emergency funding.
  - [Executive Order N-33-20](#), March 19, **Stay at Home Order** ([more information here](#))
    - The California State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health order all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors, critical government services, schools, childcare, and construction, including housing construction.
    - Guidance on federal critical infrastructure can be found on the Department of Homeland Security's website [here](#) and in the [US Department of Homeland Security's memo](#).
  - [Executive Order N-34-20](#), March 20, expands **Vote-by-Mail Options** and extends deadlines for Presidential Primary Canvass (, [press release](#) )
  - [Executive Order N-35-20](#), March 21, to fight the COVID-19 surge.

- This omnibus order gives the state the ability to increase the health care capacity in clinics, mobile health care units and adult day health care facilities. It also allows local governments more flexibility to utilize the skills of retired employees and reinforces the importance of the delivery of food, medicine and emergency supplies. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-36-20](#), March 24, mandating COVID-19 protocols for the **DOJ** and **CDCR**. This halts the intake and/or transfer of inmates and youth into the state's 35 prisons and four youth correctional facilities. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-37-20](#), March 27, prohibits landlords from evicting tenants for nonpayment of rent and prohibits enforcement of evictions by law enforcement or courts for renters affected by COVID-19 through May 31, 2020. It also requires tenants to declare in writing, no more than seven days after the rent comes due, that the tenant cannot pay all or part of their rent due to COVID-19. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-38-20](#), March 27, empowers the Judicial Council and the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to take necessary action to be able to conduct business and continue to operate while responding to COVID-19. The order allows the Judicial Branch to allow for remote depositions in every case (the law had previously required that parties be deposed in person) and electronic service of process. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-39-20](#), March 30, allows for the waiver of licensing, certification and staffing requirements to temporarily expand the health care workforce and allow health care facilities to staff at least an additional 50,000 hospital beds the state needs to treat COVID-19 patients. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-40-20](#), March 30, allows the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) to offer a 90-day extension for tax returns and tax payments for all businesses filing a return for less than \$1 million in taxes. Additionally, the order extends the statute of limitations to file a claim for refund by 60 days to accommodate tax and fee payers. The Office of Administrative Law's deadlines to review regular department proposed regulations are also extended. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-41-20](#), April 1, facilitates expenditures from the state's Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account, a subaccount of the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties in the General Fund – the state's traditional budget reserve – as well as from any other legally available fund to help with the COVID-19 response. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-42-20](#), April 2, restricts water shutoffs to homes and small businesses and will restore water for occupied residences that may have had their water shut off as of March 4, 2020. ([press release](#))
- [Executive Order N-43-20](#), April 3, relaxes certain state privacy and security laws for medical providers, so they can provide telehealth services without the risk of being penalized. This action is similar to the federal HHS Office for Civil Rights waiver issued on March 17, 2020 regarding federal privacy and security laws. ([press release](#))

- Executive Order N-44-20, April 3, generally prohibits sellers of any kind from increasing prices on food, consumer goods, medical or emergency supplies, and certain other items by more than 10 percent. The order also gives additional tools to the California Department of Justice and Attorney General's Office, among others, to take action against price gougers. ([press release](#))
    - Executive Order N-45-20, April 4, will facilitate child care for children of essential critical infrastructure workers by allowing the California Department of Education and California Department of Social Services the flexibility to waive certain programmatic and administrative requirements. ([press release](#))
  - **Governor Newsom has provided live updates via Facebook and Twitter**
    - March 17<sup>th</sup>:
      - Governor met with hospital leaders regarding hospital capacity – 416 facilities have over 75,000 beds.
      - Education
        - Does not think schools will open for the rest of the school year
      - What would it look like if he went further with enforcement of “stay at home” recommendations?
        - Has called the national guard and CHP to regionalize solutions
      - Most significant relief will come from the federal government.
    - March 18<sup>th</sup>:
      - There has been relief from the state WARN act, Under Executive Order N-31-20, the requirement for covered employers to provide 60 days’ notice before a mass layoff, relocation, or facility closing is suspended if the event is caused by COVID-19-related business circumstances that were not reasonably foreseeable as of the time that notice would have been required.
      - CalWORKS and food stamp programs are focusing on new beneficiaries
      - Interstate commerce rules have been clarified to align with federal rules
      - The state has been running scenarios, ex: if there is a 56% rate of attack, assuming each infected person infects 2 people and there are 20% of those needing hospitalization – we need 19,500 more beds
      - Unemployment insurance applications have gone from 2,000 per day to 70,000 per day
    - March 19<sup>th</sup>
      - Governor Newsom announced California’s Stay at Home Order.
    - March 20<sup>th</sup>
      - Governor Newsom once again urged Californians to “use common sense” while following the stay at home order. He spoke about the latest executive order and capacity at CA hospitals.
    - March 23<sup>rd</sup>
      - Will be announcing a 40% plan for hospital capacity today.
      - State Parks parking lots will be shut down now in order to promote social distancing; state parks patrol will be increasing to enforce and will have authority to fine if necessary.
    - March 25<sup>th</sup>

- Governor Newsom announced, March 25, that financial institutions will provide major financial relief for Californians suffering financially as a result of COVID-19. Financial institutions will offer, consistent with applicable guidelines, **mortgage payment forbearances of up to 90 days** to borrowers economically impacted by COVID-19 and will not report derogatory tradelines (e.g., late payments) to credit reporting agencies. The relief package included Wells Fargo, U.S. Bank, Citi Bank and J.P. Morgan Chase, as well as 200 state-chartered banks and credit unions. ([press release](#))
- March 30<sup>th</sup>
  - [Healthcorps.ca.gov](#) has been made public to help meet the need for a surge in healthcare workers in CA by matching eligible people not currently in the workforce. Doctors and nurses who have retired, medical students, nursing students, paramedics, etc. will be paid and given malpractice insurance to help treat COVID-19 patients if eligible. ([press release](#))
    - 74,000 people have registered to work via healthcorps.ca.gov.
- March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Governor Newsom announced **the “Stay Home. Save Lives. Check In.”** campaign urging Californians to help combat social isolation and food insecurity among Californians who are over the age of 65 – a community that is uniquely vulnerable to COVID-19. The Governor also announced the creation of a statewide hotline -- 833-544-2374 -- in coordination with the non-profit local 2-1-1 systems, so that Californians have a one-stop shop to answer their questions and get assistance during this crisis. ([press release](#))
- April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - With data compiled so far, the numbers in CA are as expected from modeling. Phase 1 surge capacity plan requires 50,000 hospital beds in Mid-May (30,000 from inside current hospital system and 20,000 from new sites). Actuals show that 41-42% are ICU beds (ventilators are key for this and we have secured 4,252).
  - Guidance on facial masks should be released in the next 24 hours.
  - Announced a partnership with Google, which will provide 100,000 points of access to improve broadband and Wi-Fi capacity and will distribute thousands of Chromebooks to assist with distance learning.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Announcement that [CDTFA](#) will allow small business taxpayers to enter into 12-month interest-free payment plans for up to \$50,000 of sales and use tax liability. Offers what is effectively an immediate interest-free loan to small businesses, providing a bridge until they can get relief from the SBA or their businesses can get back on their feet.
  - Announcement of \$50 million to the [Small Business Finance Center](#) Small Business Finance Center at California’s IBank in loan guarantees for small businesses that may not be eligible for federal relief

- The Governor joined Bitwise Industries and the Kapor Center to launch OnwardCa.org, a new platform connecting displaced California workers with more than 70,000 job opportunities in critical industries.
  - More information in this [press release](#).
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Governor Newsom launches “Project Roomkey,” CA has secured 6,867 hotel rooms to help house the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness with a goal of goal of 15,000 hotel rooms.
  - FEMA is reimbursing 75% of the cost if CA focuses on COVID-19 positive, those exposed, and those high risk (age 65 and older or with other health conditions). \$650 million of emergency grant award letters already appropriated and \$150 million of emergency aid from the Legislature. \$118.5 million from the CARES Act to augment concerns of these facilities being temporary. There are operating agreements that include extensions and purchase options.([press release](#))
- April 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Governor Newsom announced the launch of a new website, covid19supplies.ca.gov, which will allow individuals and companies to donate, sell or offer to manufacture 13 of the most essential medical supplies, including ventilators, N95 respirators and testing materials.
  - Governor Newsom also announced the COVID-19 Testing Task Force, a public-private collaboration that will work with stakeholders across the state to quickly and significantly boost California’s testing capacity. The Task Force plans to scale up testing as demand increases.
- April 6<sup>th</sup>
  - [Governor Newsom announced that California is making progress in securing additional beds to treat COVID-19 patients and relieve pressure on the health care delivery system. The Governor announced California has already secured up to 4,613 additional beds at alternate care sites and shuttered hospitals to care for an anticipated surge in COVID-19 patients, with even more capacity being finalized. \(\[press release\]\(#\)\)](#)
- April 7<sup>th</sup>
  - [Governor Gavin Newsom will provide an update on the state’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The update will be livestreamed on \[Twitter\]\(#\) and \[Facebook\]\(#\).](#)
- March 17, Governor Newsom **Signs Emergency Legislation** to Fight COVID-19 ([press release](#), [SB 89](#) , [SB 117](#))
- Governor Newsom Places **National Guard** Personnel on Alert to Support COVID-19 Community ([press release](#)).
  - Governor Newsom Deploys California National Guard to Help Distribute Food at Food Banks & Protect California’s Most Vulnerable ([press release](#)).
  - The National Guard will facilitate distribution of food to pantries and food banks with 100 percent federal cost share.
- California Requests Federal Government Waiver to Cover Medi-Cal Recipients and Expand Tele-Health Options ([press release](#), [formal request](#))

- Following Meeting with California Hospital Leaders, Governor Newsom and State Health Officials to Provide Update on COVID-19 Response ([press release](#))
- March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom **requested federal assistance** to support California's efforts to prepare to COVID-19 in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy can be found [here](#) . He also requested that the President deploy the USNS Mercy Hospital Ship.
- Governor Gavin Newsom today directed more than \$42 million in emergency funding to expand California's health care infrastructure and secure equipment and services to support California's response to COVID-19. ([press release](#))
- **California Secures Presidential Major Disaster Declaration** to Support State's COVID-19 Emergency Response. President Trump has approved California's request, submitted on March 22.
  - This will provide additional assistance, including but not limited to, mass care and emergency assistance, crisis counseling, disaster case management, disaster unemployment assistance, disaster legal services and Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance. ([press release](#), [letter of request](#)).
- **Emergency Funding:** Governor Newsom directed the first allocation of the \$500 million in emergency funding recently authorized by the Legislature for COVID-19 related activities – \$150 million for local emergency homelessness actions. To deploy this first funding allocation, the state will provide:
  - \$100 million directly to local governments, for shelter support and emergency housing to address COVID-19 among the homeless population, and
  - \$50 million to purchase travel trailers and lease rooms in hotels, motels, and other facilities in partnership with counties and cities to provide immediate isolation placements throughout the state for homeless individuals.
- Governor Newsom issued a [here](#) statement on the federal supplemental stimulus bill passed on March 27.
- Governor Newsom and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo toured the Bloom Energy ventilator refurbishing site in Sunnyvale. Through a partnership with the state, Bloom Energy has transformed its production facility to refurbish life-saving ventilators. ([press release](#))
- Governor Newsom announced an agreement between teachers, classified employees, school boards, superintendents, and principals to work together to provide distance learning to California's students as a result of school closures due to mitigation efforts against the COVID-19 outbreak. ([press release](#), [framework for labor-management collaboration](#))

- **CA State Action**

- <https://covid19.ca.gov> is the state's website for state information and resources for people affected by COVID-19.
- **California Department of Food and Agriculture** has released guidance for the food and agriculture industry. The food supply makes up critical infrastructure from farm to table and includes assets, systems, networks, and functions that provide vital services to the nation. It is essential that critical infrastructure and supply chains are protected, and

that all elements pertaining to the food supply remain operational, including a workforce that is vital to production of the food supply.

- **New telecommuting guidance for CA state workers released.** Effective immediately departments should establish a staff management plan that allows for effective social distancing for those in the office, takes into consideration stay-at-home directives from state and local public health departments, and protects the health of employees over the entire length of this crisis. This plan must ensure that mission critical (“critical”) functions and services are maintained, consistent with public health needs arising from this emergency. ([SacBee article here](#))
- CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, hosted a webinar to discuss k-12 guidance. CA Meals for Kids mobile application now includes an “Emergency Meal Sites” layer identifying sites that continue to serve meals during school closure.
- **Public Health Guidance for Homeless Shelters:** The California Health & Human Services Agency issued official public health guidance to homeless service providers statewide about social distancing measures in shelters, access to hygiene supplies, health screening protocols, and isolation protocols for people with COVID-19 or those demonstrating symptoms.
- **Purchasing Trailers:** The state is immediately procuring 1,309 travel trailers from FEMA and private vendors to provide quarantine capacity – moving people out of shelters and into isolation placements, focused on people with COVID-19 or those demonstrating symptoms. These trailers will be deployed to California’s largest population centers.
- **Leasing Hotels & Motels, in Partnership with Counties:** The state provided California’s counties with tailored lists of hotels and motels that are potentially available to lease for the next several months. The state is also offering to contact hotels and negotiate leases, if a county requests that assistance. In total, the state has identified over 950 hotels across 53 counties that are potentially eligible for participation in the state’s leasing program.
- **First Hotel Leases:** The state executed hotel leases for the first two properties and is transferring control to Alameda County. This includes a total of 393 rooms in Oakland. These rooms will be put to use as emergency protective measures by the local governments as isolation capacity for homeless individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are symptomatic, or otherwise at significant risk.
- The **Department of Motor Vehicles** requested law enforcement exercise discretion for 60 days in their enforcement of driver licenses and vehicle registration expiration dates beginning March 16, 2020.
- **State Workers**
  - **New telecommuting guidance for CA state workers released.** Effective immediately departments should establish a staff management plan that allows for effective social distancing for those in the office, takes into consideration stay-at-home directives from state and local public health departments, and protects the health of employees over the entire length of this crisis. This plan must ensure that mission critical (“critical”) functions and services are maintained, consistent with public health needs arising from this emergency. ([SacBee article here](#))

- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, Victoria Hassid, sent out an email following the Governor’s announcement of the statewide stay at home order. The message stated that “State and local health officials have determined government service is essential and government sector employees are exempted from the stay-at-home or shelter-in-place directives.” Department leaders should identify which workers are critical to operations and those who should continue to work under social distancing guidelines. Many workers have been critical of the lack of ability to telework. ([SacBee article here](#))
- CA Administration’s food deployment strategy also launches the **Neighbor-to-Neighbor campaign**, which calls on neighbors to be first line of support for California’s most vulnerable residents who have been advised to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and will be run by California Volunteers, the state office tasked with engaging Californians in service, volunteering and civic action.
- The CA State Public Health Officer has designated a detailed list of **Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers** to help state, local, tribal, and industry partners. ([list here](#))
- California began receiving shipments from a prior request from the **Strategic National Stockpile**. The request included N95 masks, surgical masks, face shields, surgical gowns, coveralls, and gloves. Additional supplies have been requested.
- CDC released guidance on healthcare workers returning to work after exposure or confirmation of COVID-19. This guidance can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/hcp-return-work.html>.
- The **FPPC** announced that “if a candidate or committee makes best efforts to comply with the Political Reform Act’s campaign finance disclosure rules but is unable to do so due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” it “will consider this a strong mitigating factor in determining whether an enforcement action against the candidate or committee is appropriate.”
- **Covered California** has reopened enrollment for anyone uninsured and eligible to enroll in health care coverage through the end of June. The Department of Health Care Services announces new steps to help those eligible for Medi-Cal sign up easily and get immediate coverage. ([press release](#))
- The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and the Franchise Tax Board have provided information regarding tax issues arising from COVID-19.
  - [CDTFA Website](#) states:
    - On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Pursuant to this Executive Order, through May 11th, the CDTFA has the authority to assist individuals and businesses impacted by complying with a state or local public health official's imposition or recommendation of social distancing measures related to COVID-19. This assistance includes granting extensions for filing returns and making payments, relief from interest and penalties, and filing a claim for refund.
    - Taxpayers may request assistance by contacting the CDTFA. Requests for relief of interest or penalties or requesting an extension for filing a



return may be made through our online services. Taxpayers may also request assistance in writing by sending a letter to the address below or contacting us via email. We are also available to answer questions and provide assistance for taxpayers that call our Customer Service Center at 800-400-7115. This includes assistance if you are unable to make a timely tax payment.

- FTB Website states:
  - What business entities qualify for the July 15, 2020, extended deadline to file and pay taxes? The new extensions apply to any business entity with a California return or payment due between March 15 and July 15. This includes Corporations, S-Corps, LLCs, Partnerships, and other entity types with returns or payments due during this period. Visit [COVID-19 Extensions to file and pay](#) to file and pay for more information. How does FTB define who is “affected by the COVID-19 pandemic”? How would they need to demonstrate this? All California taxpayers are considered affected taxpayers if they have an income tax return filing or payment due date between March 15, 2020 and July 15, 2020.
- Moss Adams website with helpful information
- **The Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council** sent out award letters for the allocated \$100 million in emergency funding from SB 89 to local governments today. ([grant allocations here](#))
- California Strengthens **Health Care Delivery System's Capacity** to Respond to COVID-19. March 25, Seton Medical Center in Daly City will begin accepting up to 220 COVID-19 patients. California also has a three-month lease agreement with St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles. California is readying the facility to begin providing care for up to 366 COVID-19 patients as soon as possible.
- All **California DMV field offices** has been closed.
- **Listos California**, a campaign to help vulnerable communities, hosted a statewide call with more than 1,200 community-based organizations, faith-based entities and non-profit sector leaders who represent vulnerable populations to hear directly from state leaders. Joining the call was the leadership from the California Department of Public Health, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Education, Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Volunteers and Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.
- The **Department of Finance** reports that the Governor ordered the transfer of \$1.3 billion dollars from the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainty to the Disaster Response Emergency Operations Account for “immediate acquisition of equipment and supplies and support activities necessary for the state’s coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic.” A letter to legislatures notifying them is [here](#).
- March 27, the **USNS Mercy** arrived in Port of Los Angeles. The ship has fully equipped operating rooms, a 1,000-bed hospital facility, a medical laboratory, a pharmacy, and a landing deck for military helicopters.
- March 29, **California State Parks** announced it is temporarily closing vehicle access at all 280 state parks.

- **California Office of Emergency Services** (Cal OES) is hosting Webinars that will repeat every day from April 1-14 for local governments regarding procurement standards for FEMA Public Assistance awards.
- California's State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond is recommending that the state's public schools plan to provide distance learning to students through the end of their school year. "Due to the current safety concerns and needs for ongoing social distancing, it appears that our students will not be able to return to school campuses before the end of the school year," Thurmond wrote in a letter sent to the state's 58 county superintendents of schools on March 31.
- April 3, GO-Biz published an updated version of their website to provide information for employers, employees, and all Californians as it relates to COVID-19 response: <https://business.ca.gov/coronavirus-2019/>.
- California's **Small Business Loan Guarantee Program** (via IBank) is making available \$50 million in state funding, providing potential capital for individuals who do not qualify for federal funds.
  - Small Businesses located in California with 1-750 employees that have been negatively impacted or experienced disruption by COVID-19 and nonprofits are eligible.
- **Small Business Relief Payment Plans** - Effective April 2, 2020, small business taxpayers, those with less than \$5 million in taxable annual sales, can take advantage of a 12-month, interest-free, payment plan for up to \$50,000 of sales and use tax liability. Payment plan requests can be made through our online services system in the coming months. Please bookmark this page and checkback for additional updates.
- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors issued a joint statement to cancel penalties and other charges for homeowners, small businesses and other property owners with demonstrated economic hardship, on a case-by-case basis, due to COVID-19. Property owners that can afford to pay these taxes should continue to pay on time. .Governor Newsom's statement of support in a press release.
- California is loaning 500 state-owned ventilators to the Strategic National Stockpile inventory to help states experiencing immediate supply shortages. (press release)
- California's Legislative Analyst's Office has released the following reports regarding COVID-19 issues:
  - [COVID-19 and California's Evolving Fiscal Outlook, March 18](#)
  - [Nutrition Programs in COVID-19 Recovery Actions, March 25](#)
  - [Federal Paid Leave for Workers Impacted by COVID-19 \(H.R. 6201\) , March 27](#)
  - [Unemployment Insurance for Workers Impacted by COVID-19, March 30, found that the information technology systems at California's Employment Development Department, which administers unemployment benefits, are limited in what they can currently do. \(SacBee article\)](#)
  - [Broad-Based Cash Assistance in COVID-19 Recovery Actions , April 3](#)
  - [Federal Assistance for Businesses Affected by COVID-19 April 3, 2020](#)
  - [COVID-19: Federal Health-Related Response , April 4](#)

- [State Budget Effects of Recent Federal Actions to Address COVID-19](#), April 5, discussing the sources of a potential budget problem related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emergency and how recent federal legislation could help address some of the sources of a problem.
- [Update on State and School District Reserves](#), April 5
- [COVID-19 Disaster Declarations and Funding Implications](#), April 6

- **CA Legislative News**

- On March 16, Governor Gavin Newsom requested that the California State Legislature take emergency action to fight Covid-19. The California Legislature unanimously enacted bills appropriating money for coronavirus relief efforts securing \$1.1 billion in funding for COVID-19 efforts and announced a joint legislative recess until Monday, April 13, 2020.
  - Governor signed **SB 89 and SB 117**, providing \$500 million in General Fund monies to help CA fight COVID-19 and authorizes increases up to \$1 billion.
- March 18th is the deadline to cross spot bill amendments to Rules. Amendments can be submitted to Assembly Rules Committee at a later date and will still be considered submitted in accordance with the March 18th deadline. Assembly Rules has sent an email to staff stating that picking up amendments from Legislative Counsel and delivering those amendments to Rules Committee should not be considered essential government business.
- The Office of Legislative Counsel has sent a memo to Senate and Assembly staff stating that the office has moved to remote processing of all bills, amendments, and other requests.
- Senator **Scott Wiener has called on the FDA to allow LGBTQ+ people to donate blood** in light of the national blood bank shortage. [statement](#).
- The Secretary of the California Senate informed all staff that a SoCal district worker has tested positive for COVID-19. No other info has identified the employee, though the memo says the worker did not travel to Sacramento and the Senator did not have contact with the employee for at least 30 days.
- Assembly Appropriations Chair Lorena Gonzalez has spoken about the need to limit bills and spending. Other legislators and staffers have said they believe only three kinds of legislation will be left standing when the books are closed on 2020: coronavirus response plans, efforts to address homelessness and wildfire prevention proposals. ([LA Times Article here](#))
- The **Department of Finance** has sent a letter to the Assembly and Senate Budget Committee chairs regarding balancing the priorities of COVID-19 response and the constitutional obligation to enact a balanced budget. The letter stated that the department will not propose any April 1 Finance Letter adjustments to the Governor's Budget or any May 1 adjustments to the Governor's Budget in appropriations for capital outlay.
- April 3, "Given what the governor and our public health officials have stated, it has become increasingly clear that the April 13 return date the Legislature envisioned isn't feasible," Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins told [Voice of San Diego](#) in a statement.

- A decision has been made by Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, to extend the legislative recess until Monday, May 4, 2020.
- A Memo has been sent from the Assembly Budget Committee Chair, Assemblyman Phil Ting with an update on what the Committee's process might look like going forward, with less money and less time to adopt a balanced budget. View the memo [here](#).

- **Federal Action**

- The US Senate approved a House-passed coronavirus relief package that includes provisions for free testing for COVID-19 and paid emergency leave.
  - The legislation provides many workers with up to two weeks of paid sick leave if they are being tested or treated for coronavirus or have been diagnosed with it. Also eligible would be those who have been told by a doctor or government official to stay home because of exposure or symptoms. Those payments would be capped at \$511 a day, roughly what someone making \$133,000 earns annually.
  - Workers with family members affected by coronavirus and those whose children's schools have closed would still receive up to two-thirds of their pay, though that benefit would now be limited to \$200 a day.
- The **US Department of Homeland Security** has released a memo on identification of critical infrastructure workers during COVID-19 response. ([informational website here](#); [memo here](#))
- The President invoked the **Defense Production Act** to ensure the production of ventilators and medical supplies. The administration also announced the suspension of foreclosures and evictions until the end of April.
- President and US Coronavirus Task Force have been holding press conferences each morning.
  - Doctors permitted to cross state lines without licensing issues.
  - Testing and therefore numbers of cases expected to rapidly increase.
- **Small Business Administration** (SBA) approved an Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration for California, which makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus.
  - SBA has declared all California counties eligible.
  - SBA announced changes to help borrowers still paying back SBA loans from previous disasters. By making this change, deferments through December 31, 2020, will be automatic. Now, borrowers of home and business disaster loans do not have to contact SBA to request deferment.
- The Treasury Department announced that the **deadline to file federal taxes** has moved from April 15<sup>th</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- The U.S. Department of Education is temporarily waiving interest on all federally held student loans and has directed federal lenders to suspend student loan payments for 60 days.
- Restriction of all nonessential travel across the borders with Canada and Mexico

- This does not apply to lawful trade or commerce
- CDC order directs the suspension of all entries into the US from Mexico, Canada and other countries without proper documentation. The order will begin at midnight on March 20, 2020.
- Negotiations continue on federal **economic stimulus legislation** known as H.R 748 - CARES Act.
  - Senate Republicans and the Trump administration called for direct payments to workers, while Democrats have pushed for significantly increasing unemployment benefits. Negotiations will continue over this weekend and the goal remains for a vote this Monday, March 23. ([WSJ article here](#)). Negotiations continue on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. One of the outstanding issues for Democrats is the \$500 billion “Exchange Stabilization Fund,” which is designed to assist industries that have been hit hard by the coronavirus, including \$58 billion for airlines and cargo. The GOP proposal would mostly prevent companies that accept the money from buying back their own stock. McConnell, Schumer, Pelosi, Mnuchin and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy met in McConnell’s office on Sunday, but Pelosi left the meeting saying that the House would draft its own bill. The White House has called for final passage of the package by Monday, but it’s unclear if that goal remains feasible.
  - Top negotiators signaled on Tuesday that a bipartisan deal on this legislation is imminent, but by early evening a final deal still had not yet been announced.
  - An agreement was finalized early Wednesday morning on a roughly \$2 trillion rescue package to confront the coronavirus pandemic, the largest economic stimulus measure in modern history. A summary of key components can be found in this [NY Times Article](#).
  - March 25<sup>th</sup>: Now that **the agreement has been reached** among Congress and the White House, the legislative language is still being drafted and has not yet been released to the public. Latest news reports say that the UI benefits in the deal might incentivize layoffs and discourage employees from seeking new jobs. The House and the Senate are still in the process of voting on the bill, likely later on March 25. The following are summaries that U.S. Senators are circulating on March 25:
    - \$2 trillion package gets broke down the follow ways:
    - Direct payments of \$1,200 to most individuals making up to \$75,000, or \$2,400 for couples making up to \$150,000. Each dependent child increases the amount by an additional \$500. The amount decreases for individuals with incomes above \$75,000, and payments cut off for those above \$99,000. This is true even for those who have no income, as well as those whose income comes entirely from non-taxable means-tested benefit programs, such as Social Security. Some reports estimate this could cost somewhere around \$250 billion.
    - Waives the 10% early withdrawal penalty for distributions up to \$100,000 for coronavirus-related purposes, retroactive to Jan. 1 on retirement funds.

- Expanded unemployment benefits that boost the maximum benefit by \$600 per week and provides laid-off workers their full pay for four months. Eligibility is extended to independent contractors and the self-employed; including gig economy workers. It also extends UI benefits through Dec. 31, and allows furloughed workers to stay on as employees. Some reports estimate this could cost somewhere around \$250 billion.
  - \$350 billion in loan guarantees for small businesses to keep making payroll while workers have to stay home. Companies with 500 employees or less that keep paychecks steady could get up to \$10 million each in forgivable small business loans.
  - \$150 billion for state and local governments, with \$8 billion set aside for tribal governments.
  - \$130 billion for hospitals and the nation's health system, and billions more into providing personal and protective equipment for health care workers, testing supplies, and increased workforce and training.
  - All testing and potential vaccines for COVID-19 will be covered at no cost to patients.
  - \$500 billion in loans for larger industries, including \$25 billion for passenger airlines; \$4 billion for carriers; \$3 billion for aviation contractors and \$17 billion for "businesses critical to maintaining national security". Limits stock buy-backs and executive compensation packages.
  - Increases the amount the Agriculture Department can spend on its bailout program from \$30 billion to \$50 billion, according to a press release issued by Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.).
  - Creation of an oversight board and inspector general to oversee loans to large companies
  - Measure prohibiting companies owned by President Trump and his family from receiving federal relief
  - \$25 million for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
  - \$400 million for election security grants
  - Provides permanent liability protection for manufacturers of personal respiratory protective equipment, such as masks and respirators, in the event of a public health emergency, to incentivize production and distribution
  - Directs the National Academies to study supply chain shortages of equipment like masks and ventilators
  - Allows students to defer loan payments for six months and keep Pell Grants
    - Allow federal testing rules to be waived for K-12 students
- The Senate approved the 880-page bill in a unanimous 96-0 vote on March 25.
  - After controversy over the possibility of a voice vote, the House of Representatives approved the bill on March 27.
  - President Trump signed the bill on March 27.

- The Director of the **Federal Housing and Finance Agency** has said that affected people can contact their lenders to work out a payment plan without the immediate need to formally document hardship. Homeowners may be able to reduce payments or pause payments on their mortgages for up to 12 months. Homeowners will need to work out a repayment plan for once they recover financially which may extend the term of the loan. Lenders are being told not report these delinquencies to credit reporting bureaus.
- March 20, FEMA has established a COVID-19 rumor control page on their website to clear up misconceptions about the virus. Visitors to the page will also find fact sheets and archived news releases. (<https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus>)
- CDC released guidance on healthcare workers returning to work after exposure or confirmation of COVID-19. This guidance can be found on the CDC website [here](#).
- The **US Treasury, IRS and Department of Labor** announced a plan to implement Coronavirus-related paid leave for workers and tax credits for small and midsize businesses to swiftly recover the cost of providing Coronavirus-related leave. This covers paid sick leave, complete coverage for paid leave pursuant to the Act, fast reimbursement, and easing compliance requirements. [Information from the IRS here](#).
- President Trump said in a [letter](#) to U.S. governors on March 26 that his administration is working to publish new guidelines for state and local governments to use when making decisions about "maintaining, increasing or relaxing social distancing and other mitigation measures" for the coronavirus epidemic.
- On March 26, the **Department of Homeland Security** has pushed back the enforcement deadline from Oct. 1, 2020 to Oct. 1, 2021 for **REAL ID**-compliant driver licenses and IDs. ([statement here](#))
- The President signed a [Presidential Memo](#) directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use authority under the Defense Production Act to require the production of ventilators.
- Federal guidelines for social distancing will remain in place until April 30, President Trump said, backing away from his plan to end them by Easter. Two of the top doctors advising President Trump on the coronavirus pandemic warned on Sunday that as many as 200,000 Americans could die during the outbreak, even with much of the country already under stay-at-home orders and practicing social distancing.
- The [CDC](#) recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

- **Numbers at a Glance**

- [As of April 7, 2020, California has over 16,363 positive cases and there have been 388 deaths.](#)
- [Approximately 143,800 tests have been conducted. At least 129,693 results have been received and another 14,100 are pending.](#)
- CA has more than 2,000 hospitalizations and 901 people in the ICU.
- CA has 22 state and county labs currently testing.
- [A New York Times database reports using county data that there are now at least 367,857 cases in the United States and at least 11,014 people with virus have died.](#)
- The US now has more cases than any other country.

- White House medical advisors estimate 100,000 to 240,000 deaths through the United States.

- **Misc. News**

- Two members of Congress have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Senator Rand Paul is the first US Senator diagnosed with COVID-19. This presents legislative concerns, with 5 Republican Senators now self-quarantined and unable to vote.
- **Tesla** said on Thursday that it would shut down production at its San Francisco Bay Area factory, which has remained open for several days in apparent defiance of a local county order. ([NYT article here](#)).
- There have been many articles written on the economic **effect of COVID-19 on the gig-economy**.
  - The New York Times has reported that “In recent weeks, some gig-economy companies have responded by offering basic sick leave provisions and cleaning products like hand sanitizer for drivers. Uber, Lyft, Instacart and DoorDash said that they would pay workers for 14 days of work if they have a coronavirus diagnosis and need to stay home. Uber and Lyft also said they would provide cleaning products.” ([NYT article here](#) )
  - Shoppers for Instacart, a tech company that delivers groceries and other household items ordered through an app, plan a nationwide strike on Monday, March 30, maintaining that the company has not provided them with supplies to protect them from being infected. Workers have asked for hazard pay — an extra \$5 per order — and for the default of the in-app tip to be set to at least 10 percent of the order total. They are also seeking an expansion of pay for workers affected by Covid-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus. ([NYT article here](#))
- The International Olympic Committee has announced that the **2020 Tokyo Games** have been postponed.
- Three of the largest ports in the nation – [Los Angeles](#) , [Long Beach](#) , and [Oakland](#) — remain open with modified operating hours and new operating procedures, providing essential services and allowing the continued flow of goods into communities and key industries. ([Fox & Hounds article](#))
- Internet giants like Amazon.com and Facebook face new global pressure for higher digital taxes, with demand for online services from homebound workers causing a boom for them while other industries wilt, opening deep government budget gaps. ([Law360 Article](#) )
- Support for AB 5 and its “ABC test” aimed at classifying more workers as employees rather than independent contractors appears to be growing due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Independent contractors, who are not entitled to unemployment benefits or any paid sick leave benefits under the recently passed Families First Coronavirus Response Act, are expected to be hit particularly hard by this downturn of business. ([RPNA Law Firm Blog](#))
- At President Trump's urging, automakers have mobilized with astonishing speed to help medical equipment makers produce ventilators and masks. With pressure mounting as



the pandemic spreads and mixed signals coming from the White House's emergency response team, an agitated president lashed out at GM and Ford Friday morning on Twitter.

- Abbott Laboratories has received emergency use authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the fastest available molecular point-of-care test for the detection of COVID-19, delivering positive results in as little as five minutes and negative results in 13 minutes.
- See's Candies is suspending production and shipping. "In our 99-year history, we have had only one interruption in our ability to share our American-made delicious candy, and that was during WWII due to rationing," the email said. "Given the current events with COVID-19, and our concern for the health and safety of our employees, we have made the decision to initiate an interruption once again." ([Mercury News article here](#))
- On March 30, a contingent of workers who fulfill orders for the grocery delivery service Instacart stayed off the job, demanding greater pay and better access to paid leave and disinfectant. A group of workers walked off the job at an Amazon warehouse in Staten Island on March 30, and a sickout called by Whole Foods Market workers is set for March 31. Last week, nurses in the Bronx protested a lack of protective equipment, and sanitation employees in Pittsburgh staged a protest over working conditions. ([NYT article here](#))
- Guidelines may be changing regarding asymptomatic people wearing masks in public. Governor Newsom said recommendations will be released in the next 24 hours for face mask use. The CDC is reportedly reconsidering their formal guidelines too.
- There has been concern expressed that California's purchasing power is coming at the expense of other states, especially regarding the ability to get ventilators and PPE. Governor Newsom states that other states have connected their procurement teams to centralize efforts so other states are not disadvantaged. CA is working with the FEMA regional director to be aware of what other states need.
- Statewide Orders and Directives
  - **New York** Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order demanding of the nonessential workforce to stay home starting Sunday evening.
  - **Illinois** Governor J.B. Pritzker announced a statewide "shelter in place" order starting this weekend and running through April 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Nevada** Governor Steve Sisolak signed an emergency directive Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, to legally order the closure of all non-essential businesses in the state beginning midnight on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Connecticut**, Governor Ned Lamont on Friday announced an executive order directing all nonessential businesses and not-for-profit entities in the state to prohibit all in-person functions if they are able to, effective 8 p.m. Monday.
  - **Oregon** Governor Kate Brown on Friday told residents to stay home, calling the directive "both an order and a public awareness campaign."
  - **New Jersey** Governor Phil Murphy announced Saturday that he would be ordering residents to stay at home, effective at 9 p.m.
  - **Pennsylvania** Governor Tom Wolf ordered all "non-life-sustaining" businesses to close Thursday night.
  - **Maryland** Gov. Larry Hogan orders all nonessential businesses to close Monday, March 23; but did not go as far as issuing a "stay-at-home" order.

- **Michigan** Governor Gretchen Whitmer has issued a “shelter-in-place” order on Monday, March 23.
- **Delaware** Governor John Carney issued a “stay-at-home” on March 22.
- **Louisiana**, Governor Bel Edwards issued a “stay-at-home” on March 22.
- **Ohio** Health Director Dr. Amy Acton issued and Governor Mike DeWine announced a “stay-at-home” on March 22.
- **Massachusetts** Governor Charlie Baker ordered all non-essential businesses and organizations to close for at least two weeks on March 23, but said he would not issue a stay-at-home order.
- **Hawaii** Governor David Ige issued a "stay at home" order Monday, March 23, taking effect on Wednesday and will last through at least April 30.
- **Indiana** Governor Eric Holcomb issued a stay-at-home order March 23, which goes into effect Tuesday just before midnight and lasts until April 6.
- **New Mexico** Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham announced that she instituting a "statewide stay-at-home instruction" beginning at 8 a.m.
- **Alaska** issued 6-foot public social distancing guidelines Monday. Businesses that can't abide by that guideline are required to close by 5 p.m. Tuesday.
- **West Virginia** Governor Jim Justice announced March 23 that he's issuing a stay-at-home order to go into effect March 24 at 8 p.m.
- **Washington** Governor Jay Inslee announced March 23 that he's issued a stay-at-home order, effective immediately and in place until April 6.
- **Minnesota** Governor Tim Walz ordered, on March 25, shelter in place starting 11:59 p.m. on March 27 until April 10.
- **Vermont** Governor Phil Scott issued, March 25, a "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order.
- **Wisconsin** Governor Tony Evers on March 24 issued a "Safer at Home" order that prohibits all nonessential travel.
- **Montana** Governor Steve Bullock has ordered all citizens to stay at home going goes into effect March 28.
- **Colorado** Governor Jared Polis also issued a statewide order effective March 26.
- **North Carolina** Governor Roy Cooper has issued a stay-at-home order that goes into effect March 30 at 5 p.m.
- **Maryland** Governor Larry Hogan on March 30 that goes into effect at 8 pm on March 30.
- **Florida** Governor Ron DeSantis on April 1, issued a statewide stay-at-home order to last 30 days.
- **Alabama** Governor Kay Ivey on April 3, issued an order effective 5 pm April 4.
- **Georgia** Governor Brian Kemp announced a statewide shelter-in-place order that goes into effect April 3 and runs until April 13.
- **Maine** Governor Janet Mills issued an order to start on April 2.
- **Mississippi** Governor Tate Reeves issued a shelter-in-place order effective April 3 at 5 p.m.
- **Nevada** Governor Steve Sisolak issued a "stay at home" directive, effective at midnight April 1.
- **Oklahoma** Governor Kevin Stitt has issued a stay-at-home order until April 30.
- **Pennsylvania** Governor Tim Wolf issued stay-at-home order effective until April 30.

