

California Advocates Update on COVID- 19 Responses

July 13, 2020 – 10:00 am

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New Today

Action from Governor Newsom

- Governor Newsom will provide an update on the state’s response to COVID-19 at 12:00 pm. It will be livestreamed on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Numbers at a Glance

- As of July 13, California has over 325,916 positive cases and there have been 7,053 deaths.
- The United States has least 3,438,025 cases and at least 137,871 deaths.
 - Over this weekend more than 100,000 new coronavirus cases were identified. Seven states set daily case records. Florida added more cases in a day than any state had previously known to, and on Monday reported more than 12,600 additional cases, its second-highest total recorded for a single day in the pandemic.
- Approximately 5,406,599 tests have been conducted in California.
- CA has 6,322 hospitalizations and 1,806 people in the ICU.
- The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is 7.5 percent in California.

Misc. News

- The [New York Times](#) reports that California, after rising a boom, braces for hard times, noting the unemployment rate which was 3.9 percent in February, the lowest on record, shot up to 16.3 percent by May, compared with 13.3 percent nationwide. The U.C.L.A. Anderson Forecast, which has been prognosticating California's economic trajectory since 1952, expects that the state and national economies won't fully recover until "well past 2022."

Action from Governor Newsom

- **Executive Orders.** A summary of the first 11 **executive orders** Governor Newsom has signed as of March 24th in response to COVID-19 can be found in this [SacBee Article](#). Below are the 46 he has signed in response to COVID-19 as of July 13, 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, 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, mandates 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](#))
- **Executive Order N-46-20**, April 7, helps the state procure necessary medical supplies to fight COVID-19, including exempting PPE from sales tax. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-47-20**, April 7, provides additional support for older adults and vulnerable young children by allowing for a 60-day waiver for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program caseworkers to continue their work and be able to care for older adults, as well as individuals with disabilities. ([press release](#))

- **Executive Order N-48-20**, April 9, addressed upcoming local elections. Three local special elections that have been scheduled for May and June will be held as all-mail ballot elections. Local election officials can also make in-person voting available, to ensure every voter has an opportunity to vote, but only in a manner consistent with public health and safety, including appropriate physical distancing. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-49-20**, April 14, addresses the release and reentry process at the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) so that eligible youth serving time at DJJ can be discharged safely and expeditiously. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-50-20**, April 15, extends EDD call center hours from 8am-8pm, 7 days a week beginning Monday, April 20. The EDD shall take necessary actions to streamline the application for PUA to ensure that eligible individuals timely receive the assistance made available to them under the federal CARES Act. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-51-20**, April 16, gives California workers from large employers in the food sector industry impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic two weeks of paid sick leave, filling a gap left by federal relief that had provided similar paid leave benefits for employers with fewer than 500 workers. Additionally, provides health and safety standards to increase worker and customer protection by permitting workers at food facilities to wash their hands every 30 minutes, or as needed, to increase proper sanitation measures. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-52-20**, April 16, addresses a variety of issues, including adjusting admissions requirements for the CSU system, providing flexibility for 60 days on background checks for critical infrastructure sectors, and suspending restrictions of selling commercial food at the state's rest areas (The FHWA suspended related federal prohibitions last week) ([Governor's Office press release](#), [Caltrans Press Release](#))
- **Executive Order N-53-20**, April 17, allows county child welfare agencies and probation departments to perform necessary functions using alternative processes other than face-to-face interactions. This includes allowance for a 60-day waiver to allow for flexibility in the emergency placement of foster youth and ensures that foster youth have access to critical programs and technology by verifying foster care status for foster youth and wards of the juvenile court whose cases are pending. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-54-20**, April 23, allows certain requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to be satisfied through electronic means. The executive order will temporarily allow retailers, particularly grocery stores, to provide bags to consumers without charge,

and to pause redemption of beverage containers in-store to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The executive order also temporarily suspends the requirement for recycling centers to hold a minimum number of hours of operation and directs CalRecycle to develop and issue operating guidelines. Other issues addressed include granting a 60-day extension for customers on several DMV deadlines, including for recently expired drivers' licenses and identification cards, to reflect public compliance with the COVID-19 stay at home order. It also suspends late fees from being applied to expired vehicle registrations. ([press release](#))

- **Executive Order N-55-20**, April 23, allows fair hearings to continue for California Children's Services on grievances and appeals to take place by phone or video conference. Additionally, the order will ensure flexibility for DHCS and the Department of Social Services to continue providing mental health care services and programs. The executive order will temporarily suspend requirements for in-person signatures for people to obtain certain prescription drugs covered by Medi-Cal, and will allow a 90-day extension for providers on cost reporting, change of scope of service and administrative hearings. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-56-20**, April 23, extends the deadlines for local educational agencies to submit Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP), which are multi-year planning documents tied to budget projections. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-57-20**, April 23, exempts garnishment for any individuals receiving federal, state or local government financial assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes recovery rebates under the CARES Act. Funds may still be garnished for child support, family support, spousal support or criminal restitution for victims. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-58-20**, April 30, allow adults to obtain marriage licenses via videoconferencing rather than in person for the next 60 days. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-59-20**, May 1, temporarily broadens the capability of counties to enroll persons into the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program using various eligibility verification methods due to social distancing requirements. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-60-20**, May 4, directs the State Public Health Officer to establish criteria and procedures to determine how local jurisdictions may implement public health measures that depart from the statewide directives.

- **Executive Order N-61-20**, May 6, waives penalties for property taxes paid after April 10 for taxpayers who demonstrate they have experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic through May 6, 2021. This will apply to residential properties and small businesses. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-62-20**, May 6, creates a time-limited rebuttable presumption for accessing workers' compensation benefits applicable to Californians who must work outside of their homes during the stay at home order. Those eligible will have the rebuttable presumption if they tested positive for COVID-19 or were diagnosed with COVID-19 and confirmed by a positive test within 14 days of performing a labor or service at a place of work after the stay at home order was issued on March 19, 2020. The presumption will stay in place for 60 days after issuance of the executive order. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-63-20**, May 8, extends various deadlines, including for certification requirements for public school project inspectors, extends for 60 days the expiration dates for notaries public whose commissions are set to expire. The order also makes it clear that notaries public can use an expired driver's license or identification card to confirm identification, consistent with prior action that extended expiration dates for driver's licenses and identification cards. Also, the order extends by 60 days certain procedural deadlines of the Department of Industrial Relations, including the deadline for workers to file wage claims with the Labor Commissioner; the deadline for employers to appeal Cal/OSHA citations; and the deadline for Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judges to issue decisions. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-64-20**, May 8, requires each county's elections officials to send vote-by-mail ballots for the November 3, 2020 General Election to all registered voters. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-65-20**, May 19, addresses a variety of issues by waiving the 10 percent cash or in-kind matching requirements for state grants awarded to domestic violence service providers, waiving the deadline to verify certification requirements for Cal Grant applicants, suspending programmatic deadlines for entities that receive funding from the Energy Commission for the development and deployment of new technologies that support the state's clean energy and decarbonization goals, and extending

the timeframe for local governments to submit claims for reimbursement to the State Controller's Office. ([press release](#))

- **Executive Order N-66-20**, May 29, extends authorization for local governments to halt evictions for renters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through July 28. The order includes various other provisions such as requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to waive certain regulations governing administration of Emergency Services Grant funding received under the CARES Act, develop alternative streamlined procedures, and implement reasonable accommodations for HCD-funded projects that have been negatively affected by the pandemic, to help ensure project feasibility. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-67-20**, June 3, to curb the spread of COVID-19, this order ensures in-person voting opportunities are available in sufficient numbers to maintain physical distancing. It requires counties to provide three days of early voting starting the Saturday before election day and requires ballot drop-box locations be available between October 6 and November 3, while also allowing counties to consolidate voting locations, with at least one voting location per 10,000 registered voters. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-68-20**, June 6, addresses a variety of other issues in response to COVID-19 and will help increase the availability of over-the-counter drugs, such as hand sanitizer, and medical devices, such as respirators, ventilators and masks. The order extends statutory deadlines related to the timeframe of when a petition for reconsideration is deemed to have been denied by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, and for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board to act on decisions by Workers' Compensation judges. The order also allows the temporary manufacture of over-the-counter drugs and medical devices by firms not currently licensed by the California Department of Public Health. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-69-20**, June 15, extends deadlines related to the payment of real estate license application and renewal fees and continuing education requirements for licensees. extends waivers broadening CalWORKs enrollment, extends permission for commercially-licensed food trucks to operate in roadside rest area, and suspends face-to-face visits for eligibility for extended foster care. ([press release](#))
- **Executive Order N-70-20**, June 22, extends a waiver that allows retailers to temporarily pause in-store redemption of beverage containers to mitigate

the spread of COVID-19. The order also temporarily suspends the requirement for recycling centers to hold a minimum number of hours of operation. ([press release](#))

- **Executive Order N-71-20**, June 30, extends the authorization for local governments to halt evictions for renters impacted by COVID-19, through September 30. The order also extends provisions in earlier orders such as waiving eligibility re-determinations for Medi-Cal; suspending face-to-face visits for eligibility for foster care; and extends waivers temporarily broadening the capability of counties to enroll persons into the CalWORKs program, allowing for self-attestation of pregnancy and conditions of eligibility, and waiving in-person identification requirements. In addition, the order extends timeframes related to the payment of real estate license application and renewal fees and continuing education requirements for licensees. ([press release](#))
- **Governor Newsom has provided live updates via Facebook and Twitter**
 - March 17th:
 - Governor met with hospital leaders regarding hospital capacity – 416 facilities have over 75,000 beds.
 - 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 18th:
 - 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 19th

▪ Governor Newsom announced California's Stay at Home Order.

○ March 20th

▪ 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 23rd

▪ Will be announcing a 40% plan for hospital capacity today.

▪ State Parks parking lots will be shut down in order to promote social distancing; state parks patrol will be increasing to enforce and will have authority to fine if necessary.

○ March 25th

▪ 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 30th

▪ 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)

▪ Over 74,000 people have registered to work via healthcorps.ca.gov.

○ March 31st

▪ 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 1st

- 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 2nd

- 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 3rd

- 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 4th
 - 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 6th
 - 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 7th
 - Governor Gavin Newsom announced the release of two playbooks (one for adults and one for caregivers and children) with guidance on coping with stress during this time.
 - The curve in California is bending (the peak is coming down but also moving further in the future).
- April 8th
 - Formally submitted a request to the State Legislature to use money from disaster response emergency operations account for a 1.4 billion investment into PPE and \$495 million request for the first payment.
 - In response to concern over CA's buying power driving up the cost of PPE for other states: We are leveraging CA's buying capability and working with procurement offices in other states to collaborate. We are looking at CA not just driving up competition, but increasing supply for both CA, other states, and potentially

other countries. The Governor previously announced that California is channeling money to obtain 200 million masks a month.

- From 37% of the COVID-19 cases, the disaggregated data is fairly consistent with census information regarding race. To address disparities there is now a presumption of eligibility (regardless of immigration status) for compensated treatment in a community clinic. CA has requested a waiver from the federal government that has not been granted yet. Making this change now though.

- April 9th

- Vouchers and stipends will be available for doctors, nurses and other critical front-line health care workers, with deep discounts and 100% reimbursable costs at with 150+ hotels participating. (press release)
- Delta, Southwest, Alaska, and United Airlines thanked for taking care of travel costs for the individuals that have signed up on the health corps site.
- Delay of the fishing season in CA – clarifying it is not cancelled. Specific concerns from Mono and Inyo counties about high numbers of people coming to places with smaller healthcare systems.

- April 10th

- Governor Newsom announced further actions and guidance protect seniors, including by limiting visitors and training staff on infection control. California has retrained 600 nurses to support facility compliance with COVID-19 guidance. (press release)
- Data shows that CA's peak may not be as high as expected. Data collected for each county shows that the stay at home order has been working.

- April 13th

- California, Oregon, and Washington have announced a pact in agreeance on how to move toward reopening based on health outcomes. A specific CA plan will be released on 4/14/20.
- The Governor announced \$42 million of new investments to protect younger Californians who are at heightened risk for abuse and mistreatment due to COVID-19. The Governor is making more than \$27 million available to help families stay together, nearly \$7 million to support social workers and \$3 million to support Family Resource Centers. (press release)

- April 14th

- Governor Newsom outlined 6 critical indicators to consider before modifying the stay-at-home order and other interventions. They include the expansion of testing and tracing, protecting the most at-risk people, ability of healthcare systems to handle surges, therapeutics, ability of businesses and schools to incorporate physical distancing, and the ability to determine when increased measures will need to be taken again. ([details here](#), [press release](#))
 - The Governor said there is not a precise timeline for modifying the stay-at-home order, but when there has been a steady decrease in the number of hospitalizations and people in the ICU for multiple weeks, this will be the framework for making that decision.
 - He also noted that things will look different as California makes modifications. For example, restaurants will have fewer tables and classrooms will be reconfigured with the possibility of staggered attendance.
- April 15th
 - Governor Newsom announced Executive Order N-50-20 which extends the call center hours of the EDD.
 - Launching application on April 28th for processing of benefits from PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) System - a federal program.
 - Announced Direct Disaster Assistance to undocumented immigrants. 125 million (\$75 million in state funding and \$25 million from philanthropic entities) for individual assistance of \$500 and up to \$1000 per household for individuals. Guide for immigrants in CA on the CA COVID-19 website and [here](#).
- April 16th
 - Guidelines for a phased reopening of an American economy will be released at 6:00 pm Eastern Time today, recognizes differences between the conditions in different counties and different states.
 - Signed an executive order to support the essential food chain/ food sector. Allowing for two weeks of supplemental paid sick leave for workers who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, have been exposed to COVID-19, or have been affected by isolation orders.
- April 17th
 - Governor Newsom announced the formation of a state Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery, co-chaired by Governor Newsom's Chief of Staff Ann O'Leary and Tom Steyer. The Task Force will not only focus on our immediate recovery, but on actions to support a

cleaner, more equitable and prosperous future. It will build on the important work of other groups including the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, the Higher Education Council and the Commission on the Future of Work.

- Both co-chairs of the Future of Work Commission, President of SEIU Mary Kay Henry and Senior Partner of McKinsey & Company James Manyika, will serve on the new Task Force as well as a number of other prominent members ([Task Force members here](#)). ([press release](#))
- Each Wednesday, beginning 4/22, the Governor will provide an update for each of the 6 indicators being analyzed for lifting stay-at-home orders.
- April 18th
 - Governor Newsom announced updates to the Project Roomkey program to shelter people experiencing homelessness. There are currently 10,974 hotel rooms that have been procured, and an agreement with Motel 6 to make available 5,025 additional rooms across 19 counties has been made. Agreements are being considered to have localities purchase these sites for permanent shelters. ([press release](#))
 - The Governor also spoke about how the state is continuing to prioritize skilled nursing facilities and as the number of people in the ICU has decreased, the amount of deaths, hospitalizations, and cases continue to rise.
- April 20th
 - First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, State Board of Education President Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond led announcement on private partnerships with companies, business leaders, and philanthropists heeded the call by committing to provide Internet access for hundreds of thousands of households and over 70,000 laptops, Chromebooks, and tablets for students. ([press release](#))
- April 21st
 - The Governor announced California Volunteers' #CaliforniansForAll service initiative to connect Californians with safe volunteer opportunities and encourage those unable to physically volunteer to think creatively about ways to make a difference in their communities. Californians are encouraged to join

#CaliforniansForAll by signing up at californiansforall.ca.gov. ([press release](#))

- April 22nd
 - The Governor gave an update on testing. 86 new testing sites have been procured and will prioritize more rural and disadvantaged communities. Over 465,000 tests have been done. About 16,000 tests are being done per day. CA has the goal of 25,000 tests per day by the end of April. The goal for phase one is minimum of 60,000 tests per day and ideally that will be closer to 80,000 or more per day.
 - Swabs continue to be most significant need for testing. President Trump committed to providing CA with 100,000 swabs this week, 250,000 next week, and a substantial increase the following week from the federal government.
 - Contact tracing is a developing priority and we will have a contact tracing dashboard to monitor trends, manage the workforce, and understand how the testing capacity may need to shift. Previewing a new app and website on April 24.
 - Work to provide alternative care sites and assemble a work force puts CA in the position to schedule surgeries again. Not opened to surgeries for aesthetic purposes. ([press release](#))
- April 23rd
 - Announced a new Executive Order effective immediately that denies the ability for debt collectors to garnish money received from the CARES act.
 - 21 out of the 24 largest student loan servicers in the state of California have agreed to a 90-day forbearance on student loan debt impacting over 1.1 million Californians with loan debt.
- April 24th
 - Governor Newsom announced progression in the meal delivery program, a partnership to make wellness check-in calls, and the expansion of Friendship Line California to help combat social isolation. These actions will support the approximately 1.2 million Californians over the age of 65 who live alone. Home Meals for Seniors program will enlist community restaurants to prepare meals that will be delivered to seniors. ([press release](#))
- April 27th

- Began with a statement that people cannot continue to crowd beaches as they did this weekend. Orange County is looking at more deliberative engagement to address this. CHP, State Parks, police chiefs, and other state entities may enforce the stay at home order more strictly.
- Colorado and Nevada have joined the Western States Pact in the coalition on reopening. ([press release](#))
- New strategy for getting to the next phase of our response - a series of digital roundtables that are sector specific. Important to break down reopening by sector and drilling down on specific needs. The Governor will lead the discussions and experts from the advisory committee will help guide the conversations.
- April 28th
 - The Governor provided an update and overview of the [4 Phases of COVID-19 response and “Pandemic Roadmap”](#). We will enter phase 2 in a number of weeks, and phase 3 and 4 in a number of months.
 - Phase 2 – “Lower Risk Workplaces” includes the modification of school programs and child care centers (the next school year potentially starting in July or early August), curbside pick-up for retail stores, and the opening of parks and public spaces. To enter this phase, we must see hospitalizations and ICU numbers remaining stable, a maintenance of surge capacity and sufficient PPE, and contact tracing statewide.
- April 29th
 - The Governor unveiled \$3.64 million in new funding to expand the state’s Farm to Family program, including \$2.86 million from the USDA and \$775,000 committed by philanthropy to jumpstart a \$15 million campaign to further support the program through the end of the year. The goal is to deliver 21 million pounds of fresh produce on a monthly basis. ([press release](#))
 - California has received two waivers from the federal government to expand CalFresh and EBT programs. People getting CalFresh food benefits can [use their EBT card to buy groceries](#) online at Amazon and Walmart statewide. Beginning in May, families can get up to \$365 for each child who is eligible for P-EBT benefits.
- April 30th

- The Governor announced a new portal available at covid19.ca.gov/childcare enabling parents to enter their location and the type of care they need to instantly receive a list of local center-based and family child care programs. The list of open licensed child care programs will include health and safety information, age of children accepted, capacity, availability, hours, and contact information for the program and local Child Care Resource and Referral agency ([press release](#))
 - Announced a hard close of state and local beaches in Orange County. This is contrary to the rumors and Police Chiefs memo stating there would be a statewide closure of beaches.
- May 1st
 - Governor Newsom recognized workers on International Workers' Day and outlined actions the administration has taken to support workers impacted by the COVID-19, including child care funding, paid sick leave for food sector workers, hotel rooms for healthcare workers, overtime for social workers, Cal/OSHA guidance, stipends for SNF works, etc. ([press release](#))
 - Announced that CA is getting very close to making meaningful changes to the stay at home order – earlier this week he said “weeks” now he is saying that in a number of days we will likely have changes.
 - \$7.5 billion has been distributed for unemployment benefits. 37,000 people have signed up for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. We are 50% greater in engagement than this time last week.
 - Modifications have been made for activities such as car sales, bike sales, outdoor activities, golf, tennis, etc. that will continue to be updated.
- May 4th
 - Governor Newsom announced that California will begin moving into Stage 2 of reopening this Friday, May 8. Stage 2 allows gradual reopening of lower-risk workplaces with adaptations including bookstores, clothing stores, florists and sporting goods stores, with modifications. More detailed guidance for the retail sector will be released Thursday, May 7. ([press release](#))
 - Announced regional variation, so counties can move more quickly through Stage 2, if they attest that they meet the state's readiness

criteria. Counties must create and submit a readiness plan which the state will make publicly available.

- Announced a partnership with the UCSF and UCLA to immediately begin training workers for a landmark contact tracing program. The partnership will include a virtual training academy with the goal of training 20,000 individuals in two months.

○ May 5th

- From a small retail business in Sacramento, he reviewed his announcement of the movement to phase 2 and reminded people to continue physical distancing especially as places open up.
- Positive Developments in Orange County – thanks local governments for collaborations to come up with restrictions. More beaches are reopening.

○ May 6th

- The Governor announced a new website to schedule testing and find testing sites.
- The Governor Announced an executive order on workers' compensation and relief for fees associated with property taxes for individuals and businesses. Additional guidance on both will be released in the next few days. (press release)
- Regarding the BYD contract for masks, we have received surgical masks. Over 15 million have been distributed which allows us to move into Phase 2. Acknowledges that the contracts have not been made public as soon as preferred. We should expect contracts being made public in the next few days.
- There will be a vaping tax included in the May Revision. This is still a real concern that deserves attention.
- There are conversations happening about expanding the Western States Pact to collaborate on issues beyond COVID-19.

○ May 7th

- The Governor spoke about the budget, as his administration is projecting a \$54 billion shortfall through next summer. He believes it will be manageable if the federal government supports CA and that we are in far better shape than we were prior to the last recession.
- Governor Newsom released updated industry guidelines– including for retail, manufacturing and logistics – to begin reopening with

modifications that reduce risk. An update to California's Pandemic Roadmap has been released. ([press release](#))

- Regional Variance – Counties can move further into Stage 2 when they meet CA Public Health Criteria. These criteria will be publicly posted at the CDPH website next Tuesday.

- May 8th

- Roughly 70% of the economy can now open with modifications.
- Regional Variation - Almost 2 dozen counties have reached out about reopening earlier. There are many counties that meet the requirements of no deaths related to COVID in the last 14 days.
- Subsequent guidelines, including checklists, will be released next Tuesday for more businesses to reopen.
- The Governor announced an executive order on Voting by Mail – every registered voter can receive a mail-in ballot.

- May 11th

- Announced that California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado and Nevada leaders sent a joint letter to the federal government requesting \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments to preserve core government services like public health, public safety, and public education, and help people get back to work. ([press release](#) and [letter here](#))
- Detailed sectoral guidelines will be out tomorrow – including guidance for industries such as dining, office spaces, and malls.
- Regional Variation – Working with 9 new counties today on moving further into Stage 2. 19 counties have already worked with the Governor's office on reopening.

- May 12th

- The Governor announced that more than 1 million tests have been conducted throughout the state. The Department of Consumer Affairs has expanded the ability of testing to pharmacies. Pharmacists already conduct different types of medical tests. This will increase testing and the amount of testing sites. ([press release](#))
- Additional guidelines have been released for different industries to reopen as we move further into Stage 2, specifically mentioned were retail and manufacturing. The Governor clarified that offices can reopen if telework is not possible.
- Guidelines have been released for counties as regional variation allows further movement into Stage 2. Butte and El Dorado

Counties have met the requirements to do so. 27 other counties have been working with the Governor's office and the state requirements for counties to reopen are flexible if there are unique characteristics (ex. Federal prison, challenged skilled nursing facility, etc.). View live updates on this list of counties [here](#).

- May 13th

- The Governor announced items in the May Revise (to be released May 14) to help prepare and respond to the approaching wildfire season such as an additional \$127 million above last year's baseline budget for CalOES and \$87.5 million for Cal Fire to improve surge capacity and to hire critical personnel in advance of the wildfire season.
- County Variation - 10 counties have self-attested that they have a containment plan and therefore can move further into Stage 2. The state has engaged with 31 counties.

- May 14th

- The Governor released the \$203.3-billion May Revise The proposal is to use 16% from reserves, 15% relief from the CARES Act, 15% from a reduction in programs added in the January Budget, 19% in borrowing from special funds, 26% from cuts (which can be triggered and eliminated with the federal Heroes Act) and 8% in net operating losses to cover the \$54.3 billion proposed deficit. ([summary](#), [press release](#))
- Director of Finance Director Keely Bosler also spoke about more specific cuts to areas such as education, health and human services, corrections, the Judicial system, and 10 percent pay cuts for all state workers. Both stressed that the cuts will not be as significant if the HEROES Act is passed by Congress.

- May 18th

- Additional modifications effective immediately for county variance. Estimated that roughly 53 of the 58 counties would now be eligible to move further into phase 2 with these new relaxed guidelines. ([press release](#) from CDPH)
- If trendlines continue, statewide announcements will be made to allow for in-store retail, professional sports without fans, and hairstylists to operate in the first week of June.

- May 22nd

- Governor Newsom announced the launch of “California Connected” the state’s comprehensive contact tracing program and public awareness campaign. For more information, visit CaliforniaConnected.ca.gov. A PSA from Director of the California Department of Public Health Dr. Sonia Angell can be found [here](#). ([press release](#))
- The state has been working with faith leaders – guidelines will be out on Monday for the reopening of religious centers.
- More guidelines will be coming out in the next few weeks for more sectors to reopen statewide and county variance. The Governor said we are within days of guidance for salons and barbershops to reopen. Guideline for schools and summer camps should be out in the next week. Guidance for casinos and card rooms will be released around the 8th of June.
- May 26th
 - Updates to Regional Variance: Guidelines released today for barbershops and hair salons to reopen today in self-attested counties (47 counties) with [new guidance here](#). Summer camps, child care, and schools will have guidance released on May 27. Film and television industry guidance will be out later this week or this weekend, as the industry and labor are working together now.
 - 47 states are now self-attested to move further in to Stage 2.
 - He reviewed the announcement that in-store retail and places of worship can open statewide.
 - The state is now working with local governments to prepare a movement to and through Phase 3. The Governor reminded us that Phase 4 consists of concerts, conventions, festivals, fans in stadiums and the state will hold the line with larger venues as counties will continue to have a lot of responsibility.
- May 29th
 - Governor Newsom announced that self-attested counties may move into Stage 3 of reopening and gave a reminder that the state is not mandating a pace for reopening.
 - The state is still prioritizing vulnerable communities such as nursing homes and the homeless population. Project Roomkey

has 15,679 rooms acquired and the outbreak in the homeless community has not been as acute as predicted.

- Data continues to be stable but does show disparity, especially in black communities.

- June 1

- This press conference was mostly focused on the protests occurring. The Governor did mention that COVID-19 testing continues to increase.
- The Governor said, in regards to the State Budget, that we need to do more to support small businesses.

- June 5th

- The Governor focused on the work he is doing on criminal justice reform in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. He announced that state will work toward a statewide standard for policing peaceful protests and ending the carotid hold ([press release](#))
- In regards to COVID-19 – he encouraged people to look at their local county plans online to see what communities are doing to prepare for possible uptick in cases after protests.
- He announced that new guidelines for many sectors to reopen will be out today for self-attested counties.

- June 15th

- The average positivity rate of COVID-19 tests in CA remains stable at 4.5% over the last 14 days, and has significantly improved since April. Hospitalization and ICU numbers have been stable.
- 50,000 caregivers and frontline workers will all be receiving \$500 debit cards for the costs associated with not being able to stay at home while working to combat COVID-19.
- The state is continuing to work with counties as they open, and is providing extra support to 13 counties with concerning data.
- The Governor encouraged people to continue to wear face coverings, access free testing, physically distance, and wash hands often.

- June 22nd

- The Governor clarified that the guidelines requiring face coverings are mandated and important to help CA through the first wave.

- 35.6% of all cases in CA have been reported in the last 14 days. 46,735 new cases in the past 14 days. We are also seeing increases in the positivity rate, hospitalizations and amount of people in the ICU. CA is in a position to respond to the continued increase in cases though and they are not a surprise.
 - Last week there were 13 counties needing technical assistance. There are now 11 counties that the state is providing technical assistance to.
 - Great Plates program has provided over 1 million meals to seniors in need. Over 5,000 jobs have been supported by this program.
 - Little details were given about the budget deal with the legislature – said that compromises have been made across the spectrum and further details will be coming out in the coming hours and the coming weeks.
- June 24th
- The Governor continued to remind people to wear masks and that we are still in the first wave. Industry guidelines do not mean “go,” they just advance the “how,” as counties determine the “when.”
 - New cases have dramatically increased in the last few days, with a record of 7,149 on June 23. The 14-day average positivity rate for tests is now at 5.1% and the 7-day average is at 5.6%. These increases are expected, and CA has the surge capacity to accommodate increases case numbers.
 - \$2.5 billion in the state budget is conditioned on counties meeting their self-attested criteria laid out for COVID-19 responses and prevention. We are in a stage now where we have to demand accountability. Compliance will be analyzed on a monthly basis.
 - Concern with prison populations. 456 individuals have tested positive at San Quentin. 355 staff members and 1,785 inmates have tested positive throughout the system. Still have a lot of work to do in this space, including addressing the issues that come with moving people between facilities. About 3,500 people have been released early to lessen the population in prisons, and there has been a plan submitted for about 3,500 more early releases – based on a parole/probation framework.

○ June 25th

- The Governor announced new tools, technology, and data that will allow scientists, researchers, technologists, and all Californians to better understand the impact of COVID-19. This includes the California COVID Assessment Tool, or CalCAT, a “model of models” that contains assessments of the spread of COVID-19, short-term forecasts of disease trends, and scenarios of the course of the disease from modeling groups across the country. (press release)
- Additionally, the Governor has directed that the state’s COVID-19 data be open and machine-readable by default, except to preserve privacy; that data be provided via dashboard, on California’s open data portal; and that the data be available by direct connection to a database.
- There has been a 32% increase in hospitalizations in the last 7 days, and a 19% increase in ICU patients in the last 14 days. The average amount of tests per day is 88,000.
- The state will discuss slowing down reopening when our hospital system cannot absorb new cases, or when we see things particularly out of balance at the local level.
- The majority of ventilators that CA loaned to other states have been returned to CA. Many governors requested an update on the national stockpile and efforts from FEMA to procure more ventilators, including those being produced by GM. They were given assurance they are substantially increasing, and tens of thousands will be available starting in July.

○ June 26th

- Announcement of a formal partnership with the California Manufacturing and Technology Association (CMTA), GO-Biz and CalOES to encourage purchasers of protective gear to purchase from California-based manufacturers. A new online portal: <https://www.safelymakingca.org/> was created for businesses to use to acquire PPE and for people to find the PPE they need.
- The state is now advising Imperial County to pull back from reopening and reinstitute their stay at home order. The positivity rate in Imperial county over a 14-day period is about 23%, which is well over the 10% threshold needed to get onto the monitoring list.

- In response to a comment that the projections in the data portal released yesterday are quite stark – the Governor said the “lazy punditry” that this is a seasonal disease is false, and he cannot impress upon people more that we need to continue to act responsibly. We are still experiencing unprecedented growth and will see much higher death rates in the next few weeks, as we have seen much higher amount of positive cases this week.
- June 29th
 - The Governor reviewed the actions CA has been taking to mitigate COVID-19 impacts since January, including the recent closure of bars.
 - The positivity rate for tests is particularly concerning, at 5.5% over the last 14 days and 5.9% over that last 7 days. Hospitalizations have increased by 43% over the last 7 days.
 - The state is now closely monitoring 19 counties, representing about 72% of the population.
 - Increases in prison system – CDCR system has 2,589 inmates that have tested positive. San Quentin has 1,011 inmates that have tested positive. Potential releases for high risk inmates are being evaluated.
- June 30th
 - The Governor focused on homelessness and Project Roomkey – there are 15,679 rooms in the portfolio and 14,200 individuals being housed. The new state budget provided an additional \$1.3 billion to cities and counties to support programs like Project Roomkey. \$900 million comes from the state and \$550 million is specifically for unit acquisition.
 - There is concern with Fourth of July weekend coming up – especially as family gatherings where extended and immediate family members mix are the biggest area of concern.
 - 6,367 individuals tested positive in the last 24 hours. There have been consistent increases in the last two weeks. Hospitalizations have increased by 43% over the last two weeks and the positivity has increased to a 7-day average of 5.9%.
- July 1st
 - Effective immediately, restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms, movie theaters, family entertainment centers (broadly defined by guidelines previously released), zoos and museums, and cardrooms in 19 counties that have been on the watchlist for

three days must close indoor operations (in place for three weeks). Bars must be closed statewide.

- Enforcement efforts will continue to prioritize education and local control, however multi-agency strike teams will include ABC, CalOSHA, Dept. of Business Oversight, Dept. of Consumer Affairs, CHP.
- The Governor warned against having gatherings over the Fourth of July weekend, as numbers continue to cause concern such as hospitalizations which have increased by 51% in the last two weeks and the positivity rate over the last 7 days at 6.4%.

○ July 2nd

- Governor Newsom announced the “Wear A Mask” public awareness campaign encouraging Californians to use face coverings. Broadcast and radio PSAs are being distributed in English and Spanish with local ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, Univision, Telemundo, Ethnic Media Services, and iHeart Media affiliates. Billboards and outdoor advertisements are visible statewide in both English and Spanish thanks to ClearChannel, Lamar, VisCom Outdoor, iKahan Media, and LED Truck Media. The campaign includes a variety of shareable social media content with key messages on why and how to wear a mask. ([press release](#))
- The positivity rate over the last 14 days is 6.3% and over the last 7 days is 6.9%.
- New guidance has been released for gyms. The amount of hospitalizations has increased by 56% in the last two weeks.

○ July 6th

- There are now 23 counties that have been on the monitoring list for 3 or more days and are therefore subject heightened restrictions in certain sectors announced last week. Enforcement efforts prioritize counties on this list, as well as known violators, and high-risk workplaces. Enforcement efforts over the holiday weekend included 5,986 in-person visits to bars and restaurants by ABC, 441,755 business contacted from DIR and Cal/OSHA, and 311 licenses contacted from the Board of Cosmetology.
- 7,876 is the 7-day average of positive cases per day. 50% increase over 14-day period. The positivity rate is now 6.8% over the last 14 days.
- San Quentin remains a top priority, 1,388 inmates are positive in San Quentin. There is a plan to further decompress the facility

including fast-tracking parole review and individually reviewing cases to expedite housing and responsibly move people out of the facility

○ July 8th

- Governor Newsom and President of the California Hospital Association, Carmela Coyle, reviewed all of the actions taken to prepare CA for the next surge in hospitalizations and COVID-19 patients
- 26 counties are now being monitored (counties that self-attested to be able to move forward with reopening however have data that cause concern)
- Testing supply constraints are starting to become issues again. We will be announcing a reconstituted testing task force with new goals and strategies.

○ July 9th

- As we enter into peak wildfire season, there have been 4,112 wildfires from the beginning of the year until now, which is more than last year. As the state prepares for wildfire season during COVID-19, new sheltering protocols will include health screenings, dedicated cleaning staff at all sites, pre-packaged meals, medical and mental health professionals on site, and partnerships with hotels to be used as shelters.
- Regarding complaints about the EDD, some 6.3 million have filed for unemployment and received it. We've distributed >\$44.3 billion, including \$3.5 billion just last week. There are vexing cases where people can't get response, some paperwork that hasn't been presented - they all require individual case managers and they can be very time-consuming. But that's not an excuse. All governors say they're struggling too.
- 2,338 inmates in the prison system have COVID-19 out of over 110,000 people in the prison system. The state is still working on safely releasing more.

- 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 statement [here](#) on the federal supplemental stimulus bill passed on March 27.
- March 28, 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](#))

- April 1, 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](#))
- April 9, Governor Newsom announced that starting this Sunday, California workers who are receiving unemployment benefits will begin receiving an extra \$600 on top of their weekly amount, as part of the new Pandemic Additional Compensation (PAC) initiated by the CARES Act. This comes as record numbers of unemployment claims are being filed on a weekly basis in the state. ([press release](#))
- April 10, Governor Newsom announced the release of \$100 million to support child care services, and to support child care providers who are stepping up to serve essential infrastructure workers and vulnerable populations and their children. This critical funding will be deployed to pay for up to 20,000 limited-term additional child care slots and is part of SB 89, emergency legislation the Governor signed last month to provide up to \$1 billion in funding to help California fight the COVID-19 pandemic. ([press release](#))
- **April 28, Economic Recovery & Reinvention Listening Tour**
 - 3:30 pm, the Governor hosted the first a digital conversation of the Economic Recovery & Reinvention Listening Tour. The focus will be the retail sectors, with workers, small businesses and employers. ([press release](#))
 - Continuing the Economic Recovery & Reinvention Listening Tour, Governor Newsom will host a digital roundtable today with Californians who work in the film and television industry. This will be livestreamed on the Governor's YouTube page at approximately 2:45 pm. ([press release](#))
- April 28, The Governor issued a proclamation declaring April 28th as "Workers' Memorial Day" in California to remember the men and women who have lost their lives on the job and renew our commitment to securing safe and healthy working conditions for all workers. ([text here](#))
- May 5, at approximately 2:15 pm. The Governor will host a Digital Roundtable for Manufacturing Workers & Small Business Owners. This virtual roundtable is a part of the Economic Recovery & Reinvention Listening Tour and will include manufacturing workers and small business owners. It will be livestreamed on the Governor's [YouTube page](#). ([press release](#))

- May 15, Governor Newsom met with Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate Budget Chair Holly Mitchell, and Assembly Budget Chair Phil Ting to discuss efforts to enact a balanced budget by July 1. ([press release](#))
- May 15, Governor Newsom issued the following statement regarding the House's vote on the HEROES Act: (full statement in this [press release](#))
 - "The COVID-19 global pandemic has caused a national recession, and cities and states across the country cannot weather this storm alone. Even states like California that boasted record reserves after years of prudent spending decisions are facing deep revenue shortfalls that put core government services at risk...."
- Members of the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery sent a [letter](#) to congressional leaders asking them pass \$1 trillion in direct relief for state and local governments.
- Continuing the Economic Recovery & Reinvention Listening Tour, Governor Newsom will host a digital roundtable today with Californians who work in the fitness industry. It will be livestreamed at 10:15 am on the Governor's [YouTube page](#).
 - Governor Newsom told leaders in the Gym & fitness industry new guidelines for their reopening in California could be out "in about a week or so."
- May 29, Governor Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom announced a series of new initiatives to support victims of domestic violence amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, including \$5 million in state funding. Crisis hotlines, women's shelters, and public safety officers are reporting a higher number of calls and reports of domestic violence across California since the COVID-19 outbreak and the issuance of the stay-at-home orders. The state is partnering with the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV), Airbnb and Uber to provide free accommodation and transportation to victims of domestic violence. ([press release](#))
- Governor Newsom announced the federal health and safety certification of N95 masks. BYD North America will begin shipping 150 million N95 masks to the state in the coming days for distribution to frontline workers. N95 masks come in addition to the 110 million surgical masks from BYD that CA has already distributed. ([press release](#))
- Members of the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery today issued an [open letter](#) calling out the insidious effects of structural racism across society, including the economy, and urging business and civic leaders

to take a stand against injustice as the state and nation works to rebuild, for a more inclusive and resilient economy. The letter outlines how people of color are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; unemployment; and racism in policing, and highlights the income gaps across ethnicity, gender and ability that persist in our state -- the world's fifth-largest economy. ([press release](#))

- Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon today announced that they have reached an agreement on the 2020-21 state budget. ([press release](#), [LA Times article](#))
- June 25, Governor Newsom issued a [proclamation of a budget emergency](#) to make additional resources available to fund the state's ongoing emergency response COVID-19, ensuring the availability of funding for personal protective equipment, medical equipment and other expenditures as necessary to support a potential hospital surge and provide necessary services to vulnerable populations. ([press release](#))
- June 28th, Governor Newsom announced new [Guidance for Closure of Bars in Counties on County Monitoring List](#). This includes mandatory bar closure in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, and Tulare counties, and recommended bar closure in counties on the county monitoring list for three or more consecutive days, including Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, and Ventura counties.
- June 29, Governor Newsom signed the 2020 Budget Act – a \$202.1 billion spending plan that strengthens emergency response, protects public health and safety, and promotes economic recovery while closing a \$54.3 billion budget shortfall caused by the COVID-19 recession. The Department of Finance has released a summary of the signed budget [here](#), and will be releasing a similar document divided by chapter with further details this afternoon. (Governor's [press release](#))
- The [EDD has announced](#) up to 20 additional weeks of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are now available to longer term unemployed workers in California impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under AB 103, which was part of the budget package signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on Monday, the state now meets federal trigger standards to maximize support for the unemployed from the federal government.

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 19th, 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 has 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.
- **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 here 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

- 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
- COVID-19: Federal Health-Related Response , June 1, updated June 1, 2020 to reflect the April 24th enactment of H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enforcement Act, and includes updates through May 28 to prior federal actions discussed previously in the post.
- 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
- LAO and the National Guard, April 8
- State Options to Expand Unemployment Benefits, April 9, discusses options for the state to increase unemployment insurance (UI) benefits or expand benefits to ineligible workers.
- Preliminary Assessment of the Economic Impact of COVID-19, April 16, discusses the possible paths CA's economy will take due to job loss and the abrupt halting of economic activity and how it compares to situations experienced during recessions. This is the report presented to the Senate Budget Subcommittee on April 16.
- State Funding Actions Related to COVID-19, April 20, summarizes recent legislative and administrative action to allocate state funds to respond to the coronavirus disease.
- The 2020-21 Budget - California's Spring Fiscal Outlook, May 8, presents the possible somewhat optimistic U-shaped recession (\$18.1 billion deficit) and a somewhat pessimistic L-shaped recession (\$314 billion deficit). Either way, "budget deficits persist until at least 2023-24 with multiyear deficits summing to \$64 billion in the U-shaped recession and \$126 billion in the L-shaped recession.
- Initial Comments on the May Revision, updated May 19, a summary of the Governor's revised budget, focusing on the state's General Fund—the budget's main operating account. These comments describe the major actions the Governor took to close an estimated \$54 billion budget gap.
- Revenue Proposals in the 2020-21 May Revision, May 20, offers alternative revenue options that the Legislature could consider in addressing the

current sizable budget problem. These alternatives focus on policy changes that would (1) eliminate or modify tax expenditures that have a questionable policy rationale and/or (2) improve conformity with federal tax law.

- Federal Assistance for Businesses Affected by COVID-19, Updated May 19 to reflect additional federal assistance to businesses provided by H.R. 266; discusses H.R. 748 and H.R. 266, which provide financial assistance to businesses affected by COVID-19.
- Overview of Major Public Safety Proposals in the 2020-21 May Revision, May 21
- Overview of Governor's May Revision Proposals for Resources and Transportation Programs, May 21
- Recommend Reduction to Medi-Cal Caseload Costs, May 22, across 2019-20 and 2020-21, the administration projects around \$3 billion in higher General Fund costs in Medi-Cal due to COVID-19-related caseload increases.
- The CA Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has ordered insurers to make an initial premium refund for the months of March and April to all adversely impacted CA policy holders in certain lines of insurance, including worker's compensation insurance and car insurance, no later than 120 days after April 13. See bulletin [here](#).
- The [CA DMV](#) announced that licenses for drivers younger than 70 that expire between March and May 2020 are now valid through May 31, 2020. All commercial driver licenses, endorsements and certificates expiring between March and June 2020 are now valid through June 30, 2020, aligning with a recent emergency declaration from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
- April 20, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Department of Education (CDE) announced the **CPUC Broadband in Schools Initiative** partnership to distribute a total of \$30 million to support connectivity. The funds will consist of:
 - \$25 million from the California Teleconnect Fund for hotspots and Internet service for student households. School districts will be able to apply to receive 50 percent discounts on the cost of hotspot devices and on monthly recurring service charges until September 30, 2020. Rural, small, and medium-sized districts will be prioritized.
 - \$5 million which has been requested from the California Advanced Services Fund to help cover the costs of computing and hotspot devices.

- CDPH released new guidelines that partially lifted restrictions on who should receive tests for the coronavirus, recommending for the first time that asymptomatic people living or working in high-risk settings such as nursing homes, prisons and even some households should now be considered a priority. The move makes California the first state to broaden restrictive federal guidelines and reflects increasing availability of testing, as major labs report sufficient supplies and excess capacity to run more procedures, according to the public health department.
- CDPH released the following **All Facilities Letters** (AFL) to health facilities regarding requirements in healthcare, enforcement, new technologies, scope of practice, or general information that affects the health facility
 - **AFL 20-48 Transfers to Low Acuity Alternate Care Sites During Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic**
 - **AFL 20-49 Suspension of Professional Certification Requirements for Home Health Aides (HHAs)**
 - **AFL 20-33.1 Interim Guidance for Transfer of Residents with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**
 - **AFL 20-43.1 SNF Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Daily Reporting**
- The state has launched a new data portal at update.covid19.ca.gov that tracks COVID-19 cases statewide and by county, gender, age and ethnicity. The portal also outlines statewide hospitalizations and testing efforts. The data presented on the portal will be updated daily and will include additional information as it is available.
- The **Department of Finance** released a memorandum that was sent to all state agencies and departments with steps to “achieve immediate spending reductions in light of the fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.” It “directs agencies and departments to take actions in four specific areas.”
- There has been an updated list of specific outdoor activities published on the state’s COVID-19 website.
- The Department of Finance has released an updated Fiscal Update stating how the COVID-19 recession compares to past downturns and has impacted revenues.
- Statewide Industry Guidance: Guidelines and checklists for specific sectors have been updated for Stage 2 and 3. Including:
 - Guidance for Shopping Centers, Checklist for Shopping Centers
 - interim guidance for schools and school-based programs
 - support for working families
 - guidance for day camps

- June 12, updated guidance was also released for places of worship, providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies, and corresponding direction for other constitutionally protected activities, such as the right to protest. This guidance replaces guidance issued in May and does not obligate places of worship to resume in-person activity.
- County Variance: As of July 10, 55 CA counties have met the requirements to move further into Stage 2 and Stage 3 of reopening. See the list here.
 - Sectors that can reopen in Self-Attested Counties:
 - Guidance for Dine-In Restaurants , Checklist for Dine-In Restaurants
 - Guidance for hair salons and barbershops
 - Guidance for Casinos
 - guidance for family entertainment centers
 - guidance for restaurants, wineries, and bars
 - guidance for zoos and museums
 - guidance for gyms and fitness centers
 - guidance for hotels for tourism and individual travel
 - guidance for cardrooms
 - guidance for campgrounds
 - guidance for personal care services such as nail salons, tattoo parlors, etc.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs released an Order Waiving Restrictions on Pharmacists Ordering and Collecting Specimens for COVID-19 Tests.
- The California Health and Human Services Agency and Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) today announced reductions in medical surge sites set up throughout the state. Two leased hospital sites are expected to close next month and several other alternate care facilities will be placed into warm shutdown status to remain available as surge capacity.
- May 25, The California Department of Public Health announced the statewide reopening of places of worship for religious services and in-store retail shopping.
 - Modifications are required. Subject to approval by county public health departments, all retail stores can reopen for in-store shopping under previously issued guidelines.
 - Under new guidance, places of worship can hold religious services and funerals that limit attendance to 25% of a building's capacity – or up to 100 attendees, whichever is lower – upon approval by the county department of public health.

- While the vast majority of large gatherings remain prohibited under the state's stay-at-home order, the Department of Public Health has released guidelines for in-person protests and events designed for political expression. The guidance limits attendance to 25% of an area's maximum occupancy – or up to 100 attendees.
- The DMV has announced that drivers age 69 and younger with a noncommercial license that expires between March and July will receive a temporary extension through July 31, 2020. In most cases, these drivers are eligible for an online renewal and should try to renew their license online. While the extension is automatic, drivers 69 and younger will not receive a new card or an extension in the mail. ([DMV press release](#))
- The California Department of Public Health has issued [Guidance for Cooling Centers](#) to support a safe, clean environment for members of the public and workers at Cooling Center facilities.
- June 3, The University of California announced \$2 million in seed funding aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and support rapid-response, high-impact research in vaccines, therapeutics, clinical management, epidemiology and other COVID-19 related areas.
- Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration directed state leaders on Wednesday to start reopening state offices under new coronavirus protocols. Moving forward, the administration wants three-quarters of workers to telework in offices where it's possible, either full time or part time. ([SacBee article here](#))
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced today that the California Department of Education (CDE) has released a [Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools](#) that will support public school leaders across the state as they work with their local health officers to plan for the safe reopening of campuses and classrooms this fall.
- June 11, the California DMV will reopen its remaining field offices that were temporarily closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The webpage with [statewide industry guidance to reduce risk](#) of COVID-19 spread was updated on June 15, listing safety measures that workplaces should follow.
- California Coronavirus Testing Task Force hosted a briefing focused on testing and tracking for elected officials using [these slides](#) and has published a [summary of the Optum testing sites](#) showing a breakdown of testing data by county and throughout the state.
- The California Department of Public Health today released [updated guidance](#) mandating the use of cloth face coverings by the general public statewide

when outside the home, with limited exceptions. A growing body of scientific research has shown that people with no or few symptoms of COVID-19 can still spread the disease and that the use of face coverings, combined with physical distancing and frequent hand washing, will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- The Department of Finance released its [letter](#) to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee notifying it of \$16.9 million “in additional reimbursements for costs of holding inmates in county facilities due to the temporary halt in state prison caused by COVID-19.” The DOF says the “amount covers costs for delayed inmate admissions into state facilities through early September.”
- June 25, Governor Newsom issued a [proclamation of a budget emergency](#) to make additional resources available to fund the state’s ongoing emergency response COVID-19, ensuring the availability of funding for personal protective equipment, medical equipment and other expenditures as necessary to support a potential hospital surge and provide necessary services to vulnerable populations. ([press release](#))
- CalOES has released information on the amount of N95 masks that have been distributed to each county, with 76,590,455 total ([view information here](#))

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.
 - The 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](#).
- April 6, the CA Latino Legislative Caucus sent a [letter](#) to the Director of the CA Department of Public Health and State Public Health Officer regarding concern for inmates and staff at state immigrant detention facilities.
- April 9, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) announced "Each house is finalizing preparations to hold hearings within the next two weeks, focusing on the state's COVID-19 spending."
- Pro Tem Atkins has announced that the Senate Special Budget Subcommittee on COVID-19 Response will be chaired by Senator Holly Mitchell and it will have its first meeting next Thursday at 2:00 pm in Room 4203 of the State Capitol. Members of this committee will be Senators Nielson, Caballero, Moorlach, Pan, Roth, Skinner, and Wieckowski.

- The hearing will be livestreamed on the Senate website at www.senate.ca.gov and in-person public attendance is strongly discouraged. Some members of the subcommittee will participate remotely, and only staff essential to support the hearing should come to the Capitol.
- View the video here: <https://www.senate.ca.gov/media-archive>. [Agenda Here](#).
- Gabe Petek, of the Legislative Analyst's office presented information in this report from the LAO: [Preliminary Assessment of the Economic Impact of COVID-19](#).
- Vivek Viswanathan, chief deputy director of the Department of Finance, provided an overview of the allocations that have been made, listed here: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/budget/COVID-19/>.
- Chris Hoene, of the California Budget and Policy Center, spoke about the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 is having on undocumented workers.
- Members asked questions and expressed concern over their ability to provide oversight of the spending that is being done to combat COVID-19 and specific concerns over the budget process moving forward for the remainder of the year, including specific processes for using the Rainy-Day Fund.
- Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D- Lakewood) announced that the Assembly has scheduled its first Budget subcommittee hearing focused on the state's response to the COVID-19 crisis. Assembly [Budget Subcommittee 6 Budget Process Oversight and Program Evaluation](#), chaired by Assembly member Phil Ting (D- San Francisco), will meet on Monday, April 20, at 10:00am in Room 4202 in the State Capitol. Assemblywoman Smith will be replacing Assemblywoman Weber at Monday's hearing.
 - Access to Room 4202 during this hearing will be extremely limited to the press and public.
 - There will be a method of remote public comment via phone available for those who do not physically attend the hearing. Details on how to participate in public comment remotely will be made available Monday morning.
 - [Hearing Agenda](#) here and the hearing will be livestreamed [here](#).
 - [Materials from the hearing: Health and Human Services PowerPoint Slides; OES PPE Distribution by County; OES MHCC Flowchart Resource Request Process](#)

- Comments mirrored those expressed in the Senate's Oversight hearing last week. Members thank the administration for their responses but express concern over proper oversight, specifically regarding the BYD mask contract.
- Next Monday's hearing will be about economic recovery ideas based on the federal government's response.
- The Department of Finance has sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee chairs with an interim fiscal update assessing the fiscal conditions considering COVID-19.
- April 15, the Department of Finance has sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee chairs regarding the Department of Social Services and increases of emergency funding for COVID-19 response. The letter is notification of a \$50 million increased increment and a second \$26.3 million increased increment to Section 36.00 funds. These funds are to be allocated to the Department of Social Services for specific purposes.
- Assembly Rules Committee will be meeting on April 24th at 10:00 am. The Capitol will be open for attendance of this hearing. All are encouraged to watch the hearing from its live stream on the Assembly's website at <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/todaysevents>.
- On Monday, April 27, 2020, the Assembly Desk will begin pre-amending bills for May 4, 2020. The Assembly Desk will accept the secured PDF of amendments and the required Author's amendment report via email. The bills will have an amend date of May 4, 2020 and will be pre-published, as amended, on LIS and Leginfo daily.
- April 24, the Assembly Rules Committee met and referred 299 bills to policy committees. There are 298 on the attached list. They added the State Bar dues bill, AB 3362. As such, next week we will see amendments to nearly 300 ABs, which may be heard during the three weeks of May.
- As noticed in the Daily File, the Assembly has scheduled three hearings at the State Capitol:
 - Assembly Rules Committee, Friday, April 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 4202
 - Budget Subcommittee 6, Monday, April 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 4202
 - Budget Subcommittee 2, Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in Room 4202

- Assembly member Gloria sent a letter signed by 48 other legislators to the Governor requesting \$32 million in one-time funding to bolster the resilience and long-term capacity of the State's emergency food network.
- The Assembly Budget Sub 6 Committee on Budget Process Oversight and Program Evaluation met and discussed the effects of COVID-19 on CA's economic outlook.
 - Hearing Agenda
 - The panel included Jerry Nickelsburg, UCLA Anderson Forecast; Rodney Fong, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; David Ahlem, Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.; Saru Jayaraman, One Fair Wage; Gabe Petek, Legislative Analyst's Office; Chris Hoene, California Budget and Policy Center; and Vivek Viswanathan, Department of Finance.
 - Questions from members focused largely on the effects on lower wage workers and how different sectors of the economy are being impacted. Members asked about a pause in regulations and AB5. Many responses indicated that a lot was being discussed for the May Revise and more specifics would be included in that.
 - Discussed a shift in focus from "essential businesses" being open to businesses that can safely reopen.
- A tentative session schedule has been released for Assembly Sessions starting May 4th.
- April 28, Senate President pro Tem Atkins announced The Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response will meet Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. As with the Senate's April 16, 2020 budget hearing on COVID-19, some members of the committee are expected to participate remotely under the terms of Senate Resolution 86, which was adopted by the Senate to allow its work to continue during the COVID-19 crisis. Those interested in viewing the hearing are asked to watch online in order to follow public health guidelines.
- The Senate is expected to return from recess on Monday, May 11, 2020.
- An Assembly Daily File for May 4th, and Senate Daily File dated April 30th have been published.
- Assembly Speaker Rendon has announced extensive and multifaceted actions in anticipation of the Assembly reconvening on Monday, May 4, 2020. This action is in order to protect the health of Members, staff and the public, while respecting the right of the public to attend and participate in legislative proceedings.

- May 4, here the most recent Protocols for Assembly Hearings in May 2020 from the Speaker's Office. This could be subject to change on their discretion.
- AG Xavier Becerra and Asm. Marc Levine will be hosting a teleconference at 10:00 am announcing legal action regarding gas prices.
- The Senate has released its May Committee Calendar with hearings beginning May 11.
- May 6, the Senate will hold an essential hearing of the Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Building in Sacramento. The hearing will be livestreamed on the Senate website and in-person public attendance is strongly discouraged.
- Revised legislative calendars have been released for the Senate and the Assembly.
- May 11, the Joint legislative Budget Committee has sent a response to the Department of Finance regarding the response to COVID-19 from CDCR.
- Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D- Lakewood) today announced he will convene the Assembly as a Committee of the Whole on May 26, 2020. The Committee of the Whole will meet to address the State Budget, in order that it may be passed by the statutory deadline, June 15.
- The legislature will be voting on the state budget this Monday, June 15th. The Senate Budget Committee is currently meeting and discussing an overview of the legislature's 2020-21 budget package . (budget committee agenda here)
- June 15, the CA Senate and Assembly passed their version of the state budget along nearly party-line votes, meeting their constitutional deadline — but are still negotiating on a final product with Governor Newsom. In their respective budgets, both lawmakers and Newsom assume \$14 billion in federal aid, but the proposals differ on how to close a \$54 billion deficit if that help does not materialize. The Governor proposed \$14 billion in “trigger cuts” if congressional aid is not approved by July 1. Lawmakers extended the deadline to October and plan to lean more heavily on the state's rainy-day fund and borrowing, limiting cuts to \$7 billion if the aid does not arrive.
- AB 860, intended to protect the November election against potential disruption by the coronavirus pandemic by mailing all registered voters a ballot, by Assemblymember Marc Berman has been signed by the Governor. (press release)
- The Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation and Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response held an informational hearing in the unique challenges Imperial County is facing in combatting COVID-19.

- The Senate Public Safety Committee held an informational hearing on the administration's response to COVID-19 in state prisons and the impact of COVID-19 in the prison community. There are positive tests among inmates at 24 of 35 prisons, and among employees at 34 of 35 prisons.
- Assemblyman David Chiu, Senator Scott Wiener, and others are having a video conference to discuss "Employment Development Department's failure to disperse unemployment benefits in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic." The event will take place at 10:10 pm on July 2 via [Zoom](#), Meeting ID: 947 0665 0610, Password: 316186.
- The CA Assembly has postponed its return from summer recess after multiple lawmakers and staffers tested positive for the coronavirus. Speaker Rendon informed members of this on July 6, writing "I have instructed my staff to develop a schedule for hearings and other Assembly business that will allow us to conduct our work but minimize the days in the Capitol building," Rendon wrote. "As a result, our July 13th return will be delayed." ([SF Chronicle article](#))
- Senate President pro Tempore Atkins and Assembly Speaker Rendon issued a statement announcing amended Legislative session return date from July 13 to July 27, 2020.
- Senator Scott Wiener, and Assemblymembers Marc Levine, Ash Kalra, and Rob Bonta will be hosting a press conference from San Quentin as there have been over 1,400 COVID cases at the facility.

Courts

- March 13, the California Supreme Court [issued an order](#) suspending in person oral argument sessions. Counsel will appear via video conference, by telephone conference, or by other electronic means.
- On April 6, the Judicial Council met by teleconference—the second time in less than 10 days—and approved additional temporary statewide measures in response to COVID-19. These included actions to protect individuals' rights relating to temporary restraining orders, visitation, evictions and foreclosures as well as adopting an emergency bail schedule setting bail at \$0 for most misdemeanor and low-level felony offenses. The audio recording and post-meeting recap are now available on the [California Courts website](#). Meeting information is [here](#).
 - Here are the [11 temporary emergency Rules of Court](#).
- April 13, the United States Supreme Court [announced this morning](#) that it will hear 10 oral arguments by telephone in May, in 13 cases that had previously been scheduled for argument in March and April but had been postponed. In

keeping with public health guidance in response to COVID-19, the Justices and counsel will all participate remotely. The Court anticipates providing a live audio feed of these arguments to news media. Details will be shared as they become available.

- The Legislative Analyst's Office has released a document outlining the Judicial Branch Actions in response to COVID-19.
- Two initiative campaigns that were in the signature gatherings phase when stay-at-home orders were enacted report that Sacramento Court Judge James Arguelles has issued a tentative ruling that would grant one of the campaigns more time to collect signatures, "essentially guaranteeing that both will qualify for the next statewide general election to issue after this November – presumably November 2022." The ruling was in favor of the campaign supported by Californians Against Waste for an initiative that would bar certain polystyrene containers, would impose a tax on producers of single-use plastics and would allocate new tax revenues for recycling and environmental programs. The other campaign was for legalized sports wagering.

Federal Action

- **Economic Stimulus Legislation:**
 - H.R.6201 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act, enacted March 18, 2020
 - 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.
 - H.R.748 - CARES Act, enacted March 27, 2020
 - Negotiations occurred between Senate Republicans and the Trump administration who called for direct payments to workers, while Democrats have pushed for significantly increasing unemployment benefits.
 - Negotiations continued over the weekend of March 21, and the goal was for a vote this Monday, March 23. (WSJ article here).

- One of the outstanding issues for Democrats was 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.
- An agreement was finalized early March 25, on a roughly \$2 trillion rescue package, the largest economic stimulus measure in modern history. A summary of key components can be found in this [NY Times Article and below](#).
 - 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.
- Reports suggest that the UI benefits in the deal might incentivize layoffs and discourage employees from seeking new jobs.
- H.R.266 - Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, enacted April 24
 - April 21, the Senate passed this compromise bill to provide additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, as well as needed funds for hospitals and COVID-19 testing. The measure passed overwhelmingly in the House on April 23 — 388-5.

- \$1.8 trillion total. Provides an immediate \$321 billion infusion for the Paycheck Protection Program, the small business rescue fund that ran out of money last week. The package also provides another \$60 billion in economic disaster loans for small businesses, \$75 billion in emergency relief for hospitals and \$25 billion to ramp up coronavirus testing.
- The overall compromise includes \$484 billion as follows: \$321 billion for PPP; \$50 billion for EIDL; \$10 billion for EIDL Advance grants; \$2.1 billion for Small Business Administration (SBA) administrative expenses; \$75 billion for hospitals; and \$25 billion for testing (research, development and deployment). It also clarifies that agriculture enterprises are eligible for PPP. The bill makes no changes to the Coronavirus Relief Fund for state and local governments, so that will be an ongoing issue for Phase 4.
- Heroes Act
 - A \$3 trillion total relief measure has been introduced and may be voted on this Friday, May 15.
 - The coronavirus relief bill will follow up on similar measures Congress has already passed to respond to the crisis, with more funding for state and local governments and coronavirus testing. The measure will also include funding for nutrition assistance and the Postal Service, as well as student loan relief, education, rental and mortgage assistance provision.
 - May 15, Republicans attempted to use a procedural maneuver to force a change to the measure, stripping language that would allow undocumented immigrants to get the \$1,200 direct payments as well as to collect the previous round of such payments retroactively, which they had been barred from. Such a change would all but guarantee the legislation's failure.
 - May 15, the House voted 208 to 199 — largely along party lines — to pass the measure. The size of the bill represents the biggest ever proposed and it includes another round of direct cash payment to Americans, extends unemployment benefits to the end of January and

adds hazard pay for front-line workers. It also expands virus-testing efforts, contact tracing and treatment.

- McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other Republicans insisting any new effort include liability protections for businesses and individuals, a move Democrats oppose.
 - Senate Republicans have stated if there is any future aid package, it will not come until after the 25 May Memorial Day recess.
 - May 29, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that the next potential relief bill will be the final coronavirus stimulus legislation and people can expect a decision being made on whether to go forward in about a month.
- 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 15th to July 15th, 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.
 - 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.

- 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.

- The **IRS** has a [new webpage](#) that will allow Americans to register for stimulus payments if they have not filed taxes. More information from the IRS on the stimulus payments [here](#) too.
- The **US Census Bureau** announced it will be asking Congress for a four-month delay in delivering the population data used to reapportion the House of Representatives and political districts across the country. The Census Bureau temporarily suspended 2020 Census field data collection activities in March. Steps are already being taken to reactivate field offices beginning June 1, 2020, in preparation for the resumption of field data collection operations as quickly as possible following June 1. State legislatures would get final figures for drawing new district maps as late as July 31, 2021. Delivery of that data normally begins in February. ([press release](#))
- April 14, President Trump announced the US would halt payments to the W.H.O. while the administration reviews its role in handling the virus.
- The **IRS** issued its notice [2020-23](#), an update to Notice [2020-18](#) regarding additional relief for taxpayers affected by COVID-19, which in addition to postponing dates for certain federal tax returns and federal tax payments, also extends some (but not all) deadlines relating to 1031 exchanges and investments in Qualified Opportunity Zones. Questions remain about the extent of relief available (and there is no conforming California state guidance from the FTB yet), so parties should contact their legal and/or tax advisor for the impact, if any, on particular transactions or circumstances.
- The President released the **Opening Up America Again Guidelines**, featuring proposed state or regional gating. It is noted that State and local officials may need to tailor the application of these criteria to local circumstances (e. g., metropolitan areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks, rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild). Additionally, where appropriate, Governors should work on a regional basis to satisfy these criteria and to progress through the phases outlined.
- FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor issued a letter to the nation's emergency managers outlining lessons learned from the first 30 days of FEMA leading the "Whole-of-America" response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The letter is available on [FEMA's website](#).
- It has been reported that the \$349 billion government program administered by the Small Business Administration meant to keep small businesses afloat ran

out of money. The federal government is discussing adding hundreds of billions of dollars, however an agreement has yet to be reached.

- As of April 20, it has been reported that over the weekend of 4/18 a deal was being narrowed in on with \$300 billion in additional money for the Paycheck Protection Program, (the original PPP program ran out in less than two weeks), \$50 billion for Small Business Disaster loans and \$75 billion in emergency funding for hospitals, and possibly \$25 billion for testing. There is nothing so far for states and local governments in this new stimulus. ([NYT Article](#))
- President Trump said he will sign an executive order to temporarily suspend immigration to the United States, citing “the attack from the Invisible Enemy” and “the need to protect” American jobs. Such a ban would be unprecedented in U.S. history. ([Washington Post article](#))
- U.S. Small Business announced that agricultural businesses are now eligible for SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance programs.
 - SBA’s EIDL portal has reopened as a result of funding authorized by Congress through the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act.
- FEMA has added a new function to its Grants Portal website for the COVID-19 event (DR-4482). Potential applicants, such as towns/cities, counties, special districts, UCs, CSUs, Tribal Governments, etc., (except for Private Non-Profits/Tribal Governments applying as their own Recipient) can now go directly to the Grants Portal website, create their own Organization Profiles, and submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) without having to first receive an Invitation from Cal OES.
 - Please see the Cal OES webpage: FEMA-4482-DR-CA California COVID-19 Pandemic for more information, application documents, links to the FEMA Grants Portal and other helpful sites, and news about upcoming Virtual Applicant’s Briefings.
- May 8, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics released an Employment Situation Summary showing that total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 20.5 million in April, and the unemployment rate rose to 14.7 percent. The April job losses exceed the 8.7 million in the last recession, when unemployment peaked at 10 percent in October 2009.
- The House of Representatives has approved rule changes that will allow members to vote by proxy and hold hearings remotely during the coronavirus pandemic. It directs the House Administration Committee to conduct a study, certify the new electronic voting plan and test it out. It could be installed in a matter of months to a year or more.

- May 22, President Trump commanded America's governors to immediately reopen churches and other places of worship, threatening to "override" the state leaders if they refused to follow his directive.
- May 29, President Trump said he would make good on his threat to withdraw from the World Health Organization. ([Politico Article](#))
- June 1, the Congressional Budget Office has projected that the pandemic would cost \$7.9 trillion over the next decade, or a 3 percent loss in "real" gross domestic product.
- June 4, the United States Department of Labor released a [new report](#) showing that last week there were more than 2 million new unemployment claims and an overall number collecting state benefits increased by almost 650,000 to a seasonally adjusted total of 21.5 million. Even as some businesses reopen and workers come off the rolls, others are being newly laid off or belatedly starting to receive benefits.
- June 10, the [Federal Reserve](#) stated it would leave interest rates near zero for the foreseeable future as the central bank projected high unemployment for several years and a long slog back from the pandemic-induced recession. In their first economic projections this year, Federal officials indicated that they expect the unemployment rate to end 2020 at 9.3 percent and remain elevated for some time, coming in at 5.5 percent in 2022. ([NYT article here](#))
- Education Secretary Betsy DeVos issued an [emergency rule](#) barring colleges from granting virus relief funds to foreign and undocumented students, including those protected under DACA. The rule codifies the Education Department's [disputed reading](#) of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act that Congress passed in March to exclude large swaths of students from accessing emergency relief grants.
- On June 10, the EPA ordered Amazon Services LLC and eBay Inc. to stop selling a wide range of pesticide products, some of which falsely claimed to provide "Epidemic Prevention," "2020 Coronavirus Protection" and "complete sterilization including the current pandemic virus," according to an agency press release. ([EPA press release](#), [Amazon order](#), [eBay order](#))
- June 18, The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued [guidance](#) to assist employers reopening non-essential businesses and their employees returning to work during the evolving coronavirus pandemic. The guidance supplements the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' previously developed [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) and the White House's [Guidelines for Opening Up America Again](#).

- President Trump signed an executive order to suspend certain temporary work visas through the end of the year. The order targets H-1B visas, which are designed for certain skilled workers such as those employed in the tech industry, as well as L-1 visas, which are meant for executives who work for large corporations.
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing with Dr. Anthony Fauci and other top Trump administration officials on the coronavirus pandemic. Brett Giroir, assistant secretary for health at the Department of Health and Human Services told the committee that he expects the country to be able to conduct 40 million to 50 million tests a month by the fall, and that officials are working to increase the nation's testing capacity, as well as the quality of the tests. Dr. Fauci was upbeat on one front: He told lawmakers he was "cautiously optimistic" that a vaccine would be available by the end of the year, or in early 2021, based on early clinical data.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are issuing this announcement to raise awareness of the threat to COVID-19-related research. The FBI is investigating the targeting and compromise of U.S. organizations conducting COVID-19-related research by PRC-affiliated cyber actors and non-traditional collectors. These actors have been observed attempting to identify and illicitly obtain valuable intellectual property (IP) and public health data related to vaccines, treatments, and testing from networks and personnel affiliated with COVID-19-related research. The potential theft of this information jeopardizes the delivery of secure, effective, and efficient treatment options. ([FBI press release](#))
- The [US Government Accountability Office](#) has reported that the IRS and Treasury made COVID-19 relief payments to more than a million deceased individuals and the government did not consult death records for three batches of payments. The G.A.O. also warned that the \$660 billion Paycheck Protection Program was vulnerable to fraud because the Small Business Administration is relying on borrower certifications to determine if the loans are needed and how they are being used. ([NY Times article here](#))
- The **Paycheck Protection Program** resumed accepting applications July 6, 2020, at 9:00 AM EDT in response to President signing the program's extension legislation. The new deadline to apply for a Paycheck Protection Program loan is August 8, 2020.
- July 6, the Small Business Administration and Treasury released [data](#) on hundreds of thousands of borrowers from the \$660 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The July 6 data release is the most detailed information about the program made available to date, although it still falls short of the transparency

sought in the ongoing suit, which was initially filed May 12 in the U.S. district court in Washington, D.C. Rather than identifying specific loan amounts, the data is bracketed in buckets ranging from \$150,000 to \$350,000; \$350,000 to \$1 million; \$1 million to \$2 million; \$2 million to \$5 million; and \$5 million to \$10 million.

- The U.S. has sent a letter officially notifying the United Nations that it is leaving the WHO, starting the formal process first threatened in April. To leave the organization, the U.S. is supposed to give a one-year notice and pay outstanding dues, according to language that the U.S. added to the WHO constitution when it joined the treaty in 1948. As of June 30, the U.S. owed \$198 million in unpaid membership dues. ([NPR article here](#))

Numbers at a Glance

- As of July 13, California has over 325,916 positive cases and there have been 7,053 deaths.
- The United States has least 3,438,025 cases and at least 137,871 deaths.
 - Over this weekend more than 100,000 new coronavirus cases were identified. Seven states set daily case records. Florida added more cases in a day than any state had previously known to, and on Monday reported more than 12,600 additional cases, its second-highest total recorded for a single day in the pandemic.
- Approximately 5,406,599 tests have been conducted in California.
- CA has 6,322 hospitalizations and 1,806 people in the ICU.
- The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is 7.5 percent in California.
- CA has 25 state and county labs currently testing.

Misc. News

- Seven members of Congress have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Senator Rand Paul was 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 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.
- LA's mayor signed an emergency [paid sick leave order](#) into law, effective immediately. The final Order is significantly different than the version of the ordinance passed by the City Council on March 27, 2020, particularly in that the final order contains several exemptions. Note that the LA Office of Wage Standards is tasked with publishing rules and regulations concerning the new Covid-19 paid sick leave requirements. [More information here.](#)
- Zoom has recently been criticized for not using "end-to-end" encryption for their video-meetings, the phenomenon of "Zoombombing," and a lack of transparency. The company updated their Privacy Policy on March 29, 2020 and hired former Facebook security chief Alex Stamos as an outside consultant.
- Protests demanding the end of stay-at-home orders spread to more state capitals and major cities. A protest is expected at the Capitol in Sacramento on April 20th at 12:00 pm.
- Public Policy Institute of California has released "[Early Insights on California's Economic Downturn](#)," findings include that this current crisis is hitting a

different set of sectors than the Great Recession” and workers in the initially affected industry sectors are more likely to be women, Latinos, and young adults.

- April 27, it has been reported that less than 10 minutes after the newest relief loan programs were open for small businesses, the US Small Business Administration system was overwhelmed and inaccessible. The system was down as early as 10:34 a.m. in New York, according to a person familiar with the matter. The application system opened at 10:30 am Eastern Time on April 27th.
- April 29, Sacramento County extended its order for residents to stay at home except for essential activities through May 22. The new order eases some restrictions and clarifies essential and recreational activities that are now allowed in the county.
- April 29, a coalition of workers from Amazon, Walmart, FedEx, Target, Instacart, and Whole Foods is expected to go on strike Friday to protest working conditions during the coronavirus pandemic. According to The Intercept, the workers are making a variety of demands, including back pay for unpaid time off they've used since the beginning of March, hazard pay or paid sick leave for the remainder of the pandemic, company-provided protective equipment and cleaning supplies at all times, and increased transparency from the companies about the number of COVID-19 cases in their facilities.
- April 29, an "advance" estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that Real GDP decreased at an annual rate of 4.8 percent in the first quarter of 2020. The "second" estimate for the first quarter, based on more complete data, will be released on May 28, 2020.
- A number of localities in CA have begun formally pushing back on the statewide stay-at-home order.
 - A letter was sent to the Governor from a coalition of elected leaders in San Luis Obispo.
 - The Huntington Beach City Council voted Thursday night during an emergency session to seek an injunction against Gov. Gavin Newsom's order to close Orange County beaches. An Orange County judge rejected the request Friday from Huntington Beach seeking a temporary restraining order against the governor's decision to close county beaches in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. (LA Times Article)
 - Officials from six rural Northern California counties and 14 small cities have sent a letter urging the Governor to let them reopen their economies.
- May 12, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious diseases expert, remotely testified to the US Senate Health Committee and expressed a fear

that if cities and states do not adhere to the government's guidelines on when and how they can begin to reopen, there could be more COVID-19 outbreaks. He provided an optimistic timeline for vaccine development and said there are at least eight vaccines in various stages of development.

- Wisconsin's Supreme Court ruled on May 13 that the state's Democratic governor could not extend a stay-at-home order to May 26. The lawsuit, brought by state Republicans, was the first successful challenge of its kind, and could put wind in the sails of anti-shutdown people in other states with Democratic governors.
- Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration could offer some relief from potential pay cuts for state workers by temporarily eliminating one of the paycheck deductions workers see each month, according to an Association of California State Supervisors web post. ([SacBee article here](#))
- A group of international fraudsters appears to have mounted an immense, sophisticated attack on U.S. unemployment systems, creating a network that has already siphoned millions of dollars in payments that were intended to avert an economic collapse, according to federal authorities. The attackers have used detailed information about U.S. citizens, such as social security numbers that may have been obtained from cyber hacks of years past, to file claims on behalf of people who have not been laid off, officials said. ([NYT article here](#))
- May 19, an international study of global carbon emissions found that daily emissions declined 17% between January and early April, compared to average levels in 2019, and could decline anywhere between 4.4% to 8% by the year's end. That figure would mark the largest annual decrease in carbon emissions since World War II, researchers said. The findings appeared today in the [Nature Climate Change](#) journal.
- Statewide Orders and Directives – Here is an [interactive map by the New York Times](#) showing which states have reopened and how.
- President Trump is expected to extend and expand restrictions on foreign workers coming into the United States during the coronavirus pandemic with J-1 visas, which are mostly given to those who come to the U.S. for summer employment, which will be significantly reduced because of the coronavirus. ([Politico article here](#))
- May 27, the White House is renewing a push to end “surprise” medical bills — possibly as part of the next coronavirus rescue package — in a bid to deliver on protecting insured patients from sometimes staggering costs of emergency or

out-of-network care. Trump administration officials are floating a plan that would outlaw health care providers from putting patients on the hook for thousands of dollars in expenses — but without mandating how doctors and hospitals would recover their costs from insurers, according to administration officials, Capitol Hill aides and industry lobbyists familiar with discussions. Billing disputes would have to be worked out on a case-by-case basis. ([Politico article here](#))

- May 28, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo of New York announced an executive order authorizing business in the state to deny entry to people who are not wearing face coverings.
- Another 2.1 million new unemployment claims were filed last week, the Labor Department reported Thursday, pushing the total past 40 million since the coronavirus pandemic grabbed hold in mid-March.
- June 7, many Californians have yet to see the help and progress promised from EDD. The agency has hired at least half of an initial 1,800 staff it is seeking to help process an unprecedented volume of claims. EDD is now hiring an additional 1,200 people, for a total of 3,000 new staff over the next few weeks. ([SacBee article here](#))
- June 8, there is one week until the deadline for the state legislature to pass the CA budget. Governor Newsom has been calling on the federal government to send the state more money, and has laid out a budget plan with \$14 billion in so-called trigger cuts. The economic downturn has created an estimated \$54.3 billion deficit for the next year. Without federal aid, a long list of state programs face reductions that will be felt everywhere. The state fiscal year begins July 1, and if Congress fails to act before that — and right now, that's not a good bet — the California cuts would be triggered. ([SacBee article here](#))
- As of June 8, the S&P 500 has erased its losses for 2020, rising more than 44 percent since its low in March. ([NY Times article here](#))
- June 9, a top expert at the World Health Organization on Tuesday walked back her earlier assertion that transmission of the coronavirus by people who do not have symptoms is “very rare.” Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, who made the original comment at a W.H.O. briefing on June 9, said that it was based on just two or three studies and that it was a “misunderstanding” to say asymptomatic transmission is rare globally.
- June 9, as global central banks race to rescue their economies from coronavirus devastation, they are crossing red lines and trying out policies they had never before attempted. In the United States, the Federal Reserve is buying municipal debt and corporate bonds and lending to midsize companies — embracing

never-before-tried efforts to keep credit markets functioning. These attempts, along with others elsewhere, go beyond what the monetary authorities did even in the darkest days of the 2008 global financial crisis. ([NY Times article here](#))

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made the prediction in a [quarterly global trade update](#) on trade trends. In April alone, the report said, preliminary data showed trade in energy products fell 40 percent and automotive products fell 50 percent. For the year, the agency predicted global trade would fall by 20 percent compared with 2019.
- June 11, as CA is monitoring [10 counties](#) experiencing spikes in cases or hospitalizations, Governor Newsom has stated the state has adequate alternative care facilities, hospital surge capacity and ventilators to handle a potential spike in patients. In addition, California will soon start receiving [hundreds of millions of N95 face masks from BYD](#) after they were certified by a federal agency Monday. The state is also now conducting close to its goal of [60,000 tests per day](#). ([Cal Matters article here](#))
- Governor Kate Brown of Oregon said on Thursday that she was pausing efforts to reopen the state's economy for a week because of a recent rise in coronavirus cases.
- A Los Angeles Times analysis of data on new COVID-19 cases found that the situation is improving in 24 states, getting worse in 23 states, and holding steady in 3. A change of a least 10 percent in either direction marked a state as either improving or worsening.
- Public health experts say it's unlikely that there will be a second round of mass lockdowns as coronavirus cases continue to rise. ([SacBee article](#))
- The [SacBee](#) reports that Governor Newsom's administration is **considering a statewide order to require the use of masks** to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, according to officials in several counties in contact with the state.
 - Dr. Penny Borenstein, public health director in San Luis Obispo County, said Newsom administration officials briefed county health directors Wednesday. She said a statewide mask order is "under consideration. I do not have details at this time."
 - Sacramento County officials are considering changing the recommendation that customers wear masks inside stores and other businesses to a requirement, they told The Sacramento Bee on Wednesday, the same day the county saw four new deaths and 67 new cases of COVID-19. Dr. Peter Beilenson, the county health services director, said he was aware of similar discussions at the state level.

- California Manufacturing and Technology Association launched a new website, [Safely Making California](#), that will link CA manufacturers producing personal protective equipment with buyers.
- Peter Navarro, the White House director of trade and manufacturing policy, said in an interview on Sunday that the White House was working to prepare for the possibility of a second wave of the coronavirus in the fall, though he said it wouldn't necessarily come. A prominent epidemiologist who initially predicted a first and second wave of the coronavirus in the United States, with a decline in between, warned on Sunday that the country was likely instead to experience one long stretch of cases, hospitalizations and deaths. ([NY Times article](#))
- It has been reported that the President will sign an executive order temporarily suspending H-1B work visas for high-skilled workers, and would also affect several other categories of visas, although it would exempt health care professionals and farm workers, among other categories. Taken together, officials said the worker visa bans and green card suspensions would prevent 525,000 immigrants from working in the United States between now and the end of the year. ([NY Times article here](#), [Bay Area Council statement here](#))
- The European Union is preparing to ban American travelers when it reopens its borders to the outside world on July 1, lumping the U.S. in with Russia and Brazil in terms of countries that have failed to stop the spread of the coronavirus, according to the New York Times. ([NY Times article](#))
- A French company plans to accelerate clinical trials of a coronavirus vaccine in the hope of earning approval for it by the first half of next year. The drug maker, Sanofi, announced the plan on Tuesday. The company and its partner, GlaxoSmithKline, had originally projected that a vaccine would be available — at the earliest — in the latter half of the year.
- The California Farm Bureau Federation has distributed a report conducted by ERA Economics, [Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on California Agriculture](#), outlining 15 different agricultural sectors using data on production, exports and prices through early May, finding that pandemic related losses to CA farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses will range between \$5.9 billion and \$8.6 billion this year.
- Governors Andrew Cuomo of New York, Phil Murphy of New Jersey, and Ned Lamont of Connecticut said all travelers from states that meet specific health metrics must immediately enter a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in any of the three states. California's newly released daily case data shows a record 7,149 new cases in the most recent 24-hour period. That pushes the state's seven-

day average to 4,633 cases, which qualifies Californians for the quarantine. ([Politico article here](#))

- June 26, The World Health Organization announced that it needs \$27.9 billion over the next year to speed up the production of a vaccine and to develop other tools in the fight against the virus.
- The E.U. will bar most travelers from the U.S. and Russia, which have been excluded from a list of countries deemed to have curbed the virus. While the new list is not legally binding, member states that open up to excluded countries face the risk that their E.U. partners will close their borders to them — reinforcing the disjointed response to the pandemic that the bloc has been striving to overcome. ([NY Times article](#))
- The number of Americans who have been infected with the coronavirus is most likely about 10 times higher than the 2.3 million cases that have been reported, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on June 25.
- The [NY Times](#) reports that congressional leaders are in the final stages of vetting Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to lead a bipartisan oversight commission to scrutinize stimulus programs related to the coronavirus, according to a person familiar with the plans. The board was established as part of the \$2.2 trillion stimulus law in March. The commission has issued two reports examining the implementation of the stimulus law and met with Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary, and Jerome Powell, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, this week.
- June 30, Dr. Fauci testified to the US Senate Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing that he would "not be surprised" if the U.S. begins reporting as many as 100,000 new coronavirus cases per day. Stephen Hahn, Food and Drug Administration commissioner, said he was optimistic about possible treatments for coronavirus for adults by the fall, noting that remdesivir, an antiviral medication, has shown a reduction in hospitalization days among COVID-19 patients and antibody data will help. ([NPR article here](#))
- 239 scientists representing 32 countries is reportedly preparing to ask the WHO to revise its recommendations due to evidence it says supports the claim the disease is airborne. Ventilation systems in schools, nursing homes, residences and businesses may need to minimize recirculating air and add powerful new filters. Ultraviolet lights may be needed to kill viral particles floating in tiny droplets indoors. Masks would possibly be necessary in all indoor settings, regardless of whether social distancing was maintained. ([NY Times article](#))
- Sacramento County health officials announced five coronavirus testing sites will shut down this week in under-served communities due to a growing shortage of testing materials. National news media have begun to report testing material

shortages elsewhere as more communities have attempted to expand the number of tests available. ([SacBee article here](#))

- July 7, W.H.O. scientists acknowledged that airborne transmission may be important in indoor spaces and said it planned to release updated recommendations in a few days. Staff members fielded several questions about transmission of the virus by air, prompted by a widely publicized open letter from 239 experts calling on the agency to review its guidance.
- July 9, the WHO formally acknowledged that droplets carrying the coronavirus may be airborne indoors and that people who spend long periods in crowded settings with inadequate ventilation may be at risk of becoming infected, a reversal that many scientists said was long overdue. And it also acknowledged unequivocally that the virus can be transmitted by people who do not have symptoms.
- The California Teachers Association has sent a letter to Governor Newsom, legislative leaders, and Superintendent Thurmond saying “California cannot reopen schools unless they are safe,” and, “from a public health perspective, the best course of action would be to focus on improving our ability to provide robust, quality distance learning until the virus is marginalized and safety measures are addressed.”
- The SF Chronicle has reported that Governor Newsom will release approximately 8,000 people incarcerated inside California’s prison system by the end of August in an effort to save lives amid coronavirus outbreaks at several facilities and pressure from lawmakers and advocates. The releases will come on a rolling basis, and they will include both people who were scheduled to be freed soon and people at high risk of serious complications if they contract the virus. The first round of releases will free people who have 180 days or less to serve on their sentence, making about 4,800 prisoners eligible for release by the end of the month, officials said. ([SF Chronicle article here](#))
- The American Academy of Pediatrics released a new statement on July 10th, changing their tone from the guidance issued two weeks ago and making it clear that while in-person school provides crucial benefits to children, “public health agencies must make recommendations based on evidence, not politics.” ([NPR article here](#))
- The [New York Times](#) reports that California, after rising a boom, braces for hard times, noting the unemployment rate which was 3.9 percent in February, the lowest on record, shot up to 16.3 percent by May, compared with 13.3 percent nationwide. The U.C.L.A. Anderson Forecast, which has been prognosticating California’s economic trajectory since 1952, expects that the state and national economies won’t fully recover until “well past 2022.”

