

Government Relations

December 23: Governor Newsom appoints Secretary of State Alex Padilla to U.S. Senate

Yesterday, Governor Newsom made a historic decision in appointing CA Secretary of State, Alex Padilla, to the U.S. Senate. Secretary Padilla will serve the remainder of the term until 2022 for the seat that is being vacated by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Secretary Padilla, a son of Mexican immigrants, graduated from MIT, and served as Council President for the City of Los Angeles while later serving at the State Legislature as a State Senator. He will be the first Latino senator California will have in its 170-year history. Secretary Padilla has been a long-time friend of AltaMed and we could not be happier by the Governor's decision in appointing him.

With Secretary Padilla's appointment to the U.S. Senate, Governor Newsom is also set to appoint Assemblywoman Shirley Weber to the vacancy of the Secretary of State's office.

The Civic Engagement team will keep everyone updated of any new developments with the appointments of the Governor and the Biden Administration.

Federal

- On Sunday, December 20, Congress agreed to move forward a **\$900 billion COVID relief deal that is attached to a \$1.4 trillion omnibus deal through the end of September 2021** and is now on the President's desk. **Total package is worth \$2.3 trillion.**
- **House Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer acknowledged the plan is inadequate and mentioned they aim to push for more relief once President-Elect Biden takes office in January 2021.**
- Lawmakers could not come to agreements on liability shields for companies and aid for state and local government, and as such, those items were left out.
- Just a day ago, it was expected that President Donald Trump would sign the \$900 billion coronavirus relief package that Congress had finally passed with bipartisan support.
 - Then last night, he threw that hard-fought agreement into question. In a video posted to Twitter, the President said he wanted bigger checks for Americans -- demanding at least \$2,000 per adult as opposed to the \$600 currently stipulated in the bill.
 - Some Democrats appeared to be pleased at the prospect of more money for Americans, given that they had been pushing for that initially.
 - Still, Trump's move surprised aides and lawmakers in his own party. It's unclear whether the President will veto the bill, which passed with big, veto-proof majorities. But the uncertainty delays help for Americans even longer -- help that many say was already too little, too late.

COVID Relief Provisions

- **\$3 Billion for Provider Relief Fund**
 - Language directing allocation of 85% of remaining PRF funds through an application-based portal
 - Changing definition of lost revenue
- **\$22.4 Billion for testing and contact tracing**
- **\$8.75 Billion to distribute, administer, monitor, and track COVID vaccination, which would be distributed through state, local, Territorial, and Tribal Public Health Departments**
- **Extends through March 31, 2021 refundable tax credit for paid family and medical leave (but does not extend a mandate to provide the leave)**
- **\$284.45 Billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, with set-asides for smaller entities**
- **Additional \$300 unemployment payments for 11 weeks**
- **Addition \$250 Million for FCC COVID-19 Telehealth program**
- **\$166 Billion for direct payments to individuals**
 - \$600 to individuals making up to \$75k per years, \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150k per year, and \$600 per dependent child
- **\$25 Billion in emergency rental assistance**
- **Eviction moratorium extended through January 21, 2021**
- **\$82 Billion for Education – for K-12 and institutions of higher education**
- **Increases SNAP benefits by 15%**
- **Emergency broadband program – eligible households receive discount on internet access**
- **Extends the date by which state and local governments must make expenditures with CARES Act Relief Fund awards to 12/31/21**

Health Extenders (Stoppgap funding bill)

- **Extension of Health Center Mandatory Funding, NHSC Mandatory Funding, and Teaching Health Center GME through end of FY 2023 (September 30, 2023) - \$4 Billion per year**
- **Cancellation of DSH cuts for FYs 2021, 2022, and 2023**
- **Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes – grants for training of medical professionals in health profession shortage areas - \$10 Million for year for 4 years**

(from OC Coalition)

AP: US Deaths In 2020 Top 3 Million, By Far Most Ever Counted

This is the deadliest year in U.S. history, with deaths expected to top 3 million for the first time — due mainly to the coronavirus pandemic. Final mortality data for this year will not be available for months. But preliminary numbers suggest that the United States is on track to see more than 3.2 million deaths this year, or at least 400,000 more than in 2019. U.S. deaths increase most years, so some annual rise in fatalities is expected. But the 2020 numbers amount to a jump of about 15%, and could go higher once all the deaths from this month are counted.

COVID Cases

New cases: 197,616

Total cases: 17,974,299

New deaths: 1,584

Total deaths: 318,569

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

<https://protect-public.hhs.gov/>

State

- Governor Newsom appointed Secretary of State Alex Padilla to become [California's first Latino U.S. Senator](#)
- In yesterday's COVID-19 update, Governor Newsom explained that Regional Stay-at-Home orders for San Joaquin Valley and Southern California will likely be [extended](#) based on current trends (Southern CA was set to expire on December 30th)
- Newsom announced Monday his chief of staff, Ann O'Leary, will depart the office in mid-January after two years in the role. Longtime lobbyist and Capitol staffer Jim DeBoo will take over leadership of the governor's staff on Jan. 1 More info [here](#)

COVID Update

Covid-19+ Hospitalizations

- 63% increase in Covid-10+ hospitalizations over 14 days
- Currently 17,190 Covid-19+ patients hospitalized

Covid-19+ ICU Admissions

- 51% increase in Covid-19 admissions over 14 days
- Currently 3,644 Covid-19+ patients in ICU

Regions + Current ICU Capacity

- Statewide (aggregate)-- 2.5% Current ICU Capacity
- Bay Area-- 13.7 % Current ICU Capacity
- Greater Sacramento 16.2% Current ICU Capacity
- Northern California 28.7% Current ICU Capacity
- San Joaquin Valley 0% Current ICU Capacity (now in surge phase of ICU planning)
- Southern California 0% Current ICU Capacity (now in surge phase of ICU planning)

Vaccine Update

Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup Recommends Moderna Vaccine, Confirms it is Safe and Efficacious

772,600 Moderna doses for CA this week:

- Moderna is easier to store and will be more accessible in rural CA
- Two dose vaccine 28 days apart
- First shipment expected this week across CA including Del Norte, [Orange](#), Sal Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Tehama, Tuolumne

560,625 Pfizer doses for CA:

- First allocation received: 327,600
 - San Diego, Redding, Eureka, Sacramento, Stockton, Fresno
- Second allocation anticipated: 233,025
- Week 1: 70,258 doses administered

[Health care rationing on the horizon if hospital surge continues, leaders say](#)

They lay out in significant detail how every hospital in the state should go about deciding who lives and who dies in situations where resources can no longer meet demand. "Our goal is to make sure those plans are in place, but work hard to make sure that no one has to put them into (practice) anywhere in California," Ghaly said.

[This data point shows California has 4th worst COVID-19 spread in US](#)

Throughout much of the pandemic, California has had among the lowest case rates in the country, but as of Monday morning, it has the fourth highest rate in the country, with an average of 109.3 new daily cases reported per 100,000 residents over the past week. This is an indicator that the Golden State is in the throes of one of the most severe pandemic conditions in the country.

COVID Cases

New cases: 32,659

Total cases: 1,925,007

New deaths: 247

Total deaths: 22,923

Source: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

<https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/>

Local

Los Angeles County

- As the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine received emergency use authorization by the FDA, Public Health anticipates 116,600 doses of Moderna vaccine to be shipped later this week. These vaccines will be offered for 70,000 workers and residents at 338 skilled nursing facilities in L.A. County
 - Public Health also anticipates 16,000 EMTs and paramedics to receive the Moderna vaccine in this first round as well as 300 additional healthcare worker teams that are vaccinators and recorders
- Last week, L.A. County received the first shipment of Pfizer vaccine, which were 82,873 doses that were distributed to 83 acute care hospitals
 - Public Health anticipates the second shipment of 48,750 Pfizer vaccine to arrive later this week, which will continue to be used for healthcare workers at acute care hospitals
 - Public Health reported they will follow CDC guidance and phases

Phase 1A	Phase 1B	Phase 1C
<p>Tier 1: frontline healthcare workers and residents in long-term care facilities (we are in this tier to date)</p> <p>Tier 2: healthcare workers in immediate care facilities and home healthcare service, community health workers, public health field staff, and healthcare workers in primary care clinics, correctional facility clinics and urgent care clinics Primary care clinics include FQHCs</p> <p>Tier 3: healthcare workers in specialty clinics, laboratory workers, dental and other</p>	<p>Tier 1B: persons 75 years and older frontline essential workers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firefighters, police officers and sheriff's deputies, teachers and school staff, manufacturing workers, corrections workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, public transit and grocery store workers. <i>A complete list will be published online.</i> 	<p>Tier 1C: persons 65 years or older and individuals 16 years and older with significant underlying health conditions that could create a serious health risk</p> <p>Also includes essential workers not in Tier 1B</p>

oral health clinics, and pharmacy staff who are not within the higher-tier settings		
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- Public Health is now allowing places of worship to offer faith-based services indoors and outdoors with restrictions (such as mandatory physical distancing, monitoring attendance to accommodate space between separate households)

New cases: 12,954

Total cases: 647,542

New deaths: 88

Total deaths: 9,016

Source: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/LACPhase1AFullGuidance.pdf>

Orange County

[Orange County obliterates coronavirus record as surging infections strain state hospitals](#)

Orange County reported its highest daily number of coronavirus cases over the weekend, the latest record to fall amid the most brutal barrage from a disease that is now infecting, hospitalizing and killing Californians at levels never seen before.

New cases: 2,233

Total cases: 130,414

New deaths: 2

Total deaths: 1,779

Newly tested: 29,144

Total tested: 1,885,047

Cases currently hospitalized: 1,806 (includes ICU cases)

Cases currently in ICU: 390

Recovered to date: 75,616

Source: <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/>

LA City

Total cases: 262,405

Total deaths: 3,715

Source: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/locations.htm>

Infection Prevention Medical Director

- The hospitals across the State are at capacity.
- Dr. Brown's father was admitted to the hospital yesterday for a mild heart attack. Dr. Brown's father needed to be transferred to a larger hospital for a procedure, but the larger hospitals are extremely impacted. There is extremely limited hospital capacity at this time.
- The COVID-19 vaccine will not decrease the surge over the next 1-2 months.

- We need to protect each other so that we can see our loved ones for the next Holiday.
- Please stay at home and do not socialize with anyone from outside your household, even for the holidays.
- Several weeks back the CDC updated their quarantine recommendations. If there are situations where patients have difficulty quarantining for 14 days, they can quarantine for 10 days. A 7 day quarantine time period is not sufficient for our patients. Only healthcare workers in the setting of healthcare staffing shortages can utilize the 7 day shortened period with a negative test at day 5.

Human Resources

- People who will be administering or handling the COVID vaccine have been assigned a training module that must be completed per CDC guidelines. As of [today](#), we have 919 people not started, 105 in progress, and 375 complete. Please make sure your team gets this completed ASAP.
- We have a COVID and Safe Environment training that is [due on Dec 31](#) for all employees. To date, 793 have not started, 280 are in progress, and 1,926 are complete. Remind your staff to get done by [Dec 31](#).
- **Final Days to Request PTO Cash Out** :If you would like to cash out some of your unused PTO in 2021, you must submit your request by [Thursday, December 31](#). The guidelines for the program, including eligibility and payout date, can be found on [Town Square](#). Contact the [Benefits Department](#) for questions.