

## COVID-19: Monday, 4-13 Update

In an effort to help you stay informed on the federal, state, and local developments regarding COVID-19, CFCA will be sending updates summarizing the highlights of responses from levels of government. **Please feel free to send this update to colleagues, employees, or anyone you wish to keep up to date on these pressing matters.**

### **California Announces Reopening Pact with Western States**

Today, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced an agreement on a shared vision for reopening their economies and controlling COVID-19 into the future.

California will have its own plan, which is slated to be presented Tuesday, but the three states agreed to key principles: safeguarding residents' health, basing decisions on science and not politics and working collaboratively, Newsom said during his daily briefing.

[You can read the full statement here.](#)

### **CalTrans Issues Special Permits Authorizing Overweight Trucks to Deliver Emergency COVID-19 Supplies**

Caltrans will temporarily issue special permits for overweight trucks transporting emergency supplies in support of COVID-19 relief and prevention efforts following Governor Gavin Newsom's recent State of Emergency declaration and subsequent activation of the federal Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act.

Caltrans will issue permits for overweight trucks on the State Highway System and will help support transportation operators in obtaining permits from local agencies for local roads. These permits increase the maximum allowable gross vehicle weight from 80,000 to 88,000 pounds and will be valid until further notice.

To expedite the permits, Caltrans is performing advance review and analysis on major corridor routes, including: I-5, US-101, I-15, SR 60, I-405, SR 99, I-10, SR 91, I-80, I-710

This Emergency Declaration provides regulatory relief for commercial motor vehicle operations moving essential goods in support of relief

and preventive measures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Essential Goods” are defined as the following:

- Medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19
- Supplies and equipment necessary for community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19 such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfectant
- Food, paper products and other groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centers or stores
- Immediate precursor raw materials such as paper, plastic or alcohol that are required and to be used for the manufacture of items above
- **Fuel**
- Equipment, supplies and persons necessary to establish and manage temporary housing, quarantine, and isolation facilities related to COVID-19

[You can read the full release here.](#)

## **Special Report on Coronavirus and Small Business**

The MetLife & U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index is issuing results from a special survey this month on the impact of COVID-19 on the U.S. small business community. This survey shows that sentiment is significantly diminished compared to last quarter,<sup>1</sup> despite some longer term optimism.

With high levels of concern about COVID-19 reported in every sector and region of the country, one in four small businesses (24%) report having already temporarily shut down. Among those who haven't shut down yet, 40% report it is likely they will shut temporarily within the next two weeks. Forty-three percent believe they have less than six months until a permanent shutdown is unavoidable. Nearly half of small businesses (46%) believe it will take the U.S. economy six months to a year to return to normal.

Key findings this month include:

- One in four (24%) small businesses have shut down temporarily in response to COVID-19.
- Among those who haven't temporarily shut down yet, 40% report it is likely they will do so within the next two weeks. This means a total of 54% of all small businesses report they are closed or could close within the coming weeks.
- Small businesses are most favorable toward financial assistance in the form of direct cash payments (56%), but also prefer SBA disaster loans (30%).

[You can read the full report here.](#)

## **Tell Congress You Need to Keep Your Employees During the COVID-19 Crisis**

Help CFCA tell Congress to lower the barriers for accessing Paycheck Protection Program loans.

This program allows employers to file for federal assistance for the purpose of retaining employees and preventing COVID-19 related layoffs. However, as currently implemented, the process presents a great number of challenges for potential applicants and a lack guarantee for these loans only adds to the uncertainty of relief.

This uncertainty is adding to the panic caused by COVID-19, for workers and business owners alike. America, California, and our communities cannot afford the looming layoffs that will occur if this funding is not widely available and guaranteed immediately.

Tell Congress it must guarantee funds for all essential businesses within our industry! Please send a letter to your representatives using the tool on your right.

[Click Here to Send a Letter](#)

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