

COVID-19: Wednesday, 4-15 Update

In an effort to help you stay informed on the federal, state, and local developments regarding COVID-19, CFCFA 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.**

CalEPA Issues Statement on Compliance with Regulatory Requirements During the COVID-19 Emergency

"The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) is committed to continuing to safeguard public health, safety, and the environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of CalEPA's boards, departments, and offices is focused on ensuring continuity of operations during this difficult time.

Controlling pollution in communities with high rates of respiratory disease and multiple environmental burdens remains a priority for CalEPA – especially given recent studies that suggest a correlation between these factors and COVID-19 susceptibility.

Accordingly, CalEPA will continue to respond, investigate, and – when necessary – take action on complaints related to environmental non-compliance. CalEPA will also fill any enforcement gaps left by the U.S. EPA's decision to reduce environmental oversight. We will also maintain our capacity to respond to emergencies. The ongoing clean-up of contaminated sites will be prioritized to abate or prevent an imminent threat to public health or the environment, while ensuring worker safety.

As we continue our mission to protect public health and the environment, CalEPA also recognizes that some regulated entities may need additional compliance assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific time-delimited remedies, such as the extension of deadlines, may be warranted under clearly articulated circumstances, but regulated entities that cannot meet a specific regulatory requirement due to emergency government directives or a specific hardship must contact the appropriate CalEPA board, department or office before falling out of compliance. CalEPA boards, departments, and offices will consider such requests in an expedited fashion. These time-limited and specific requests that define the

hardship must be directed to the specific CalEPA board, department or office as early as possible. Due to the high number of staff who are teleworking, email is the most expeditious way to contact the boards, departments and offices."

[Contact CalEPA Here.](#)

LA County Extends 'Safer at Home' Order; Requires Social Distancing Protocol for Essential Businesses

As previously reported, many localities have been revising their shelter-in-place orders, not only extending their duration but also imposing additional requirements on those essential businesses that are allowed to remain open during this time. Los Angeles County is one of the latest localities to update their public health order; on Friday, April 10, 2020, the County of Los Angeles Health Officer revised the "Safer at Home" Order, extending the duration through **May 15, 2020**.

Additionally, **no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2020**, essential businesses must implement a **Social Distancing Protocol (SDP)**.

The SDP requires all essential businesses to provide a cloth face covering to all employees whose duties require contact with other employees and/or the public, and those employees must wear that covering while performing duties that involve contact with others.

Individuals who shop at essential businesses, including grocery stores and restaurants offering delivery, drive-thru or carry out service, must also practice social distancing and wear a cloth facing covering while visiting these businesses. As a reminder, nonessential businesses, as defined under the shelter-in-place order, are specifically required to stop in-person operations and remain closed to the public.

In addition to providing cloth face coverings to employees and requiring members of the public to wear a face covering while in their facilities, essential businesses' SDPs are subject to the following requirements:

- The owner, manager or operator of the essential business must prepare and post the SDP for each of their facilities within the County of Los Angeles Public Health Jurisdiction (defined as, "all unincorporated areas and cities within the County of Los Angeles with the exception of the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena") that are frequented by the public or employees.
- The SDP must be substantially in the form of "Appendix A," which is attached to the order, and must be posted at or near the entrance of each facility, easily viewable by the public and employees.
- A copy of the SDP must also be provided to each employee

performing work at the facility.

- All essential businesses must implement the SDP and provide evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing the order, on demand.
- The SDP must explain how the essential business facility is achieving the following (as applicable):
 1. Limiting the number of people who enter a facility to ensure a minimum six-foot physical distance from others;
 2. Where the lines form at a facility, marking six-foot increments at a minimum, establishing where individuals should stand to maintain adequate social distancing;
 3. Providing hand sanitizer, soap and water or other effective disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility and in other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees;
 4. Posting a sign in a conspicuous place at all public entries instructing members to maintain social distancing from one another, and to refrain from entering if they are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever or cough;
 5. Providing for the regular disinfection of high-touch surfaces, and disinfection of all payment portals, pens and styluses after each use. (Touch-less payment mechanisms are encouraged, if feasible.); and
 6. Adhering to communicable disease control recommendations provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, including guidance for cleaning and disinfecting the site.

[You can read the revised order here.](#)

Governor Newsom Press Conference Recap

- During yesterday's press conference, Governor Newsom announced the state's transition from broader, population public health controls to more targeted, individual controls would be predicated on six factors. The Governor briefly touched on the six indicators but left most of the specifics to Dr. Sonia Angell (Director, California Department of Public Health).
- Angell predicted that the future would likely include restaurants reopening with fewer tables, face coverings will be common in public and new opportunities (including contact tracing) will arise to support mitigation.
- Newsom said the decision to loosen some of the state at home orders is predicated on answering all of the questions related to the six indicators. The Governor went on to say some of those questions will be asked of others in the state since local governments will have a profound influence on the success of

whatever policy the state puts in place.

- The Governor described the transition to looser public health controls is not binary. Instead it would lie on a spectrum, where the administration has the ability to reimpose more strict public health controls if the virus begins to become more prevalent.
- The Governor gave real world examples of what the “new normal” of loosened controls may look like. This includes disposable menus at restaurants, reduced seating capacity and where customers have their temperature checked before entering the establishment. The Governor also predicted more physical distancing for businesses in their floor plans and more teleworking.
- As for schools, the Governor said there are conversations on staggering times when students attend school, changing congregate meal settings and the format for P.E.
- Newsom did not provide a specific date for when the loosening of the state at home orders would begin, but said it would depend on two key factors.
 - Hospitalization and ICU rates continue to flatten and eventually decline
 - The state makes progress building the infrastructure necessary to implement the public health goals in the six indicators
- The Governor later said that in 2 weeks if the administration sees a continued decline in hospitalization and ICU rates, and if the healthcare infrastructure and PPE needs are met, he could provide a more prescriptive timeline.
- The administration will be announcing a new economic team this week.
- When asked how the Governor’s plan would interact with local jurisdictions, the Governor said the policy would be guided by local decision making. However, there will be some baseline state standards to establish a floor of expectations.
- When asked why the announcement on the loosening of the shelter in place orders was made today, the Governor said he wanted to be transparent with the public about what the thinking within the administration is.
- When asked what the summer (especially for major holidays) looks like if the indicators are met the Governor said the prospect of mass gatherings is negligible at best until we get to herd immunity and a vaccine.

[You can view the presentation here.](#)

DMV Extends All Expiring Driver Licenses

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is extending driver licenses expiring during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. The extension does not include medical certificates for commercial drivers, which requires additional administrative actions scheduled in the near future.

The DMV has alerted California law enforcement of the extensions. Californians with a suspended license are not eligible.

The DMV continues to review and process online renewals, and encourages drivers who are eligible to renew their license online to do so.

The extensions require no individual action on the part of drivers. These drivers will not receive a new card or an extension in the mail. As an option, these drivers can request a free temporary paper extension online through DMV's Virtual Field Office to document their extension.

[Read the Full Statement Here](#)

Feds Allow States to Waive Hazmat Endorsement Renewal Requirements

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has granted a temporary exemption from certain requirements regarding expiration of security threat assessments for Hazardous Material Endorsement (HME) holders, according to a recent notice in the Federal Register. The notice says that for a period of 120 days, TSA is allowing states to grant up to a 180-day extension to commercial drivers who had a current valid HME as of March 1, 2020, that would otherwise expire during the exemption period. TSA said it may extend this exemption period depending on the status of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

For more information on the HME exemption, contact the TSA Hazardous Materials Threat Assessment Program at HME.Question@tsa.dhs.gov.

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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