



COVID-19: Tuesday Update

CFCA will provide updates at the close of each business day this week, following federal, state, and local announcements

In an effort to help you stay informed on the federal, state, and local developments regarding COVID-19, CFCA will be sending updates at the close of each day summarizing the highlights of responses from levels of government.

COVID-19 Pandemic Coverage Webinars

The California Small Business Alliance has recently sent out an invitation for businesses to tune into a complimentary webinar service covering COVID-19 updates, provided by Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, a business law firm based out of Sacramento. They will be providing continuous coverage of the changes and hurdles California employers will face in the coming weeks in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. These complimentary webinars will guide you in striking an appropriate balance between employee rights and business operations during these challenging times, and will provide updated information multiple times per week concerning new legislation and recommendations from government agencies. Feel free to invite other businesses to join our webinar series.

[Learn More](#)

Shelter-in-Place

On Tuesday, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Marin, Contra Costa, and Alameda counties began their lockdown, and today it looks as though **Sonoma, Solano, and Napa will be following suit**. Moments ago, **Davis also passed similar mandates for residents**. While these orders do limit the number of businesses allowed to remain open, they do allow for the continued operation of essential goods and service providers. As part of these declarations, gas stations and convenience stores are explicitly named as essential and will remain open during the shelter-in-place. **Yesterday, San Diego also implemented its own measures, although not nearly as severe as those in the Bay. Sacramento County also just issued an order for all residents to remain at home unless performing essential tasks.**

[Read More on Bay Area Lockdowns Here](#)

[Read More on San Diego Here](#)

Price Gouging Protocol

Statewide price gouging protections in place due to COVID-19 until 9/4/2020 per Proclamation of a State of Emergency date 3/4/2020. Local laws may extend this further or apply it to more products. Raising prices of consumer goods and services above 10% meets the state definition of price gouging. Gasoline prices are always under scrutiny when a State of Emergency is declared, even if the supply chain is not currently impacted.

[FAQs from the Attorney General's Office](#)

[Read the AG's Statement](#)

Action by the Legislature

Yesterday the **legislature was placed on recess** amid growing concerns of the spread of COVID-19. Recess is scheduled to last through April 13th, but could go longer if requested by the Assembly Speaker. Prior to going on recess however, the legislature did **pass an emergency funding bill** designed to help mitigate the response to the pandemic. That declaration expedites the government's ability to procure goods and services to mitigate the effects of the virus, and lawmakers said the money would be used to expand capacity in California hospitals, add beds in health care facilities around the state and buy hotels and motels to shelter sick Californians who lack homes.

They made \$500 million available immediately and allowed Newsom to spend up to \$1 billion total, passing two bills and waiving a requirement that legislation must be in print for 72 hours before lawmakers can act — a rule that can only be scrapped during an official emergency. Additionally, they allocated an additional \$100 million to California schools, to do a deep disinfecting of campuses, and passed a law granting schools full funding despite the prolonged closures.

CFCA Outreach to Regulatory Agencies

CFCA is currently in communication with the head of local CARB enforcement and other regulatory agencies, as well as CUPA contacts to

determine what is currently being discussed by these entities. Now that we have worked out some of the “here and now” problems and events, CFCFA is looking to medium and long term issues that may arise.

We have reached out to the Chamber to see what asks we can make regarding an extension or delay for property taxes. We will keep you updated and work on gaining traction with other organizations.

Phishing Warning to Fuel Providers

The U.S. Secret Service has warned that opportunistic criminals are exploiting the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in phishing scams, bogus charities, and non-delivery scams. The agency is advising businesses and individuals to take steps to avoid becoming victims.

Cybercriminals are distributing mass emails posing as legitimate medical or health organizations. The emails come with an attachment alleged to have information on COVID-19, but the attachment infects the user's computer with malware or prompts the victim to enter email log-in credentials. This enables additional cybercrimes such as the business email compromise, personal information theft, ransomware and account takeovers.

Pending Legislation for Emergency Paid Sick Leave: The Families First Coronavirus Response Act

In response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the United States House of Representatives passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA") early Saturday morning. Among its various provisions, the legislation includes the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act, both of which provide for paid, job-protected leave for Coronavirus-related absences. Notably, these provisions apply only to employers with fewer than 500 employees. Employers' obligations would become effective 15 days from enactment and would automatically expire on December 31, 2020. Although President Trump is expected to sign some variant of the FFCRA into law, the legislation is still subject to tweaks by the House and Senate in the coming days. Nevertheless, we expect a version of the bill to become law very soon, perhaps as soon as Monday or Tuesday. Regulations will then follow.

While we explain several important provisions below, the gist is that employees who work for employers with fewer than 500 employees are entitled to fully paid leave for the first 14 days of a Coronavirus qualifying reason, and 2/3 pay for the remainder of the leave, up to 12 weeks.

[Employer Resources](#)

Update from NACS

Today, NACS held a call for state leaderships to receive an update on their ongoing efforts in Washington, and how COVID-19 is impacting other issues surrounding the fuels and convenience industry.

Among the topics discussed were a potential delay for EMV implementation, SNAP benefits, a potential HOS waiver for fuel haulers, a delay for Summer RVP, and legislation coming out of Congress.

[Click Here for the Full Recap](#)

Day at the Capitol Postponed

Finally, in an abundance of caution, CFCA announced last week that we will be postponing Day at the Capitol until such time that the COVID-19 concerns have subsided. For those who have already registered, CFCA will issue a full refund for your registration, upon request. For those who have reserved rooms under our block with the Sheraton, we advise you cancel your reservation immediately, and you will be issued a full refund by the hotel.

Updates will be provided as they become available.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but out of an abundance of caution, CFCA is taking these steps to ensure the health and safety of our members.

For any questions regarding current Day at the Capitol registrations or hotel reservations, please contact Amber Palmer at (916) 646-5999 or palmer@cfca.energy.