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MEETING THE COVID-19 VIRUS CHALLENGE



The **2019 novel coronavirus** is a virus that has affected all countries, including the United States. **COVID-19** is an infectious disease caused by this new virus. The disease causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms, such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing. It spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth. The California Department of Public Health has stated we can protect ourselves and help prevent spreading the virus to others if you:

Do...

- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid close contact (6 feet).
- Stay home and self-isolate from others in the household, if you feel unwell.



Don't...

- Touch your eyes, nose, or mouth, if your hands are not clean



There's currently no vaccine to prevent this virus. As of April 4, 2020, there have been 1.2 million worldwide confirmed cases, 305,000 confirmed cases in the United States and 10,071 confirmed cases in California. It has created economic chaos throughout the nation, major healthcare disruption and food insecurity.

Governor Newsom has taken a proactive stance in responding to COVID-19 through Executive Orders¹, collaborating with state agencies such as the **State Department of Public Health**, the **California Department of Education**, and the **Employment Development Department**, as well as collaborating with federal government agencies, such as **FEMA**, the **Administration**, and with the private sector. **Schools are now closed until the end of the school year.** All events have been cancelled. People have been directed to stay at home and work from home, maintain a 6-foot social distance from others, and wash hands often! These precautions will be helpful to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as other common illnesses such as influenza and gastroenteritis.

RESPONSES TO COVID-19



Governor Newsom

The governor continues to respond to COVID-19, working with state and federal agencies, as well as with healthcare executives and systems and the private sector. He provides daily updates on television, as well as on social media. For those of you interested in reading his Executive Orders, go to the following link:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/category/executive-orders/>.



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Thurmond

The **California Department of Education** (CDE) is monitoring the 2019 novel COVID-19 situation and is working closely with agency partners. **Local Educational Agencies** (LEAs) are encouraged to follow **California Department of Public Health** (CDPH) recommendations. LEAs should identify plans for communicating with families and consider learning supports for school closures.

A webinar was hosted by **SSPI Thurmond** on March 18, 2020 for district, school and county office education leaders to walk through several new state guidance documents, covering the areas of distance learning, special education, meals/nutrition services, and childcare support.

To keep up-to-date on guidance documents from the **California Department of Education**, to view past and current guidance documents and for more information about COVID-19, please see the [CDE's Coronavirus web page](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp): <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>. The **SSPI** will provide weekly Friday updates on this webpage. So please keep current and read these updates!



Please go to the following links pertaining to:

- Distance Learning Updates on ELD and English Learners: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/appendix1.asp#nine>
- School closures: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/covid19schoolclosures.asp>
- Services to Students with Disabilities: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/specialedcovid19guidance.asp>
- Guidance on and resources that support how districts can provide distance learning opportunities for students: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/distancelearning.asp>
- Information on college admissions, grading and graduation requirements: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/collegereqsinformation.asp>
- Suspension of Statewide Testing: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/assessmentspotlight85.asp>
- Parent Resources: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/parentnewsletteriss1en.pdf>

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)



The **California Commission on Teacher Credentialing** has had to respond to COVID-19, as well—and the impact of school and university closures on candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs. It is the commission's intent to work with educator preparation programs to do whatever is legally, practically, and programmatically feasible to help candidates, who are on target to complete preparation and earn a credential this year, to do so. For candidates who are unable to meet all requirements during this academic year due to COVID-19, the Commission's **Variable Team Waiver** (VTW) would allow them to begin teaching this Fall and complete clinical practice and/or their teaching performance assessment during their first year of teaching. **CTC** is working with the administration, legislature, stakeholders, districts and programs to understand and minimize, to the extent possible, the impacts for candidates, districts and educator programs.

Below are links to the current information provided by CTC on TPAs and the VTWs:

- Variable Term Waivers due to COVID-19: https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/commission/files/vtw-guidance.pdf?sfvrsn=a8502cb1_8
- TPAs and COVID-19: https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/commission/files/covid-19-tpa-faq.pdf?sfvrsn=ad552cb1_2



The link to CTC's webpage and its responses to COVID-19 is:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/covid-19-information-for-commission-stakeholders>

California Department of Public Health



A list of various department guidance can be found at this link:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>

Many guidance documents are also **available in Spanish**, such as...



Immigrant Communities Guidance:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Las-Comunidades-de-Inmigrantes-.aspx>

Guidance for Schools:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/School%20Guidance%20ADA%20Compliant%20FINAL%20\(SP\).pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/School%20Guidance%20ADA%20Compliant%20FINAL%20(SP).pdf)

Guidance for Colleges and Universities:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/CDPH%20Higher%20Education%20Guidance%20ADA%20Compliant%20FINAL%](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/CDPH%20Higher%20Education%20Guidance%20ADA%20Compliant%20FINAL%20(SP).pdf)

Please use these resources and go to them often to keep up with the latest responses to COVID-19 by these entities. We are all in this together. Let's show self-responsibility by taking the necessary precautions called for by our health professionals, continue to be caring and excellent educators, and continue to watch over our neighbors. **We will get through this!!**

California 2020-2021 State Budget



Governor Newsom forwarded his proposed **2020-2021 State Budget** to the **Legislature** on-time, January 10, 2020. At that time California was experiencing a strong economy; growth in general fund revenues and a projected budget surplus of several billion dollars. COVID-19 has had an impact on the economy of California; volatile financial markets indicate lower capital gains-related tax revenue and responses to the virus abruptly brings economic activity to a halt. Therefore, it is projected that there will be a reduction in general fund revenues.

Governor Newsom, in a daily update on the COVID-19, was asked a question by a reporter regarding the state budget and the governor responded stating that his proposed January budget is no longer operable and “everything is on the table”. Since the **Legislature** will not return from its Interim Recess until May 4, 2020, more than likely, there will be a shortened budget process. Given that it will take time to appraise the ultimate effects on the state, the Legislature may take incremental steps—like adopting a workload budget in the nearer term—to buy time beyond its constitutional deadline to pass the budget (June 15) in order to assess the state’s ultimate fiscal capacity.

The **Legislature**, more than likely, will address immediate emergency funding needs and the state’s recovery from the public health and economic effects of COVID-19. Out of necessity, the Legislature may have to prioritize assistance to adversely affected small businesses, nonprofit agencies, and individuals.

Lastly, members will, more than likely, be requested to identify bill and budget priorities that only pertain to or address the COVID-19 crisis.

Be prepared for budget cuts! Stay tuned for budget updates!

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1. A governor’s executive order is a signed, written, and published directive that manages operations of the federal government. They are numbered consecutively, so executive orders may be referenced by their assigned number, or their topic. Executive orders are not legislation; they require no approval from the Legislature and the Legislature cannot simply overturn them. The Legislature may, however, pass legislation that might make it difficult, or even impossible, to carry out the executive order, such as removing funding. A governors' executive orders carry the weight and enforcement power of law.

