



Special Legislative Update ■ March 15, 2020

New State Guidance to Reduce Spread of COVID-19

Governor Gavin Newsom held a press conference today to announce a wave of new measures the state is putting in place to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Two high-ranking officials in his Administration then addressed county questions in a subsequent conference call. A summary of the essential points is provided below.

✦ **Home isolation for elderly/at risk –**

In recognition of the increased risks the virus presents to the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, the Newsom Administration is recommending home isolation for those aged 65 and older as well as those who are at higher risk given underlying health conditions.

✦ **Recommended closure of non-essential commerce –**

Bars, nightclubs, wineries, brew pubs, and other similarly situated businesses are being asked to close until further notice.

✦ **Increased social distancing for restaurants –**

Recommended guidance for restaurants is more nuanced, given the need to ensure that access to food is maintained for those unable to cook for themselves. The Governor is requesting that increased social distancing protocols be put in place for restaurants, which includes reducing by half its seating capacity.

In keeping with previous guidance and actions announced by the Governor, his Administration confirmed that they are continuing to increase capacity to house the unsheltered and increase social distancing in shelters and other facilities serving the homeless.

The Newsom Administration will be putting out formal guidance in writing on these points; we will share that information when we receive it.

In the meantime, CSAC has requested – as outlined in the attached correspondence – additional assistance from Governor Newsom to provide needed flexibility to ensure local governments can meet the changing demands required by the COVID-19 response. The Governor's Office confirmed that they appreciate receiving the input and would be giving all due consideration to the suggestions.

We will share more information as we learn it. Thank you for all that you are doing in managing your local responses during this difficult and rapidly evolving situation.