



## Special Legislative Update ■ April 1, 2020

### Updates from Governor's Noon Address

*COVID-19 Updates.* The Governor shared at his noon press conference today that in the last six days the number of COVID-19 positive cases in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) have quadrupled, and the number of COVID-19 related hospitalizations has tripled. The Newsom Administration is planning for an increase in the number of hospitalizations, based on modeling unique to California. The Governor also stated that the shelter in place order will last well into May — and potentially into June and July.

Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Mark Ghaly walked through the Administration's modeling slides. With five to six days of data available, the slide shows hospitalizations slightly below what the model expected; however, Secretary Ghaly cautioned that the numbers are highly variable and that California remains at risk to exceed the model. The model predicts that California will hit Phase 1 surge capacity in mid-May, needing to secure an additional 50,000 hospital beds, including 27,000 ICU beds. By the end of May, the state projects it will need an estimated 66,000 additional hospital beds. The Administration believes the state will need 10,000 ventilators to meet Phase 1 surge capacity; they have secured 4,252 ventilators to date.

*Health Corps.* The Governor provided an update that over 34,000 individuals have submitted applications online for the California Health Corps since the website became operational on Monday.

*Face Coverings.* California Department of Public Health Director Sonia Angell, MD provided a briefing on face coverings. She stated that face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing or staying at home. However, face coverings may reduce asymptomatic infections and are a signal to others to stay away. There may be some benefit if the face coverings are used well, along with social distancing. Individual counties are introducing recommendations; Riverside County was specifically mentioned during the question and answer period following the Governor's address. State guidelines are anticipated to be issued later today.

### Senate Communication on Revised State Budget Process

In a memo released this week, the state Senate outlines changes to its budget process to account for the considerable disruption – both procedurally and financially – caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The revisions are not dissimilar to the new guidance released last week by the Assembly Budget Committee chair. A few key points to note:

- Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins' office has circulated a "COVID-19 Response Proposal" form to members for purposes of collecting budget, policy, or combined proposals related to the pandemic response and/or recovery. Suggested deadline for submission is no later than mid-May (the timeframe for the May Revision release).
- Budget staff advises that expectations for budget requests outside of the COVID-19 response should be "significantly recalibrated to a 'baseline' budget," although members are still permitted to submit such requests before the end of this week.
- The memo also indicates that it is expected for the time being that the customary May Revision release timeframe remains unchanged, but also acknowledges that circumstances could change.