



## Special Legislative Update ■ April 27, 2020

### Online Compilation of Local Government COVID-19 Related Ordinances and Governor's EOs

In addition to CSAC's [interactive map](#), we recently were made aware of another [resource](#) that compiles California local government ordinances as well as the Governor's Executive Orders released since the outset of the pandemic. This latter resource was developed by the Ag Association Management Services, Inc. ([AAMSI](#)).

### Assembly Budget Subcommittee Discusses Economic Stimulus

Opening the second Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6 [hearing](#) by pointing out a large stack of papers indicating correspondence associated with the hearing, Assembly Member Phil Ting noted that the state is barred from deficit spending, so there are limits to the state's capacity to provide economic stimulus. A panel of experts – including Jerry Nickelsburg of the UCLA Anderson Forecast; Rodney Fong of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; David Ahlem, CEO of the Hillmar Cheese Company; and Saru Jayaraman from One Fair Wage – joined Vivek Viswanathan, Deputy Director at the California Department of Finance, and Legislative Analyst Gabriel Patek to discuss economic recovery and stimulus.

Of particular note, Jerry Nickelsburg of the UCLA Anderson Forecast expects that the state's unemployment rate will be 16.5% by the end of the year, assuming that the economy opens up. His hope is that the recovery will be quicker than 2009 but will be hard on retail and the tourism industry, noting that the recession disproportionately hits low-income service workers. While the recovery will be quicker, Nickelsburg indicated he anticipates that it will take about 18 months to return to 2019 employment levels. As for good news, Nickelsburg suggests that California is positioned well for the future of technology, which will become a necessity as the need to conduct business remotely continues; he remains worried, however, over a return of the pandemic in 2021, retail, and service businesses, and problems in the financial sector.

Panelists discussed the need to support low-wage workers and to support employers by reducing regulatory burdens. The Legislative Analyst provided some options to the Legislature like front-loading the issuance of bonds, deferring certain payments, and borrowing from the federal government to maintain the solvency of the unemployment insurance fund.

Members discussed the need to invest in public health activities, the health care workforce, and other supports to get Californians back to work. The hours-long hearing included a number of

questions to the Administration regarding the allocation of remaining federal funds, potential regulatory reductions (including suspending the provisions of AB 5), and consideration of a wide range of investments to bolster economic activity. Nearly all of these questions were answered with some combination of what has been done up until now and what the Governor will share his priorities when he releases the May Revision on May 14. Assembly Member Ting adjourned the meeting, noting that we all have a tough road ahead.

While there are no new general COVID-19-related hearings scheduled in the Senate and Assembly, tomorrow the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education will convene in two parts to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on school finances, closures, learning, and child care. Part 1, covering finances, closures, and learning convenes at 10 a.m.; Part 2 focusing on child care starts at 3 p.m.

### **Governor Newsom Announces New Western States Pact**

Governor Gavin Newsom announced today that Colorado and Nevada governors have agreed to join California, Oregon, and Washington in the Western States Pact, a working group of governors with a shared vision for modifying stay-at-home orders. As a reminder, the group has agreed on three principles for re-opening:

- *Our residents' health comes first.* As home to nearly one in five Americans and gateway to the rest of the world, the West Coast has an outsized stake in controlling and ultimately defeating COVID-19.
- *Health outcomes and science – not politics – will guide these decisions.* Modifications to our states' stay at home orders must be made based off our understanding of the total health impacts of COVID-19, including: the direct impact of the disease on our communities; the health impact of measures introduced to control the spread in communities —particularly felt by those already experiencing social disadvantage prior to COVID-19; and our health care systems' ability to ensure care for those who may become sick with COVID-19 and other conditions. This effort will be guided by data. We need to see a decline in the rate of spread of the virus before large-scale reopening, and we will be working in coordination to identify the best metrics to guide this.
- *Our states will only be effective by working together.* Each state will work with its local leaders and communities within its borders to understand what's happening on the ground and adhere to our agreed upon approach.

### **Guidelines Released on Resumption of Health Care**

The California Department of Public Health released [guidance](#) today to resume health care for non-emergent and non-COVID-19 health care. The guidance includes resuming elective and non-urgent procedures at hospitals; outpatient care including primary care and specialty care in physician offices and health centers; behavioral health, long term care, ancillary, pharmacy, and dental services.

This guidance is intended to set a plan for California but recognizes there may be local or regional circumstances that require different timelines for resumption of services. The document includes general considerations for resuming services, including the following:

1. A variety of indicators, including but not limited to the following, should be considered for a service area:
  - COVID-19 infection rates
  - COVID-19 hospitalizations
  - COVID-19 emergency room admissions
  - COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) utilization
  - Skilled Nursing Facilities COVID-19 outbreaks
  - Other COVID-19 factors that could increase the spread of COVID-19
2. Adequate stock of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in adequate supply for staff based on the type of care provided, risk level of patients, number of staff required to use PPE, and daily usage demand. In planning for PPE, consideration should be given for potential patient surges related to COVID-19 outbreaks.
3. Availability of testing with prompt results.
4. Prior to resuming non-emergent and non-COVID-19 deferred services, offices and facilities should consult with local public health officers within counties served to determine if there are local COVID-19 patterns that could impact health care delivery.
5. Availability of qualified staff to safely perform procedures, provide care and needed follow up.
6. Each facility and office should have patient flow systems and infection control precautions in place to minimize exposure and spread while caring for both COVID positive and non-COVID patients.

The document also provides guidelines for resuming services, addressing the following issues:

- PPE for outpatient settings, hospital settings, and skilled nursing facilities settings;
- Health Care Services: It is encouraged that as many services as possible and appropriate be delivered by telehealth/telephonic even after loosening of the Stay-at-Home restrictions to protect patients and health care workers. The physical layout and flow of care delivery areas may change in terms of patient movement and waiting areas so that physical distancing is maintained; and there should be a process for determining the priority of types of services delivered initially.
- Facility and Office Site Standards, generally and specifically for health care staff.
- Care Prioritization and Scheduling, with guidelines for outpatient visits, dental, hospital and outpatient surgery, skilled nursing facilities
- Workforce availability
- Additional considerations for hospitals
- Additional considerations for skilled nursing facilities