



Special Legislative Update ■ April 3, 2020

Report from Governor: COVID Response for Homeless Individuals

At the noon press conference, Governor Newsom announced that the state has secured approximately 7,000 hotel rooms to shelter homeless Californians and that 869 people have been sheltered. The state's goal is to secure 15,000 rooms. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will fund 75 percent of the cost for room and services, such as meals and security, if individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 or face heightened risk.

Reimbursement for Local Impacts Associated with Recent Measures Implemented in State Corrections System

Consistent with the authority granted pursuant to [SB 89](#), the emergency appropriations measure enacted in March, the state has allocated the following amounts to counties:

- \$5.74 million to reimburse counties for costs associated with housing inmates in local facilities during the 30-day stoppage of intake into state prison facilities; and
- \$2.97 million to reimburse counties for increased Post-Release Community Supervision workload associated with accelerating prison releases by up to 60 days for eligible inmates.

Legislature's Return Pushed Out to May 4

Legislative leaders confirmed today that although circumstances do not permit members to return to the Capitol on April 13 as had been their tentative plan, the houses now are scheduled to reconvene in Sacramento on May 4. We will continue to share specifics on how the pandemic will affect the Legislature's budget and policy processes as we learn them.

Additional COVID-19 Resources and Information

Two LAO Reports – The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released two documents today related to COVID-19 response and resources. This [update](#) discusses cash assistance provisions in the federal CARES Act in the context of existing income support programs, particularly during this time of economic contraction. The second [post](#) relates to federal financial assistance available to businesses.

State Dashboard – Also, the state has developed an interactive [dashboard](#) that offers displays of four COVID-19-related metrics by county: positive patients, suspected positive patients, ICU positive patients, and ICU suspected positive patients.

COVID-19 Impacts to Health Coverage – Health Management Associates ([HMA](#)) released a model this week estimating how job losses associated with COVID-19 will potentially impact different types of health coverage — state Medicaid programs, employer sponsored health coverage, marketplace coverage (Covered California), and the number of uninsured. HMA projected three scenarios:

- Low unemployment, which assumes nationally that 10 million people lose jobs;
- Medium unemployment, which assumes nationally that 21 million people lose jobs; and
- High unemployment, which assumes nationally that 33 million people lose jobs.

The following chart shows HMA’s projected increases and decreases of individuals with different types of health coverage, including uninsured, for California and total for the United States.

	Medicaid	Employer-Sponsored	Marketplace	Uninsured
LOW				
California	1,484,000	-1,301,000	13,000	-196,000
U.S. Total	10,594,000	-11,670,000	365,000	710,000
MEDIUM				
California	2,211,000	-2,555,000	165,000	179,000
U.S. Total	16,496,000	-23,206,000	1,524,000	5,186,000
HIGH				
California	2,998,000	-3,837,000	252,000	586,000
U.S. Total	22,980,000	-34,975,000	2,121,000	9,873,000

Coverage Fact Sheet – The UC Berkeley Labor Center released a [fact sheet](#) today on the Modified Adjusted Gross Income and how common benefits and assistance provided during the COVID-19 pandemic may impact the calculation of income for purposes of Medi-Cal and Covered California eligibility.

Feds Weigh in on Questions of General Mask Use – The Trump Administration announced today that they are [recommending](#) but not requiring Americans to wear face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance encourages the use of cloth masks when outside the home. However, the CDC does not recommend that the public use medical grade or surgical grade mass, which should be reserved for medical workers.