

**Coronavirus Briefing by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
and Department of Public Health (CDPH) for Local Elected Officials**

Tuesday, March 17 at 4:00pm

Call Overview:

CalOES and CDPH held a call for local elected officials to give brief updates and take questions.

Dr. Gilberto Chavez, CDPH

- Current Statistics for COVID-19 in California:
 - 472 lab confirmed cases in California;
 - Increase of 80 cases since yesterday, or 18% increase;
 - 24 cases are repatriations from other countries;
 - 448 cases are not related to repatriation flights:
 - 82 are travel related;
 - 75 are from person to person transmission;
 - 98 cases are due to community transmission;
 - 193 cases are still under investigation; and
 - 11 deaths reported in California.
 - 5 death increase from yesterday.
- Statewide Testing:
 - 3,487 individuals have been tested so far;
 - 22 public and state labs have received tests and are testing; and
 - Capacity has increased significantly in recent days.
- 11,700 individuals who traveled to California from abroad are self-monitoring;

Ryan Buras, Deputy Director of Recovery Operations, Cal OES

- CalOES has created 14 task forces to work on all issues related to the state's response to COVID-19;
 - Task forces include:
 - Hospitals;
 - Schools;
 - Transportation;
 - Commodities; and
 - Logistics.
- Objective of task forces is to involve all departments in the state's response. Things are changing by the minute.

Eric Lamoureux, (Acting) Deputy Director, Cal OES Response Operations

- State operations center is activated at its highest level;
- Requesting a number of resources from the federal government - equipment and response resources;
- Building capacity with hospitals and hotel locations to provide alternative and acute care facilities for people;
- Mobilizing staff in regional emergency management teams to help counties most impacted;
- Setting up alternative care sites for passengers from the Grand Princess cruise ship;
 - Sylmar site has 24 individuals;
 - San Carlos has 49 individuals; and
 - San Diego site has 4 individuals.

Dr. John Red – US Health and Human Services Department, Area Commander (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response [ASPR])

- Progress on swabbing testing initiatives on federal sites (Travis, Miramar and San Carlos);
 - At Travis and Miramar, swabbing is complete;
 - 260 people tested at Travis, sent to a federal testing facility;
 - Do not have results yet.
 - 420 tests conducted at Miramar;
 - 28 tests conducted at San Carlos; and
 - Some people at all three sites have refused testing. If someone refused testing, they are subject to government quarantine for 14 days at a federal site.
 - There will be more positive cases in those people tested, especially some who are asymptomatic; and
 - Will have to transfer those positive people from the federal military bases to alternative care centers.
- Today, the CDC has changed their policy on when a positive patient is released;
 - When someone is asymptomatic and has tested positive for COVID-19, they can be discharged after 7 days of feeling well; and
 - For someone who is symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19, they can be released 7 days after they feel well and 72 hours after their last fever.

Bob Fenton - FEMA Region 9

- Stood up regional office for western states, including California, Arizona and Nevada;
- Purpose of FEMA operations is to:
 - Share information from federal government to states and local governments;
 - Reimburse costs, such as for “category B” expenses (Expenses such as overtime costs for first responders, supplies purchased, lease or rent equipment, or short term contracts, etc.);
 - Writing up policy on this now, do not want to not duplicate funding eligibility from US HHS and other sources;
 - Setting up a process to apply and setting up applicant briefings for funding;
 - Urging states and local governments to capture their costs so FEMA can record them; and
 - Urge local governments to follow the proper procurement procedures set forth in [CFR 200](#).
 - Provide direct federal support as states require resources from the federal government.

Yolanda Stokes, Office of Disaster Assistance, Small Business Administration (SBA)

- President Trump and Governor Newsom have issued a federal disaster declaration for the entire state. Individual counties do not need to make individual declarations for receiving SBA loans;
- Updated press release is coming soon on this;
- Setting up virtual recovery centers;
 - Having loan officers to help, staffing them up;
- Providing low interest capital loans to small businesses; and
- Reaching out to local partners, like Chamber of Commerce.

Brian Ferguson Public Information Officer, Cal OES

- Update on actions from Governor Newsom;

- On Sunday Governor and CDPH issued [guidance](#) for the most vulnerable among us including seniors over the age of 65;
- Working on keeping local governments in the loop on what's going on; and
- Some counties have stricter orders than what Governor and CDPH, based on their own situation (bay area counties for example).

Questions and Answers

- **How quickly will these businesses will get funds from the SBA?**
Urging everyone to get the word out that the business owners should apply right away. They can apply [online](#) or via phone (1-800-659-2955). It is important businesses start the application process now, because turnaround times for funding will vary.
- **Progress on statewide hot line to help alleviate calls going to county public health departments?**
 - Will have updates on this soon.
- **Any relief for cities and counties to bring in retired annuitants; extending the deadline for public records act requests; streamlining contracting; and delaying collecting property tax?**
 - Everything is on the table right now. They will get back with answers soon.
- **Shelter in place orders - is state/administration contemplating this?**
 - "Shelter In Place" has a certain definition in emergency management, and its different from what is happening right now;
 - Advising people to not use the term "shelter in place," as it is too dramatic and does not reflect what is going on;
 - Administration is not considering a statewide policy on this as of now;
 - In regard to which businesses are considered "essential," the state is not looking to define "essential services;"
 - There is a critical infrastructure task force, Cal OES will be looking into defining what is considered "critical infrastructure;" and
 - Want to add 16,000 additional hospital beds to the state's existing capacity.