



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (3/12/21)

We Are Hiring: Opening for an Associate Consultant with the EM Committee

The Assembly Committee on Emergency Management is seeking applicants for an **Open Associate Consultant position**.

If you would like to join or team, or know someone who would make a good fit, please contact us. Full details with a list of qualifications for the position [can be found on the job listing](#).

‘Work-for-shot’ Volunteer Program Launched in California

[USA Today reports](#) that the state has created a work-for-shot program for volunteers. Working with [California Volunteers](#), the Governor’s office announced Monday the launching [MyTurnVolunteer](#), a site where people who sign up to work volunteer shifts at vaccination sites will become eligible for a shot.

A California Volunteers spokesperson said that anyone who works four hours or more can get a vaccination, even if they do not qualify yet under state guidelines.

Officials say opportunities are limited, but if you sign up on the website, you will receive a notification when a volunteer slot opens up.

To register, please visit MyTurnVolunteer’s [website](#). For more information on this program, please visit this page on California Volunteer’s [website](#).

CDC Issues New Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Americans

[USA Today reports](#) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) released [new guidelines](#) designed to ease restrictions on Americans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The agency’s [guidance](#) state those who have received a full course of COVID-19 vaccine may get together with other fully vaccinated individuals in small groups inside their homes without masks or physical distancing. They can also visit people with unvaccinated people from one other household who are at low risk for severe disease.

[The guidance](#) also stated that fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine or be tested for COVID-19 if they’ve been exposed, unless they have symptoms.

Experts say the announcement could have been the agency's attempt to clear up confusion created by some states rolling back coronavirus safety measures despite public warnings from health officials.

Whether the guidelines will clear things up or not is still up for debate, and experts hold varying opinions. To read the wavering views within the full article, please click [here](#).

[The Biden administration said on March 2](#), there will be enough vaccine for every adult in the U.S. by May thanks to a deal brokered between pharmaceutical giants Merck and Johnson & Johnson, but health experts say the U.S. could reach that milestone by mid-April.

The full guidance from the CDC can be viewed [here](#).

Thousands of Californians Receive Wrong Dose of Pfizer Vaccine

[The Hindu Business Line reports](#) thousands of people who intended to receive their COVID-19 vaccine in Oakland, California were administered the wrong dose of Pfizer vaccine, State media *KTVU* reports. According to *KTVU*, around 4,300 people in Oakland were administered less than the recommended dose. The optimal dosage is 0.3ml of Pfizer, but thousands of people received a dosage of around 0.2ml.

According to the report, the vaccination site was running short of the syringe due to which too little dose of the vaccine was administered. The agencies that were carrying out the drive remained unaware of the development, including Cal OES, and FEMA.

After this, the State Department of Public Health, US Health and Human Services (HHS) and Pfizer convened emergency meetings to discuss the issue, a California OES spokesperson told the media outlet.

Ali Bay, Deputy Director of Communications for the Health Department, told *KTVU* on Friday that nobody who received the vaccine shot on March 1 “has been harmed or would be harmed if we conclude they received a slightly smaller dose of the vaccine.”

The official further added that the people who received the wrong dose do not have to seek medical care and they will be informed “immediately” if they require an emergency booster.

Los Angeles, Orange Counties Poised to Advance to Red Tier of California’s Coronavirus Reopening Plan

[CBS Los Angeles reports](#) case rates of COVID-19 have improved in Los Angeles and Orange counties, which are both positioned to advance to the red, or second strictest, tier of reopening in California.

The state-adjusted average rate of new COVID-19 cases has dropped to 5.2 per 100,000 people in Los Angeles County, which may advance as soon as the state reaches the threshold of administering 2 million vaccine doses in hard-hit communities statewide.

If case rates remain under 7 new cases per 100,00 people and test positivity stays under 8%, the soonest Los Angeles County can move to the red tier is on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day.

However, Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer warned that with the potential for a fourth surge in cases, the county runs the risk of delaying the end of the pandemic if transmission is not reduced while vaccination numbers continue to ramp up.

As for Orange County, case rates are in the red tier range, and its positivity rates are in the orange tier. If Orange County can maintain those rates through Sunday, it can graduate to the red tier by next Wednesday, March 17.

Employers Struggle with Tough New Question: Can They Demand Workers Get a COVID-19 Vaccine?

[ABC News reports](#) as the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine expands nationwide, experts have informed them that employers in high-risk industries have begun to grapple with a new and vexing question: can a company require its employees to be vaccinated?

In an examination of long-term care facilities across the country, a CDC report found that 62% of nursing home workers are refusing the vaccine. At the same time, medical experts say the vaccines are extremely effective and overwhelmingly safe, with a [recent CDC report](#) showing an extremely low rate of serious adverse reactions.

The distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in nursing homes is believed to be behind a significant decline in deaths and hospitalizations, after state and federal health officials made vaccinating nursing homes one of their top priorities. Each of the three currently available vaccines -- made by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson -- has been granted emergency use authorization by the FDA in response to the pandemic.

But none of the vaccines has been formally approved yet -- and many experts say that, while mandatory vaccinations in the workplace are not new, it's unusual for employers to mandate a vaccine that hasn't been granted full FDA approval.

"I believe at the present time that it is unethical to require a treatment that was approved under an emergency authorization," Mike Wasserman, a member of the California's Vaccine Advisory Committee, told *ABC News*. "However," said Wasserman, "there's nothing wrong with laying out the benefits and risks of getting vaccinated."

To view the full article including more quotes and opinions on the subject from officials around the country, please click [here](#).

Cal/OHSA Has Cited More Companies for COVID-19 Violations

[The EHS Daily Advisor reports](#) the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) has cited additional employers for failing to protect employees from COVID-19 exposures, including a Los Angeles garment manufacturing company facing \$102,550 in proposed penalties. California is one of a handful of states that established an emergency temporary standard (ETS) last year for workplace COVID-19 exposures.

Cal/OSHA has cited well over [150 employers](#) for safety and health violations during the pandemic. Cal/OSHA initiated an inspection at a Los Angeles Apparel, Inc., factory following reports of an outbreak in which six employees died from COVID-19 complications. The agency determined that Los Angeles Apparel intentionally did not report the COVID-19 fatalities.

Los Angeles Apparel was cited for six serious, one willful-regulatory, three regulatory, and seven general violations. One of the serious violations was a failure to evaluate COVID-19 hazards, such as the lack of physical distancing or barriers to separate employees operating sewing machines. Another serious violation was the lack of employee training on preventing COVID-19 infection in the workplace.

Cal/OSHA also opened an inspection at the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) in Vacaville after the employer reported the serious illness of an employee hospitalized for COVID-19 complications and another employee tested positive for the virus. The agency cited CALPIA for three serious violations after finding deficiencies in its Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) and respiratory protection programs that exposed employees to COVID-19 infection.

Cal/OSHA also cited Integrated Pain Management Medical Group, a San Leandro-based medical practice, for two COVID-19-related serious violations. The agency opened an accident inspection following a report of an employee who was hospitalized for COVID-19 complications. The employer was cited after Cal/OSHA found that it failed to implement an effective employee COVID-19 screening procedure and that it had deficiencies in its respiratory protection program.

Cal/OSHA cited the Roseville-based framing contractor Erickson Framing CA, LLC, following two COVID-19 complaint-based inspections at worksites in Vacaville and Fairfield. At the Vacaville site, a Cal/OSHA inspector found that the employer was not enforcing the use of face coverings or physical distancing between employees. In a subsequent inspection at the Fairfield worksite a month later, the Cal/OSHA inspector again found the same hazards: a lack of physical distancing and failure to require the use of face coverings. Cal/OSHA cited the employer for a serious violation in each instance for the employer's failure to effectively establish, implement, and maintain procedures to correct unhealthy conditions related to COVID-19 that affected its employees, including its failure to enforce face covering use and physical distancing for COVID-19 prevention.

Security Startup Verkada Hack Exposes 150,000 Security Cameras in Tesla Factories, Jails, and More

[The Verge reports](#) a Silicon Valley security startup, Verkada, that provides cloud-based security camera services, has suffered a major security breach. Hackers were able to gain access to over 150,000 of the company's cameras. Some of these cameras were located in Tesla factories and warehouses, Cloudflare offices, Equinox gyms, hospitals, jails, schools, police stations, and even Verkada's own offices.

According to one of the members of the international hacker collective that breached the system, Tillie Kottmann, the hack was meant to show how commonplace the company's security cameras are and how easily they can be hacked. In addition to hacking the live feeds, the group also claimed to have access to the full video archive of all of Verkada's customers.

A Verkada representative [issued a statement to Bloomberg](#) stating, "We have disabled all internal administrator accounts to prevent any unauthorized access. Our internal security team and external security firm are investigating the scale and scope of this potential issue."

The hack was apparently rather simple as the group managed to gain “Super Admin”-level access to Verkada’s system using a username and password they found publicly on the internet. From that point, they were able to access the entire company’s network, including root access to the cameras themselves. That, in turn, allowed the group to access the internal networks of some of Verkada’s customers.

In addition to the camera footage, the group also says that it was able to access the full list of Verkada’s thousands of customers and its private financial information.

How ‘Cutting Green Tape’ Can Make California More Resilient

[Cal Matters reports](#) California is home to more unique species of plants and animals than any other state in the US, making it one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots. *Cal Matters* reports that this hotspot is disappearing at alarming rates due to today’s environmental, economic, and social challenges.

Considering that 30% of plants and animals are facing extinction, coupled with predictions that we have 10 years to solve our global climate crisis, California needs to rapidly accelerate pathways for restoring ecosystems at the pace and scale needed to counteract these challenges.

Laws such as the [Clean Water Act](#) and [Endangered Species Act](#) are designed to protect the environment from damage, but they do not provide a pathway for restoring damaged nature. California’s regulatory system is not set up to support habitat restoration projects either.

The good news is that California is taking bold steps to address this. The state has joined 38 countries pledging to conserve 30% of land and coastal waters by 2030 and is well-positioned to support the Biden-Harris administration’s [executive orders](#) to address the climate crisis. California also launched the [Cutting Green Tape](#) initiative to increase the pace and scale of restoration efforts by streamlining the process to approve and facilitate projects.

To help achieve that, the California Landscape Stewardship Network released a [Cutting Green Tape report](#) with recommendations informed by 150 conservation experts, including [Sustainable Conservation](#).

Implementing the recommendations would accelerate the process for building ecosystem resilience – the ability to recover from catastrophic events, and respond to changing climate conditions rapidly and effectively, with strong environmental protections in place.

As California Racks Up Huge Surplus, Billions Set to Flow in from Feds

[Cal Matters reports](#) that California’s coffers are already overflowing with a [\\$25.3 billion surplus](#) but could soon see another massive infusion of cash. California’s state and local governments are set to receive \$40 billion of the \$1.9 trillion [federal stimulus package that narrowly passed the Senate on Saturday](#). President Biden is expected to sign the package this week after a final vote in the House of Representatives.

The massive measure, which represents nearly one-tenth of the U.S. economy, closely follows a [\\$7.6 billion state stimulus package](#) Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law late last month. It also fulfills one of Newsom’s major requests of the federal government: The governor [in January asked Biden](#) to provide emergency funding for state and local governments after it wasn’t included in [the December stimulus package](#).

The American Rescue Plan also includes \$1,400 stimulus payments [for millions of Americans](#) and supplemental unemployment benefits of \$300 per week through Sept. 6. This could spell trouble for California's beleaguered unemployment department, [which just began certifying on Sunday](#) claimants' benefits from the December stimulus package.

The full breakdown of funding that California should expect to receive can be found [in a fact sheet issued by Senator Alex Padilla's office](#)

Emergency Rental Assistance Program Taking Applications

[The Oakdale Leader reports](#) Stanislaus County, the City of Modesto, and the Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority have partnered to implement a local Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) supported by funds from the United States Department of Treasury and the State of California.

The ERAP will assist households unable to pay rental and utility arrears accrued due to the COVID-19 pandemic between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

On December 21, 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and \$25 billion was allocated to the U.S. Treasury for an ERAP to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities. These funds were provided directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian tribes. The U.S. Treasury issued approximately \$1.1 billion to California jurisdictions with a population of 200,000 or more, and an additional \$1.5 billion to the State of California.

Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto received a combined amount of approximately \$16.4 million from the federal government for distribution to those who are eligible and can demonstrate a need. The county and city anticipate receiving a combined total of approximately \$19.5 million from the State of California. In total, approximately \$35.9 million will be made available to Eligible Households communitywide. The ERAP funding is restricted to Stanislaus County residents.

ERAP defines an Eligible Household as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- Has a household income at below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), which is the unadjusted median income levels derived from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on an annual basis for each jurisdiction adjusted solely for household size;
- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

For more details on the program and information on how to apply, please visit their [website](#).

Funding Opportunities

Workforce Education and Training Peer Personnel Training and Placement

[The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development](#) has created this program to provide training to peer personnel on issues that may include crisis management, suicide prevention,

recovery planning, targeted case management assistance, triage, and other related peer training and support functions.

Peer personnel can be individuals with lived experience. OSHPD defines lived experience as an individual that experienced mental/behavioral health services as a consumer, family member, and/or caregiver.

Applicants must implement a peer personnel training and placement program that contains recruitment and outreach, career counseling, training, placement, support, evaluation, and if applicable, financial assistance.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit entities and public agencies. The grant opportunity will result in agreement(s) with public, private, and nonprofit organizations, including faith based and community-based organizations (CBOs), for training and support that facilitates the placement of peer personnel. Programs must be located within California.

Total estimated funding available is \$2 million. The deadline to apply is **Tuesday, March 16**, and the full guidelines and application can be found [here](#).

2021 Community Development Block Grant NOFA

[The Department of Housing and Community Development](#) has created the CDBG program with the primary objective of developing viable rural communities, for persons of low and moderate-income through the following activity types: economic development, housing, public facilities, public improvements and public services.

CDBG eligible activities are funded under the Community Development, Economic Development, and Special Allocations for Colonias and Native American communities that are non-federally recognized tribes.

To be eligible for the funding, every CDBG funded activity must meet one of the following three National Objectives of the program, required by federal regulations (24 CFR Section 570.483). The National Objectives are:

1. Benefit to low and moderate income persons;
2. Prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or,
3. Urgent need (requires State or federal disaster declaration)

This program can fund Community Development (CD) program activities and projects, and Economic Development (ED) program activities and projects.

Eligible applicants include Public Agencies and Tribal Governments. The State CDBG Program serves non-entitlement jurisdictions i.e., cities with populations under 50,000 and counties with populations under 200,000 in unincorporated areas that do not participate in the federal CDBG entitlement program. There are approximately 160 non-entitlement jurisdictions in California.

Total estimated available funding is \$30 million. The deadline to apply is **Friday, April 30**, and the online application can be found [here](#).

Community Developmental Block Grant – Coronavirus Rounds 2 and 3 NOFA (CDBG-CV2 and 3 NOFA)

[The Department of Housing and Community Development](#) has expanded the CDBG program into two more rounds. CDBG-CV is a one-time assistance through the CARES-Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 through support of eligible economic development, housing, public facilities, public improvements, and public service activities.

CDBG-CV eligible activities are funded under the Community Development, Economic Development, and Special Allocations for Colonias and Native American communities.

To be eligible for funding, every CDBG-CV funded activity must meet one of the following three National Objectives of the program, required by federal regulations (24 CFR Section 570.483). The National Objectives are:

1. Benefit to low and moderate income persons;
2. Prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or,
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The CDBG-CV program can fund Community Development (CD) program activities and projects, and Economic Development (ED) program activities and projects.

The State CDBG Program serves non-entitlement jurisdictions i.e., cities with populations under 50,000 and counties with populations under 200,000 in unincorporated areas that do not participate in the federal CDBG entitlement program. There are approximately 160 non-entitlement jurisdictions in California.

Eligible applicants include Public Agencies and Tribal Governments. Funds from the CDBG-CV2 and 3 NOFA are dedicated to non-entitlement jurisdictions i.e., cities with populations under 50,000 and counties with populations under 200,000 in unincorporated areas that do not participate in the federal CDBG entitlement program. The funds are also available to both federally and non-federally recognized tribes and their partners.

Total estimated funding available is \$77 million. The deadline to apply is **Friday, May 7**, and the online application can be found [here](#).