



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (4/30/21)

Upcoming Oversight Hearing

SUBJECT: The Role of Cal OES and Emergency Management in Providing an Equitable Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

When: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 9:00 am

Where: State Capitol, Room 437

Moderna to be Reviewed for WHO Emergency Listing on April 30 – WHO Spokeswoman

[Yahoo! News reports](#) Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine will be reviewed on April 30 by technical experts for possible WHO emergency-use listing, a World Health Organization spokeswoman told Reuters.

"We are discussing the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Friday..." WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said in reply to a query. A decision on the U.S. drug maker's vaccine, now being evaluated under the abridged procedure on the basis of prior review by the European Medicines Agency, was expected in one to four days after that, Lindmeier said.

So far COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson have received WHO approval, which is a signal to national regulatory authorities on a product's safety and efficacy.

The WHO committee of technical experts were on Monday reviewing the COVID-19 vaccine of Chinese drug maker, Sinopharm, and is due to review the Sinovac product at its next meeting on May 3, according to the WHO.

Stephane Bancel, Moderna CEO, told an event last Friday that it was on track to make up to 1 billion doses of its COVID-19 vaccine this year and 1.4 billion next year.

"We're in the final stretch to get an agreement with COVAX," Bancel said, referring to the vaccine-sharing facility run by the GAVI Vaccine Alliance and WHO to bring doses to lower income countries.

J&J Vaccine Back in Play in Monterey County

[The Monterey Herald reports](#) with the pause on the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine lifted over the weekend, the vaccination effort in Monterey County will again have all

three emergency-use authorized vaccines available as soon as educational material is provided for J&J.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine to include information about a very rare and serious type of blood clot in some people who receive the vaccine.

“Clinics in California may begin administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine immediately as long as they provide appropriate educational materials to inform patients of the vaccine’s low risk of associated health effects and other available vaccine options,” read the California Department of Public Health statement in part.

Montage Health spokeswoman, Monica Sciuto, said vaccination clinics are continuing to offer first- and second-dose clinics utilizing the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

“We received word that (the California Department of Public Health) has approved the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine with updated educational materials,” said Sciuto. “Based on that news, we have added 300 doses of the Janssen vaccine to our clinic schedule for this coming Wednesday from 10 a.m.-noon.”

The Monterey County Health Department said it was waiting for information about the risks associated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as well as the alternatives in English and Spanish that people can understand. To view to full article, [please click here](#).

It’s Never Been Easier to get a COVID-19 Vaccine – Even Without an Appointment

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) it’s never been easier to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in California, officials say, with Los Angeles County and my other counties now offering vaccines at some sites without an appointment requirement.

Los Angeles County is continuing a drop-in option for everyone age 16 and older to get COVID-19 vaccines without booking an appointment through Thursday at eight county-run vaccination sites while supplies last: The Forum (Inglewood), Balboa Sports Complex (Encino), College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita), Cal State Northridge, Eugene A. Obregon Park (East L.A.), Pomona Fairplex, L.A. County Office of Education (Downey) and the Palmdale Oasis Park Recreation Center. People should bring a photo identification and proof of living or working in L.A. County; and those aged 16 and 17 must bring a parent or guardian.

With vaccine supplies now ample, there also appears to be a wide availability of vaccination appointments available in San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. Some counties in Northern California are also reporting a healthy supply, including Santa Clara, the region’s most populous.

People can still book appointments at many sites through the state’s registration site, myturn.ca.gov and the [city of Los Angeles’ registration site](#). For people without computer access, state residents can call (833) 422-4255 to book appointments; and anyone in L.A. County can call (833) 540-0473.

Alternate ways to book appointments include through healthcare providers, such as [Kaiser](#), and pharmacies that offer vaccines, such as [CVS](#), [Ralphs](#), [Rite Aid](#), [Walgreens](#), [Costco](#) and [Albertsons/Vons/Safeway/Pavilions](#).

Federal officials are encouraging pharmacies and other vaccine providers to begin allowing walk-up vaccinations.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 60% of all adults in California have had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; nationally, 54% of all adults have had at least one shot.

Among everyone, 47% of all residents in California have had at least one dose; nationally, 43% have had at least one dose.

But there has been a bump in the road.

California's COVID-19 inoculation pace trailed off after officials paused use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as a precaution earlier this month, according to data compiled by The Times.

With that stoppage now lifted, it remains to be seen whether the state will reverse the recent blip before it morphs into a more downward trend.

Over the weeklong period ending Friday, providers throughout California doled out an average of 329,483 vaccine doses per day. That's down about 16% from the statewide peak of 394,326, which was recorded two days before federal officials called for a halt in administering Johnson & Johnson vaccines following reports of a rare clotting disorder among a handful of recipients.

Although there's a natural lag in California's vaccine reporting, as it takes time to account for all the doses administered on a particular day, every day last week saw fewer new doses administered than the corresponding day the week before, and Friday's rolling average was the lowest since the end of March, [Times data show](#).

OSHA Moves Closer to Issuing Emergency Temporary Standard on COVID-19

[The Safety and Health Magazine reports](#) OSHA on April 26 [submitted for review](#) to the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs a draft of an emergency temporary standard related to COVID-19 – one of the final steps before the ETS can be published in the *Federal Register*.

OIRA reviews typically last at least a couple of weeks, but the timeline for this ETS is unclear. OSHA hasn't issued an ETS since November 1983, and that one (related to asbestos) was [invalidated](#) by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit about four months later.

After publication of the ETS, OSHA would begin working on a permanent standard that would go into effect within six months.

President Joe Biden on Jan. 21 signed an Executive Order that directed OSHA to consider an ETS related to COVID-19 and, if considered necessary, issue it by March 15. That deadline passed with no perceivable movement on the ETS.

The House Workforce Protections Subcommittee has scheduled a hearing for April 30 to check on the status of the pending ETS. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh is slated to appear before the House Appropriations Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on April 28, and likely will field questions about the ETS.

In a letter sent to the president April 26, three Michigan Democrats – Reps. Debbie Dingell, Andy Levin and Rashida Tlaib – call on OSHA to issue the ETS amid sharp increases in new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in their state.

Likewise, labor unions and other groups in recent weeks have called on OSHA to publish its ETS.

In a Feb. 25 letter sent to former acting Labor Secretary Al Stewart, Reps. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee, and Fred Keller (R-PA), ranking member of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, called on OSHA to convene a [Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act panel](#) to gather input from small businesses before proceeding on an ETS.

The lawmakers voiced their concerns that an ETS “would mandate actions based on a snapshot in time for a disease and public health guidance that is constantly evolving.” They pointed to California’s COVID-19 ETS that went into effect in December as “a real-world example.” According to the letter, Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) had to issue an Executive Order to suspend the ETS because it “conflicted with changes in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California Department of Public Health guidelines concerning the duration of quarantine periods for essential workers, causing massive confusion for employers during the busy holiday season.”

In the letter, Foxx and Keller strongly urged OSHA “to consider the real-world experiences of employers and their employees, experiences of OSHA State Plans, the evolving nature of the disease and associated public health guidance, and the promising deployment of new vaccines before rushing to enact sweeping new mandates that may create unsound policy with no improvement to workplace safety.”

Dentists Can Increase Patients’ Confidence About the COVID-19 Vaccines

[The CDA reports](#) they have added nine resources to the COVID-19 Vaccine Information Toolkit to promote vaccine education and awareness in the dental office and facilitate dentists’ conversations with patients. The resources include a discussion guide, patient email template, posters in English and Spanish, and more.

All Californians ages 16 and older became eligible to receive FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccinations beginning April 15. As of April 19, one in four Californians was fully vaccinated against COVID-19, but vaccination rates vary greatly by county, and public health experts agree: Achieving broad inoculation against the coronavirus is essential to preventing additional virus variants from emerging and causing breakthrough infections, hospitalizations and deaths. Wider inoculation is also central to a safe reopening of California’s economy.

Limited vaccine supply and too few vaccination sites account for some disparate vaccination rates across the state, but [vaccine hesitancy](#), defined by the World Health Organization as “delayed acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccine services,” remains a significant concern and contributor to California’s low vaccination rate overall. A [statewide survey \(see page 17\)](#) conducted in March by the Public Policy Institute of California found that 14% of surveyed adults in the state would “definitely not get the vaccine.”

The public is more likely to trust information they receive about the COVID-19 vaccine when that information comes from public health entities or health care professionals. In fact, a

recommendation from a health care provider is one of the strongest determinants of vaccine acceptance, [recent research shows](#).

As trusted health professionals, dentists are positioned daily to discuss COVID-19 vaccination with their patients and the public, instill confidence about the COVID-19 vaccine and ultimately influence their patients' decision-making about the vaccine.

Dentists can, for example, include a question about COVID-19 vaccination on the patient intake form, which will provide an opportunity to address vaccination with the patient during their visit. The dentist might start the conversation with "I can see from today's intake form that you have not received your COVID-19 vaccine." According to the [CDA resource Instilling Vaccine Confidence](#), such announcements demonstrate the health care provider's confidence in the vaccine and establish vaccination as the norm.

The new CDA resource also provides specific communication strategies dentists can adopt in the office to promote vaccine acceptance among their patients, such as showing empathy and providing facts to counter vaccine misinformation.

CDA added nine resources to the [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Toolkit](#) to promote vaccine education and awareness in the dental office and facilitate dentists' conversations with patients. The toolkit, initially released in January, is intended to help dentists and their teams understand current information about the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine distribution and administration. It also provides best practices and resources for dentist employers.

The newest resources are:

- [Instilling Vaccine Confidence](#)
- [Why Dentists Should Speak with Their Patients About COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines — What You Need to Know About Vaccine Safety](#)
- Let's Talk About the COVID-19 Vaccine: [Videos in English and Spanish](#) (UCLA Hispanic Student Dental Association)
- Updated confidential health history forms in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Proven Strategies Help Shorten Talks About the COVID-19 Vaccines: A [vaccine discussion guide](#)
- [Customizable email template](#) for patient distribution (downloadable Word doc)
- Vaccine promotion posters in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) (CDC)
- [Why Get Vaccinated? Informational one-pager for patients \(CDC\)](#)

CDA partnered with HealthNet to produce the vaccine discussion guide Proven Strategies Help Shorten Talks About the COVID-19 Vaccines. The guide provides evidence-based strategies for talking to patients based on their level of vaccine acceptance or hesitancy.

Access all the new resources and dozens more in the [CDA COVID-19 Vaccine Information Toolkit](#).

Cal OES Announces a Major Milestone: 70% of Debris Removed from Statewide Properties Affected by 2020 Wildfires

[The Sierra Sun Times reports](#) last Friday, the state announced that it has cleared eligible debris from more than 70% of eligible properties throughout California affected by last year's wildfires.

Through the state's Consolidated Debris Removal Program, administered by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) in conjunction with participating counties, property owners incur no direct costs for participation.

To date, crews have cleared 2,632, or 70.3 percent, of the 3,742 participating properties around the state of burned metal, concrete, ash and debris.

Although removal of debris from the properties moves owners of the cleared properties one step closer to rebuilding, debris officials remind owners that the process is not over and that state contractors must complete additional work before they can begin reconstruction.

Once a state crew has cleared a property of eligible debris, an environmental contractor will return to the site and collect soil samples for testing at an approved laboratory to verify that the samples taken from an owner's property meet state environmental health and safety criteria.

If laboratory tests confirm that soil samples meet state environmental health and safety criteria, state contractors will install fiber rolls and apply a virgin-based, biodegradable mulch or take similar measures to protect the site from erosion.

Following these erosion control measures, state officials and staff conduct a walkthrough of the property to ensure that all work done by state crews meets the state's standard. If work meets the state standards, debris officials submit a final inspection report to local officials, clearing the way for the property owner to begin reconstruction.

State officials coordinating the removal of debris caused by last year's wildfires are reminding property owners participating in the state's Consolidated Debris Removal Program that performing any debris removal work themselves once state contractors have begun will result in their disqualification from the state program.

In addition to the properties cleared of debris, teams have completed the following work*:

- 3,626 site assessments;
- 3,611 asbestos assessments;
- 1,462 asbestos assessments; and
- 753 erosion control work.

To date, state debris officials have returned 480 properties to county officials as completed and ready to begin reconstruction.

Participating property owners who are unsure where they are in the debris removal process to check the [Debris Operations Dashboard](#) for the 2020 statewide wildfires. The dashboard is updated every hour and provides users with the ability to sort by branch or county via the filters

at the top of the page. Users can also search by address via the magnifying glass icon at the top of the map to learn of the debris removal status of their property.

85% of California is in Severe, Extreme, or Exceptional Drought, Latest Numbers Show

ABC 30 News reports the rain system that came through California this past weekend has moved through and didn't leave much on the ground.

Experts say a majority of California is dealing with drought conditions, and they continue to worsen.

"The reality is that we ended up with quite a bit less, so we're faced with what we anticipate as potentially a long dry summer," says Assistant Santa Rosa Fire Marshall Paul Lowenthal.

Lowenthal says their agency is likely to officially declare an early start to fire season in a matter of weeks.

Those who crunch the numbers say the outlook is not a good one.

"I just looked at the numbers and 85 percent of California is in severe, extreme, or exceptional drought. Compare that to last year only 12 percent of the state was at that same level," says Nick VinZant of QuoteWizard.com.

Numbers like that haven't been seen since 2015, according to VinZant. A recent QuoteWizard.com study of states with the highest wildfire risk, found California as 4th dangerous.

Drought conditions are already forcing Valley farmers to make difficult decisions when it comes to their crops as many are facing severe water restrictions.

"There's districts throughout California that have experienced up to 95% reductions in water," says Fresno County Farm Bureau CEO Ryan Jacobsen.

Water conservation officials agree that we are using much less water now than we were before previous droughts and firefighters and homeowners nowadays, much better prepared for wildfires.

Jacobsen says the lack of wet weather means the water farmers do have will have to be reallocated to permanent crops, while others, like garlic, tomatoes, onions, melons, and rice will be reduced.

Earthquake Preparedness Month Reminds Residents: "Don't Get Caught Off Guard"

[The County News Center reports](#) April is Earthquake Preparedness Month in California, and the County of San Diego's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) are reminding residents to "not get caught off guard" and have a plan for how to protect themselves in the event of an earthquake.

San Diego County is home to three major active faults: the Rose Canyon Fault (which runs along the coast, through downtown, Old Town and La Jolla), and the San Jacinto and Elsinore faults, which run through the northern and eastern areas of the county. Earthquakes along these faults could produce damaging earthquakes that may disrupt roadways, transportation, and services like

water, gas, and phone communication for weeks or months. Coastal areas are also at risk for tsunamis.

As part of the state's 2021 "Don't Get Caught Off Guard" campaign, OES and Cal OES officials are encouraging residents to take the time to [know their risks](#), update their [emergency plan](#), register for [local emergency alerts](#), and download an earthquake early warning app.

The County's Office of Emergency Services will launch earthquake early warning technology, ShakeReadySD, powered by ShakeAlert®, in the SD Emergency app this July. When enabled, ShakeReadySD is designed to alert iPhone and Android users seconds before a magnitude 4.5 or higher earthquake with moderate to strong shaking is expected in your area so you can take the right actions quickly to protect yourself.

In the meantime, Californians can download the state's no-cost MyShake App to their [iPhone](#) and [Android](#). Managed by Cal OES, the MyShake app is part of the [Earthquake Warning California](#) system that similarly uses a network of ground motion sensors located across the state to alert users through the app, Android Alerts, and the Wireless Emergency Alert system to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" seconds before significant earthquake with the criteria mentioned above arrives.

If you live in or travel to areas that could be impacted by an earthquake, preparation is vital, as these events can strike suddenly, at any time, with little warning. To discover your level of risk for earthquakes and the specific steps you should take to prepare, visit the [Know Your Hazards map tool](#). For more information about hazards throughout California, visit Cal OES' [My Hazards](#) map.

To register for [AlertSanDiego](#), the county's regional emergency mass notification system, and to learn about the steps you can take to prepare for earthquakes and other disasters, visit [ReadySanDiego.org](#). More information on earthquake early warning, visit [ShakeAlert.org](#).

California Fire Department Gets Funding Boost for Training

[Firefighter Nation reports](#) East Contra Costa Fire Protection District got a delayed \$500,000 boost on Friday, April 23 to build a much-needed mobile fire training unit.

The funding, which Assemblyman Jim Frazier, D-Fairfield, locked in, comes after fighting many delays and setbacks due to COVID-19, officials said. The assemblyman, who secured the money through the assembly budgetary process, presented the check to the fire board on Friday, more than two years after he started pushing for it and a state spending freeze was enacted.

The new dedicated facility will not only allow the firefighters to do live fire training but also practice rescue skills, throw ladders, and provide space for mandated emergency medical training as well, said Brian Oftedal, President of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District Board.

Although the district has yet to secure a site for the new training tower, Oftedal said it will likely resume talks with Ironhouse Sanitary District to use a portion of its land in Oakley.

"Now that the monies have been secured, we can start that conversation back up," he said.

In another boost for the fire district, it won an appeal hearing in mid-April for a \$26,325 citation levied against a Discovery Bay resident who had illegally set off more than 500 fireworks on July 4 of last year.

The fire district's three active fire stations — in Oakley Brentwood and Discovery Bay — serve its 250 square miles and 128,000 residents. Another fire station has been built on East Cypress Road in Oakley though money to staff it has not been available. That station is now projected to open in March of 2022 provided Measure X tax money comes through, Oftedal said.

Funding for the ECCFPD was first established when the district was mostly rural and has not evolved as East County's population has increased. The property tax allocation share remains at 7% of the total county funds while need for services has grown dramatically as more people have moved to the area, according to fire officials.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **[2021 Community Development Block Grant NOFA](#)**; *housing, community, and economic development*
 - Deadline: Friday, April 30, 2021
 - Total estimated funding available: \$30 million
 - **Full grant guidelines**, [linked here](#)
- **[Rural Fire Capacity Program](#)**; *disaster prevention & relief*
 - Deadline: Tuesday, May 4, 2021
 - Total estimated funding available: \$1 million
 - **Full grant guidelines**, [linked here](#)
- **[Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Rounds 2 and 3 NOFA](#)**; *department of housing and community development*
 - Deadline: Friday, May 7, 2021
 - Total estimated funding available: \$77 million
 - **Full grant guidelines**, [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program – Round 6

[The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development](#) has created grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to eligible small businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 and the related health and safety restrictions. Lendistry has been designated by the state to act as the intermediary for the Program to disburse the grant funds.

The program is not on a “first come, first served” basis. Round 6 application period: Wednesday, April 28th through Tuesday, May 4th at 5:00PM Partners will provide technical assistance to business owners and nonprofits (to include translation/interpretation services) during application preparation and online submission. Once applications are received, Lendistry will process for eligibility. Once rounds close, grant awards will be distributed based on the program priority factors, including the COVID health and safety restrictions following California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, local county status and the new Regional Stay at Home Order which can be found at: <https://covid19.ca.gov/safereconomy/>. Lendistry will distribute grants on behalf of the State of California to approved small businesses and nonprofits.

“Small businesses” means entities that have yearly gross revenue of \$2.5 million or less based on most recent available tax return (2018 or 2019); must have minimum yearly gross revenue of \$1,000. “Small nonprofits” means registered 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit entities

that have yearly gross revenue of \$2.5 million or less based on most recent available Form 990 (2018 or 2019) and a minimum yearly gross revenue of \$1,000.

Eligible businesses must have a physical address and operate in California. Please see CAReliefGrant.com for additional eligibility information.

Visit CAReliefGrant.com to apply.

Round 5 is Wednesday, April 28th through **Tuesday, May 4th**. Notifications will begin **May 7, 2021**.

Eligible Round 1, 2, 3, and 5 applicants will automatically be entered in Round 5.

Total estimated funding available is \$729 million. To view the full guidelines, [please click here](#). To view the online application, [please click here](#).

California Underserved and Small Producers Program

[The California Department of Food and Agriculture](#) has designed the California Underserved and Small Producers (CUSP) Grant Program is designed to facilitate direct assistance to individual small-scale, mid-scale and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who need support applying for economic relief grant programs and assistance with business planning and marketing strategies.

The CUSP Grant Program has two components for which applicants can apply for one or both:

Part 1: Technical Assistance for Underserved Farmers and Ranchers – Funding for technical assistance providers to support farmers and ranchers in applying for economic relief grant programs and assistance with business planning and marketing strategies and other business economic recovery activities.

Part 2: Direct Grant Assistance for Underserved Farmers and Ranchers – Eligible entities are also able to apply as a “regional administrator” for grant funds to distribute directly to farmers and ranchers to aid in economic recovery and relief measures and/or leverage existing economic relief funding programs

The grant duration is two (2) years, beginning June 1, 2021 - March 31, 2023.

Eligible entities for the Technical Assistance Grants and/or administer the block grant funds for farmers/ranchers include: Non-profit organizations, Tribal Governments and Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs).

Entities applying for Technical Assistance grants referred to as Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) must meet the eligible criteria outlined on page 4 of the Request for Proposals.

The deadline to apply is **Monday, May 10, 2021**. The total estimated funding available is \$2 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [please click here](#).

Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program – Round 2

The Department of Housing and Community Development has created this grant program to finance the new construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of owner-occupied and rental units for agricultural workers, with a priority for lower income households.

This NOFA provides grants, deferred-payment loans, or a combination thereof, for the construction and rehabilitation of housing for agricultural workers and their families. To be eligible to apply for funding, the applicant shall be a local public entity, nonprofit corporation, limited liability company, or limited partnership, duly constituted governing body of an Indian reservation or rancheria or a tribally designated housing entity, having sufficient capacity (including financial resources, an office, staff, and payroll) and experience to carry out the proposed project as set forth in California Code of Regulations (CCR), §Section 7205. For-profit entities are not eligible Applicants.

New Construction or Rehabilitation Loans: Lien restrictions for assisted units are required for 55 years. Loans may be made in conjunction with low-income tax credit financing.

Homeowner Grants: For rehabilitation or new home construction, lien restrictions are required for 20 years. If the unit is sold to a non-farmworker buyer before completing the 10th year, the full grant amount must be repaid under most circumstances. Between the 10th and 20th anniversaries, the grant is forgiven at a rate of 10 percent per completed year. The grant is fully forgiven after completing 20 years.

The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, July 6, 2021**. The total estimated funding available is \$74 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [please click here](#).