



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (2/18/22)

Governor Newsom Signs \$1.9 Billion COVID Package to Bolster State's Ongoing Response

[The Office of Governor Newsom issued](#) a press release announcing that he has signed a \$1.9 billion early action measure to meet the state's immediate COVID response needs, including funding to boost testing capacity and vaccination efforts, support frontline workers, strengthen the health care system and battle misinformation, with a focus on the hardest-hit communities. The Administration continues to work with the Legislature through the budget process to advance an additional \$1.3 billion to support the state's ongoing pandemic response.

"California has led the nation's fight against COVID-19 with a comprehensive response that has saved countless lives. As we emerge from the Omicron surge, we're not letting our guard down," said Governor Newsom. "The COVID Emergency Response Package will ensure the state has the resources to continue tackling this challenge head-on, with funding to enhance our testing and vaccination efforts, support frontline workers, strengthen our health care systems and battle dangerous misinformation. I thank our legislative leaders for their continued commitment to protecting the health of our families and communities as we navigate the evolving pandemic."

Unveiled [in January](#), the Governor's proposed COVID Emergency Response Package initially included a \$1.4 billion emergency appropriation request, which expanded to \$1.9 billion to meet the state's changing needs in responding to the Omicron surge.

To view details as to what the \$1.9 billion emergency appropriation in SB 115 by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) includes, [click here](#).

Big COVID Changes Could Land in California

[CalMatters reports](#) as the omicron wave recedes, Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic lawmakers' plans for dealing with COVID-19 appear to be on a collision course.

On the one hand, Newsom's administration as soon as today could unveil portions of its strategy for treating COVID like any other virus, including by possibly lifting the statewide school mask mandate.

[Newsom in a Friday interview with NBC Bay Area](#) said, "We are in the process of transforming our public education system and moving out of this pandemic mindset. And that includes the masks — and that will happen. Question is when."

The governor last week also suggested that he would be ready to roll back the mandate [if it weren't for teachers unions](#). “They just asked for a little bit more time, and I think that’s responsible, and I respect that. But we are also in a date with destiny,” Newsom said.

Still, pressure is mounting on the governor to make an announcement — and fast. California’s statewide mask mandate for indoor businesses is set to expire for vaccinated residents after Tuesday — a milestone that will make schools’ strict face covering requirements stand out in even starker relief.

Democratic lawmakers, on the other hand, are doubling down on COVID mandates.

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks of Oakland [unveiled a sweeping proposal](#) Friday that would require all businesses — regardless of size — to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for all employees and independent contractors, except those who qualify for medical or religious exemptions considered valid by state regulators. Noncompliant businesses would face unspecified financial penalties.

Wicks’ bill is the latest to emerge from a vaccine work group of Democratic lawmakers. The group has also proposed requiring the COVID vaccine for all students except those granted rare medical exemptions, allowing kids 12 and older to get vaccinated without parental consent, and permitting schools to check students’ vaccination status in the state’s private immunization database.

Should those bills pass the state Legislature, it would be up to Newsom — who appears reluctant to impose more mandates on Californians — to decide whether to sign them into law.

California Bills Target Doctors, Websites Pushing Vaccine Misinformation

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) California lawmakers are targeting doctors and websites that promote COVID-19 misinformation in the latest batch of bills introduced by a group of Democrats pushing for stronger vaccination laws in the state.

Assembly Bill 2098 by Assembly member Evan Low (D-San Jose) would make it easier for the Medical Board of California to discipline doctors who promote COVID-19 misinformation by classifying it as unprofessional conduct. Low said the bill will make it clear that lawmakers want the state’s troubled medical board to go after doctors who peddle inaccurate information about the coronavirus.

Lawmakers have expressed frustration with the medical board’s slow complaint-driven process, which has allowed a handful of doctors in the state to promote conspiracy theories and treatments throughout the pandemic.

Nick Sawyer, an emergency room doctor who created a group called No License for Disinformation, said the bill would affect a small group of doctors who spread blatantly inaccurate and extreme misinformation that a physician knows to be false, or that they should know to be false given their medical training.

“This isn’t a call for a policing of free speech. This is a call for protecting the public against dangerous misinformation which patients are parroting back to us in our emergency room departments every day,” Sawyer said.

To read more on other pieces of legislation regarding this issue, [visit the full article](#).

Don't Ditch Your Mask Yet, California. You Still Need it in Lots of Places

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) California's universal indoor mask mandate expired at midnight Wednesday, but that doesn't mean you can ditch your mask. Even if you're up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations, there are still lots of places in the Golden State where you'll need to cover your nose and mouth.

Almost everyone — vaccinated or not — will [still have to wear a mask](#) when:

- In a hospital, medical clinic, dialysis center, dentist's office or any other place where healthcare is provided.
- In nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
- While taking public transportation. This includes Ubers, Lyfts and taxis in addition to buses and subways. Planes and ferries count too.
- In transportation hubs such as airports, train stations, marinas and bus terminals.
- When indoors at a K-12 school or child-care center.
- In homeless shelters.
- In correctional facilities, including jails, prisons and other detention centers.
- In emergency shelters established for those displaced by wildfires and other disasters.
- In cooling and heating centers set up during bouts of extreme heat or extreme cold.

If you're [unvaccinated](#), California also requires masks when you're:

- Indoors in a restaurant, retail store, movie theater or other business.
- Inside a government building or other public setting.

Even though vaccinated people will have the freedom to go maskless in these indoor environments, the state Department of Public Health recommends that vaccinated people continue to cover their noses and mouths "when the risk may be high."

For now, only certain categories of people are allowed to go without masks. To view these categories, [view the full article](#).

Some local health authorities have their own mask rules that are stricter than the state's. In L.A., Santa Clara and Mendocino counties, you'll need to [keep wearing a mask](#) inside businesses, government offices and other public indoor settings even if you're fully vaccinated.

California Adopts Nation's 1st 'Endemic' Virus Policy

[KTLA reports](#) Governor Newsom on Thursday announced the first shift by a state to an "endemic" approach to the coronavirus pandemic that emphasizes prevention and quick reactions to outbreaks over mandates, a milestone nearly two years in the making that harkens to a return to a more normal existence.

Newsom said the approach — which includes pushing back against false claims and other misinformation — means maintaining a wary watchfulness attuned to warning signs of the next deadly new surge or variant.

"This disease is not going away," he told The Associated Press in advance of his formal announcement. "It's not the end of the quote, unquote, war."

A disease reaches the endemic stage when the virus still exists in a community but becomes manageable as immunity builds. But there will be no definitive turn of the switch, the Democratic governor said, unlike the case with Wednesday's lifting of the [state's indoor masking requirements](#) or an announcement coming Feb. 28 of when precisely the school mask-wearing mandate will end.

And there will be no immediate lifting of the dozens of remaining executive emergency orders that have helped run the state since Newsom imposed the nation's first statewide stay-home order in March 2020.

"This pandemic won't have a defined end. There's no finish line," he told the AP. With that in mind, he said his administration tried to craft "a plan that allows us to be prepared without being paranoid and more alert to what's happening around us without being anxious."

To read more on Governor Newsom's plan moving forward, [visit the full article](#).

3 Killed in Head-on Crash in Folsom

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) three people were killed in a head-on collision Tuesday afternoon in Folsom, near the dam and prison, police said.

A black Toyota Camry and a red Chrysler 300 collided on Folsom Lake Crossing near Gun Range Road and Folsom Dam Road around 3:45 p.m., Folsom Police Department spokesman Officer Andrew Graham said Wednesday morning. The Toyota driver was a man in his early 30s from Roseville and the Chrysler driver was a man in his late 60s from the El Dorado County town of Rescue, Graham said. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

A woman in her mid-70s, the wife of the Chrysler driver, was taken to a hospital where she succumbed to her injuries later Tuesday, Graham said.

There were no other occupants in the two vehicles, he said.

"At this time, we do not suspect drug or alcohol involvement," Graham said. The cause of the collision remains under investigation.

Folsom Lake Crossing reopened after about a five-hour closure, Graham said.

The victims' identities will be released by the Sacramento County Coroner's Office pending notification of family.

California Commissioner, Emergency Agencies Issue 'Safer from Wildfires' Framework

[The Insurance Journal reports](#) California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and emergency management leaders in Gov. Gavin Newsom's Administration on Monday announced, "Safer from Wildfires," an insurance framework that incorporates wildfire safety measures while intending to make homes and businesses more resilient.

"Safer from Wildfires" is a three-layer plan that lists actions to protect the structure, the immediate surroundings, and the entire community.

Lara initiated the partnership in February 2021 with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Governor's Office of Planning and

Research, and the California Public Utilities Commission after hearing about this issue in meetings with homeowners across California.

The Safer from Wildfires framework includes community-wide approaches designed to help prevent wildfires from catching and spreading to other homes and businesses in the neighborhood.

The list of [proposed mitigation actions](#) is available to download from the California Department of Insurance website.

California Sets New Home Standards to Lower Fire Risk, Including Fire-Resistant Roofs

[KTLA reports](#) a fire-resistant roof, at least 5 feet of defensible space around a home, a clearly defined evacuation route in a neighborhood and the removal of vegetation overgrowth in a community are some of the new statewide insurance standards to reduce the wildfire risk of older homes, California officials announced Monday.

“Reducing the wildfire risk is critical to making insurance available, reliable and affordable for all Californians,” Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara said.

Dubbed “Safer from Wildfires,” the [new standards announced Monday outline actions](#) to harden homes, their immediate surroundings and the communities they are in, measures that insurance companies should consider for homes and businesses.

California has existing wildfire building standards for homes built after 2008. But as catastrophic wildfires drive up the cost of insuring homes, the new standards would prompt insurance companies to offer discounts, providing incentives for retrofitting older homes, Lara said.

There are 12 insurance companies representing 40% of the insurance market already offering discounts to homeowners taking hardening measures. Three years ago, only 7% of the market was offered such discounts, Lara said.

But he said he wants to see broader discount programs and thinks a uniform set of standards, based on scientific research, will give homeowners, communities and insurance companies a shared strategy for reducing wildfire risks.

“The framework will help me as a regulator of the nation’s largest insurance market to expand insurance incentives to homes and businesses and that will save money and encourage safety,” he said.

The guidelines follow a year of work by the insurance commissioner and four state agencies charged with wildfire response and prevention.

The participating agencies include the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Public Utilities Commission and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

Since 2017, nearly 50,000 homes have been destroyed by wildfires in California and taking proactive steps to protect properties before a fire starts is critical, said Mark Ghilarducci, director of the state’s Office of Emergency Services.

Homeowners and communities will have access to millions of dollars from state and federal grants to help them make their homes and neighborhoods more resilient, officials said.

Stronger California, a coalition of homeowners insurers, said it welcomed the new standards, which reflect input from many stakeholders across the state.

Take Time to Prepare Before a Significant Earthquake to Survive and Recover

[San Diego County News Centers reports](#) earthquakes happen every day in California. Nearly all are so minor they go unnoticed. But [one long-range scientific model](#) forecasts a 6.7 magnitude will happen sometime in California in the next 12 years. Yet, the warning for a specific earthquake doesn't come more than a few seconds ahead. That means the only time to prepare for a significant earthquake is before one happens.

As part of Earthquake Preparedness Month in California, the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services recommends residents have a plan to protect themselves in the event of an earthquake and practice what to do.

“Taking steps to prepare now could reduce injuries and damage to your home and help your household recover in the event of a significant earthquake,” said Jeff Toney, director of the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services. “Many of these suggestions are cost-free and take just minutes to do. It’s important not to put emergency preparedness off.”

Download, the [SD Emergency app](#) which now has ShakeReadySD earthquake early warning technology, powered by [ShakeAlert®](#), a product of the U.S. Geological Survey. The ShakeReadySD technology is designed to trigger an alert to your cellphone if you are in a location close enough to an earthquake with a magnitude 4.5 or greater with a shaking intensity of 3 or greater. If an earthquake has occurred nearby that is likely to cause shaking within seconds, the app will urge users to take protective action such as drop, cover and hold on or another appropriate safety measure.

Learn and practice [Drop, Cover and Hold On and other safety measures](#) to take during shaking from an earthquake.

Learn what your risk is for an earthquake using this [online tool](#).

Update your [personal disaster plan](#). Templates are available in 12 languages and for people who may need assistance. A mobile version is also part of the SD Emergency app. Discuss with household members to include reunion locations since you may not be with your loved ones when a quake occurs, emergency supplies such as water, non-perishable food, specialized foods for infants, pets, first aid supplies, radios, flashlights, batteries and extra medications.

Sausalito Declares State of Emergency Over ‘Dangerous’ Activities in Homeless Encampment

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) the city of Sausalito declared a local emergency Thursday due to what city officials said were dangerous conditions in and around a park that the city has allowed homeless people to live in.

In an emergency proclamation, Sausalito City Manager and Director of Emergency Services Chris Zapata said that dangerous and sometimes criminal activity at Marinship Park and the

nearby tennis courts, where the city moved the homeless encampment from a previous location, were creating “conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property” in the area.

According to the proclamation, people in the park have set fires and caused explosions, used alcohol and other drugs publicly, been violent or threatened violence, and defaced or damaged both public and private property.

“These conditions are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the City,” the proclamation states. “The aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency.”

Sausalito Mayor Janelle Kellman said in a statement that the emergency declaration was “a clear signal to Marin County leaders that our small town needs extra resources from the county; money and manpower to deal with this crisis.”

The emergency was declared less than 24 hours after a fire and explosion destroyed two tents at the encampment. Debra Ellen Hazelwood, 61, one of the encampment residents, told police she had used a cigarette lighter to set fire to two tents: her own and another one nearby that had a propane tank inside, which exploded, Sausalito police said in a statement. Hazelwood was arrested and her bail was set at \$150,000. She was charged with arson, police said.

The city has offered all of the encampment’s residents shelter as part of the encampment’s move to the tennis courts, Kellman said, but those residents have been [turned away from city shelters before](#), and many [have felt betrayed or ignored](#) by city leaders.

Robbie Powelson, president of the Marin County Homeless Union, said he thought that the emergency declaration was an insulting gesture by the city and that it would not result in any real solutions.

“The state of emergency, I think it’s a state of absurdity,” Powelson told The Chronicle. “How many people are they going to get housed with that declaration?”

The proclamation came a few hours after city crews destroyed two tiny homes outside the tennis courts, Powelson said. Encampment residents had built the small shelters to stay dry after [storms in December damaged residents’ tents](#) and left them living on a muddy field. The residents had decorated the sheds and painted murals on them, he said.

Blue Shield of California Provides \$150k in Support to Help Address Poverty, Homelessness, and Food Insecurity in the San Joaquin Valley

[Blue Shield of California issued](#) a press release Tuesday announcing \$150,000 in community investments in the San Joaquin Valley to promote health equity and help build healthy families.

Six community-based organizations throughout the region [will each receive](#) \$25,000 to help support initiatives that provide fresh groceries, hands-on job training, and housing services.

“Basic needs such as access to nutritious food and housing are critical for creating equitable health for all,” said Kristen Cerf, president and CEO, Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan. “We are very honored to collaborate with local organizations and provide our support on projects that build healthier communities. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout the San Joaquin Valley.”

One of those nonprofits is the [Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance](#), a consortium of partners that includes homeless service providers, advocacy groups, government agencies, and homeless individuals who collaborate to address the needs of the unhoused in the San Joaquin Valley.

“With the pandemic still in full swing and the economy not lifting up all people, these are critical times,” said Miguel Perez, executive director of the Alliance. “This funding from Blue Shield is coming at the right time for us and will be a huge lift as we continue to provide our most vulnerable community members with the resources they need to flourish.”

To view the list of additional organizations receiving Blue Shield’s support, [view the full press release](#).

Governor Newsom Announces \$38 Million in Grants to Combat Youth Homelessness

[The Office of Governor Newsom announced](#) \$38 million in new grants for community-based organizations across the state through the Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing Program. The grants will allow local service providers to deliver temporary housing and supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness.

“These grants will provide relief and emergency support to young people across California experiencing homelessness, who are too often left in dire situations to fend for themselves,” said Governor Newsom. “We’re providing immediate aid for those living on our streets – bringing resources and services directly to young people in need and helping them onto a path towards a stable future.”

The grants are being distributed through the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to 12 community-based organizations from San Diego to Humboldt for local partners to provide youth experiencing homelessness with access to a range of housing options that meet their needs, as well as mental health support with crisis intervention and stabilization services.

“This funding represents an important lifeline in protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our communities,” said Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci. “Through the partnership with these community-based organizations we are able to provide meaningful support and change lives.”

“Addressing youth homelessness takes a village,” said Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez, who serves as Co-Chair of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. “This is why this investment in community-based organizations that make up the village and provide bridges of support to young people is an important part of our efforts to prevent and end homelessness.”

To view the list of organizations that were awarded Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing grants, [click here](#).

Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Law Enforcement – Large Size Law Enforcement Organizations/Agencies; law, justice, and legal system**
 - Funded by: California Highway Patrol
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, February 23, 2022**
 - Total estimated funding: \$13 million

- **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **Toxicology Driving Under the Influence/Driving Under the Influence of Drugs: Crime Laboratories;** *science, technology, and research & development*
 - Funded by: California Highway Patrol
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, February 23, 2022**
 - Total estimated funding: \$6 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **Law Enforcement – Small and Mid-Size Law Enforcement Organizations/Agencies;** *law, justice, and legal services*
 - Funded by: California Highway Patrol
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, February 23, 2022**
 - Total estimated funding: \$12 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **Toxicology Driving Under the Influence/Driving Under the Influence of Drugs: Medical Examiners/Coroner’s Offices, and Law Enforcement Coroner’s Divisions;** *law, justice, and legal services; science, technology, and research development*
 - Funded by: California Highway Patrol
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, February 23, 2022**
 - Total estimated funding: \$6 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

2022 Listos California Cert Support Grant (LC) Program RFP

[The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this funding to provide funding to new and existing CERT programs to support projects that help prepare vulnerable and underserved populations.

The purpose of the Listos California CERT Support Grant Program is to provide funding to new and existing CERT programs to support projects that help prepare vulnerable and underserved populations including: providing CERT training in languages other than English, providing CERT training to underserved and/or populations that are at high risk for disasters, providing accommodations for training participants that have access or functional needs, such as ESL interpretation, and building capacity to respond to disasters.

The Applicant must be registered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website as an existing CERT program, a new CERT program approved by the California State CERT Administrator, a CERT program Sponsoring Agency or a fiscal agent representing the CERT program. For new CERT Programs, approval from the California State CERT Administrator must be included in the grant submission packet.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$500k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 Listos California Target Grant (LG) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this funding to support organizations that serve populations with key social vulnerability factors located in areas at moderate to high risk from natural hazard. Targeted community-based organizations throughout the state, can work independently or subgrant to provide disaster training and resources to vulnerable and diverse populations. This work is intended to increase their communities' disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

The LG Program is to support organizations throughout California that serve populations with key social vulnerability factors located in areas at moderate to high risk from natural hazard. Targeted community-based organizations throughout the state, referred to as Target CBOs, can work independently or subgrant with local CBOs to provide disaster training and resources to vulnerable and diverse populations. This work is intended to increase their communities' disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.

To be eligible, Applicants must be a nonprofit organization with 501c(3) status serving communities within the target service areas (See Attachment A). Each Applicant must identify its entire organization's service area not restricted by jurisdictional boundaries.

Applicants must also be registered and current in reporting with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$6 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 Listos California Tribal Grant (LI) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program to support federally-recognized tribes located in California that serve populations in areas at moderate to high risk from natural hazard. Tribal governments can work independently, with other tribal governments, or with local CBOs to provide disaster training and resources to vulnerable and diverse populations. This work is intended to increase their communities' disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

The LI Program is to support federally- recognized tribes located in California that serve populations in areas at moderate to high risk from natural hazard. Tribal governments can work independently, with other tribal governments, or with local CBOs to provide disaster training and resources to vulnerable and diverse populations.

This work is intended to increase their communities' disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.

Socially vulnerable populations include those who have special needs, such as, but not limited to, people without vehicles, people with disabilities, older adults, and people with limited English proficiency.

The Listos California Grant Program is comprised of multiple entities, the LI Program being a critical one. The other entities will all compete for other grant funding.

Applicants must be a federally-recognized tribe with administrative offices located in California.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$1 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 Listos California Statewide Grant (LS) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program to support organizations that serve populations with key social vulnerability factors located in areas at moderate to high risk from natural hazard. Community-based organizations throughout the state, can work independently or subgrant, to provide disaster training and resources to vulnerable and diverse populations. This work is intended to increase their communities' disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

The LS Program is to support organizations throughout California that serve populations with key social vulnerability factors located in areas at moderate to high risk from natural hazard. Community-based organizations throughout the state referred to as CBOs, can work independently or subgrant with local CBOs to provide disaster training and resources to vulnerable and diverse populations. This work is intended to increase their communities' disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.

Applicants must be a nonprofit organization with 501c(3) status serving communities other than those eligible within the Listos California Target Grant Program. Each Applicant must identify its entire organization's service area not restricted by jurisdictional boundaries.

Applicants must also be registered and current in reporting with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$8 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).