



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (8/5/22)

Governor Newsom Proclaims State of Emergency in Siskiyou County Due to McKinney and Other Fires

[The Office of Governor Newsom issued](#) a statement on Saturday proclaiming a state of emergency for Siskiyou County due to the effects of the McKinney Fire, which has destroyed homes, threatened critical infrastructure and forced the evacuation of almost 2,000 residents. Intensified and spread by dry fuels, extreme drought conditions, high temperatures, winds and lightning storms, the McKinney Fire has burned more than 29,500 acres since it began.

Two additional fires in Siskiyou County, the China 2 and Evans fires, have merged and burned more than 300 acres, prompting evacuation warnings for more than 200 residents.

A state of emergency allows for more flexibility in the face of an unfolding crisis, including the suspension of regulatory statutes that may impede the emergency response and recovery efforts. It also helps access federal aid and unlock certain state resources. This proclamation also triggers the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, allowing firefighting resources from other states to assist California crews in battling the fires.

The text of today's emergency proclamation can be found [here](#).

CAL FIRE and Cal OES Fire and Rescue personnel are working with state, local and federal agencies in response to the fast-moving fire. The State Operations Center is actively coordinating the state's fire response, dispatching mutual aid and addressing emergency management needs.

At Least 60 Pacific Crest Trail Hikers Rescued as McKinney Fire Bears Down

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) dozens of hikers were rescued from the Pacific Crest Trail over the weekend as the McKinney fire continues to ravage Northern California's Klamath National Forest.

Sixty people were rescued Saturday afternoon on the California side of the trail at Red Buttes Wilderness, officials with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office in Oregon said. The evacuation was an assist with the Siskiyou County sheriff's search and rescue team.

"The difference with the hikers on the trail is they're not as mobile," Jackson County sheriff's public information officer Aaron Lewis said. "[We] went to trailheads near roads and started gathering hikers. They weren't necessarily in immediate danger."

The hikers were transported from Road Junction 1055 to Seattle Bar at Applegate Lake before being taken to Medford or Ashland, Oregon authorities said.

The fire is blowing smoke and ash into Jackson County, but there wasn't a direct threat to the community as of the weekend, officials said.

The U.S. Forest Service has closed 110 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail through Aug. 30 because of the fire. The [closure](#) is from Etna Summit in Northern California to Mt. Ashland Campground in southern Oregon.

Violators of the emergency closure could face fines of \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization and up to six months in jail.

Death Toll in Northern California Wildfire Zone Rises to Four

[AP News reports](#) two more bodies were found within the burn zone of a huge Northern California wildfire, raising the death toll to four in the state's largest blaze of the year, authorities said Tuesday.

Search teams discovered the additional bodies Monday at separate residences along State Route 96, one of the only roads in and out of the remote region near the state line with Oregon, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

"This brings the confirmed fatality number to four," the sheriff's statement said. "At this time there are no unaccounted-for persons." Other details were not immediately disclosed.

Sheriff's officials said two bodies were also found Sunday inside a charred vehicle in the driveway of a home near the tiny unincorporated community of Klamath River, which was largely destroyed in the McKinney Fire.

The fire jumped the Klamath River over the weekend and raged through the tiny community of about 200, destroying many of the homes along with the post office, community hall and other scattered businesses.

More than 100 homes, sheds and other buildings have burned in the McKinney Fire since it erupted last Friday. The blaze remained out of control, authorities said.

Thunderstorms dumped some much-needed rain on Monday and into Tuesday even as temperatures hit the 90s Fahrenheit (above 32.2 Celsius) and the brush, fields and forest remained generally bone-dry.

But the storms also meant a threat of lightning strikes that already sparked several small blazes, and the National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch through late Tuesday night because of concerns that heavy rain could send rocks, mud and water pouring down the fire-scorched slopes.

In addition, the moisture and storms were "creating an unstable atmosphere which may make firefighting conditions much more hazardous with wind speeds potentially reaching 50 mph (80 kph) during those storms," fire officials [said](#).

However, the fire didn't grow on Tuesday, and fire officials said crews were able to use bulldozers to carve firebreaks along a ridge to protect homes and buildings in the county seat of Yreka.

The Northern California wildfire has burned more than 88 square miles (228 square kilometers) and is the largest of several wildfires burning in the Klamath National Forest. A smaller fire near the tiny community of Happy Camp forced evacuations and road closures as it burned out of control Tuesday. Still more fires are raging in the Western U.S., threatening thousands of homes.

Scientists have said climate change has made the West warmer and drier over the last three decades and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

McKinney Fire Has Hit the Stratosphere, Spewing the 'Fire-Breathing Dragon of Clouds'

[*The Los Angeles Times* reports](#) a fire big enough to make its own lightning used to be as rare as it sounds.

But the McKinney fire, which erupted Friday, generated four separate thunder and lightning storms within its first 24 hours alone. A deadly combination of intense heat, parched vegetation and dry conditions has turned the 55,000-acre blaze in the Klamath National Forest into its own force of nature.

Four separate times, columns of smoke rose from the flames beyond the altitude at which a typical jet flies, penetrating the stratosphere and injecting a plume of soot and ash miles above the Earth's surface. It's a phenomenon known as a pyrocumulonimbus cloud, a byproduct of fire that NASA once [memorably described](#) as "the fire-breathing dragon of clouds."

In Siskiyou County, the water in these clouds returned to Earth as rain, accompanied by thunder, wind and lightning, in "a classic example of a wildfire producing its own weather," said David Peterson, a meteorologist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, which has developed an algorithm to distinguish fire-induced thunderstorms from traditional ones.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of [the McKinney fire](#), which grew rapidly in hilly, challenging terrain and was uncontained as of Tuesday.

Mike Flannigan, a fire scientist at Thompson Rivers University in western Canada, said he isn't shocked to see fires this powerful. The data have been pointing in this direction for years. He just didn't think they'd be happening this soon.

"What we're seeing in the western United States and in British Columbia in the last few years, I would not have expected to see until 2040," Flannigan said. "The signal is clear: this is due to human-caused climate change. It can't be any clearer than that. It's happening more rapidly than I would have expected. This is my field, and this is surprising how rapidly things are changing."

It isn't just that wildfires are more powerful, more frequent and burning more acreage each year than ever before, he said. The energy generated by these conflagrations is also creating columns of smoke so big that they leave the troposphere, the bottom layer of the atmosphere that wraps the Earth "like an apple skin," as Flannigan put it.

The troposphere is where weather happens, and where eye-searing clouds of smoke and soot circulate even from moderately sized fires. But when a smoke column such as those emanating

from the McKinney fire shoots through that layer and enters the stratosphere — the higher, more stable layer above — it creates havoc with local weather and seeds the Earth’s atmosphere with aerosol pollutants whose consequence science is still sorting out.

Days before the McKinney fire broke out, researchers from the University of Utah published a [new study](#) in the journal Scientific Reports documenting the growth of smoke plumes in wildfires over most of the last two decades.

To read further on the new study and other details surrounding the McKinney Fire, [visit the full article](#).

Rain Soaks Deadly McKinney Fire, Shifting Some Concern to Northern California Mudslides

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) a monsoonal rainstorm doused the McKinney Fire on Tuesday evening, quelling fire behavior on the deadly Northern California blaze while also introducing mudflow and flash flooding risks in nearby parts of Siskiyou County.

The [U.S. Forest Service on Wednesday morning reported the McKinney Fire at 57,519 acres](#), or 90 square miles, with containment reported at 0%. The blaze ignited Friday afternoon in Klamath National Forest and grew explosively over the weekend, amid thunderstorms that stirred up heavy wind gusts.

At least four people died in the fire. Two were found Saturday in a burned-out vehicle along a residential driveway, and two others were discovered by search crews Monday at separate homes. All three residences were along Highway 96.

A contractor working on the fire was injured Tuesday night, authorities said.

“Last night we had a bridge give out near Humbug Road within the evacuation zone,” the Sheriff’s Office wrote in an update to social media Wednesday morning. “The individual inside was a private contractor working the fire and was taken to a nearby hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.”

Fire isn’t the only problem after Tuesday’s rains. A mudflow around 8 p.m. Tuesday was “washing down entire trees and other debris” in the Whitney Creek area, the Siskiyou County Sheriff’s Office said in social media posts.

“The berm holding Whitney Creek is at severe risk” of breaking or overflowing, which could flood the Mount Shasta Vista area, the Sheriff’s Office said Tuesday.

Flash flood and debris mudflow warnings were issued for southwest Mount Shasta Vista and Juniper Valley and remained in place as of 8 a.m. Wednesday. Residents in those areas should be ready to evacuate on short notice.

The highest flash flood danger as of Tuesday evening was not in the immediate area of the McKinney Fire, with Tuesday’s evacuations about 15 miles southeast of Yreka.

More than 1,800 personnel are assigned to the McKinney Fire, according to the Forest Service.

Crews braced Monday and Tuesday for additional scattered thunderstorms with potential to stoke flames with heavy gusts or ignite new fire starts via lightning, but no major flare-ups have been

reported on the blaze since the weekend. After exploding to 55,000 acres by Monday morning, it has grown by fewer than 3,000 acres since.

Fire crews on Monday finished constructing bulldozer lines around Yreka to protect the city, which is home to about 7,500 people.

The Forest Service in a Tuesday incident report said the containment plan for the next 24 hours involves “direct and indirect line construction in all branches as weather has moderated fire behavior.”

The monsoon system continues to linger over Northern California. The National Weather Service office in Eureka issued a “hazardous weather outlook” advisory for northern Trinity County, advising of more isolated thunderstorms possible Wednesday afternoon and evening.

McKinney Fire is ‘Waking Back Up’ Despite Rain that Poured Over Parts of the Deadly Blaze

[The Orange County Register reports](#) despite strong thunderstorms that poured rain over parts of the McKinney Fire Tuesday evening, firefighters in far Northern California are preparing for a renewed, taxing battle against the deadly blaze.

Tuesday’s showers stopped the fire from gaining significant ground and allowed firefighters to take a more “offensive approach,” according to fire officials. But the storms caused substantial debris runoff, which created additional hazards for crews, including downed trees and treacherous mud and rockfall.

As temperatures warm back up and fuels dry out, officials are expecting to see an increase in dangerous fire activity once again.

“We’re looking at some pretty critical fire weather,” said U.S. Forest Service spokesperson Mike Lindbery, noting that temperatures are anticipated to rise about 100 degrees early next week. “And what we’re starting to see right now is the beginning of the fire waking back up.”

The McKinney Fire grew 1,210 acres in the past 24 hours and stood at 57,519 acres as of mid-day Wednesday with 0% containment. The eastern flank of the fire received as much as 3 inches of rain on Tuesday while parts of the western flank received less than half an inch, if any rain at all.

“The rain was beneficial, but there’s still lots of work to be done,” said Charles Smith, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Medford, Oregon. “Even with all that rain, there’s still smoke coming from the center and western edges of the fire.”

For further details, [visit the full article](#).

Firefighters Notch Some Containment on 57,000-acre McKinney Fire for First Time

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) rain allowed firefighters to ramp up their efforts on the massive McKinney fire, which is now 10% contained, officials said during a community meeting Wednesday in Fort Jones, Calif.

The blaze, which has charred 57,519 acres, continued to burn slowly in Siskiyou County as authorities lifted some evacuation orders. [Four bodies](#) have been found in its path.

The Yeti Complex and Alex fires burning nearby were listed at 2,986 acres and 151 acres, respectively, according to the Klamath National Forest. Both were 0% contained.

Ten evacuation zones — seven in Yreka and three in the county — have been downgraded to warnings, officials said Wednesday night. The affected areas are primarily in Yreka from Fairchild Street and Shasta Avenue west to the edge of the residential district.

Residents in those zones can return to their homes, but authorities stressed caution and warned that anyone in the area should still be prepared to leave if warnings change to orders.

Officials referred residents to community.zonehaven.com for up-to-date information on evacuation orders and warnings.

Phil Anzo, a unit chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said the recent rainfall allowed crews to go up to the fire's edge and build containment lines, but he emphasized that the work is far from over.

Though the rain tamped down portions of the fire, it created some challenges for firefighters, said Dennis Burns, a fire behavior analyst with California Interagency Incident Management Team 2.

Matt Conklin, an operations section chief also with Team 2, noted the rain produced [some debris flows](#) in the Humbug Creek area that caused delays as crews cleaned up.

And after years of drought, fuels have dried so much that the rain did little other than temporarily slow the fire, Burns said.

Some fuels in the burn area are sitting at 4% to 6% moisture, he said, compared with the typical 11% moisture of kiln-dried wood purchased from a lumber yard.

For further details, [visit the full article](#).

Firefighters Stop Marmot Fire from Advancing on Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

The Los Angeles Times reports a wildfire south of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks has burned through 127 acres, but fire officials said they've stopped the fire's movement for now.

The Marmot fire was sparked Tuesday afternoon southeast of Three Rivers, a small community in Tulare County that's near the national parks. The fire threatened homes, but officials have issued only evacuation warnings to residents in the area.

The fire was burning near South Fork Drive and Cinnamon Canyon Road.

The Tulare County Sheriff's Office issued evacuation warnings for the area, including along Cinnamon Canyon Drive into the parks, telling residents to be ready to evacuate. By Wednesday, the Sheriff's Office had lifted the warning, but the area at South Fork Drive and Mountain Road 319 remained closed.

On Wednesday morning, officials from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the fire was 15% contained. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

‘It Scares the Heck Out of Me’: California’s Federal Firefighter Shortage Has Gotten Dramatically Worse

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) as California’s wildfire season ramps up, the number of federal firefighters in the state is down — way down — plummeting to its lowest level in years, despite pledges by fire officials to have boosted the ranks before a potentially busy summer.

The U.S. Forest Service, which operates the nation’s largest wildland fire force, entered the summer months with about 25% fewer firefighters in California than it had planned for, according to federal records obtained by The Chronicle. This translates into nearly 1,300 unfilled jobs.

The lack of staffing means less capacity to put out fires and protect people and property. It comes as the state has seen record burning over the past two years and, with the continuing drought, remains poised for another difficult year. Recently, crews have been tested by the still-out-of-control McKinney Fire, which exploded in the Klamath National Forest near the Oregon border and has killed at least four people, as well as by a pair of big blazes in and around Yosemite National Park.

While Forest Service administrators say they sought to do more hiring during the offseason to deal with the onslaught of fire, they acknowledge their efforts fell short, citing factors largely beyond their control.

“We have struggled to fill positions in some areas of the country, especially in the Pacific Northwest and California, where the labor pool is low and pay isn’t as competitive as we would like it to be,” said Michelle Burnett, spokeswoman for the Forest Service, in a statement to The Chronicle.

Staffing, which has never been easy for the agency, began to be a problem two years ago. Many employees decided to move on from the manually difficult and often time-intensive work of firefighting during the coronavirus pandemic and after fatigue set in from California’s increasingly long fire seasons.

The state’s high cost of living is part of the reason. Entry-level wages for Forest Service firefighters is \$15 an hour, barely in keeping with California’s minimum wage and much less than the more than \$20 an hour that new employees can make at the state’s Cal Fire agency.

Currently, the Forest Service has about 3,700 permanent and temporary employees who at least partially work on fire suppression in the Pacific Southwest Region, which is almost entirely California — it also includes Hawaii. The numbers were obtained by The Chronicle from the Forest Service through an information request.

The agency’s target for the region this year was 5,000 total employees, which was how many people were on the job three years earlier, records show. Last year, just under 4,000 worked at peak season.

For further details on this ongoing issue, [visit the full article](#).

California Sends Urban Search and Rescue Team to Kentucky to Assist with Flooding Rescue and Recovery Efforts

[Cal OES News reports](#) Governor Gavin Newsom, through the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and in response to a request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has approved the deployment of five California-based members of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Incident Support Team (IST) to help coordinate federal search & rescue operations at the disastrous flooding that struck the State of Kentucky. This deployment began Thursday, July 28, and is expected to continue through the lengthy search and rescue operations in Kentucky.

These urban search and rescue specialists will use their highly developed knowledge, command and control skills, and disaster response experience to help local, state and federal officials assigning and coordinating the efforts of water rescue elements of FEMA US&R Task Forces deployed from multiple states to conduct search and rescue operations in hard-hit parts of Kentucky. The state of California stands ready to provide further assistance as requested.

Since 1992, California-based State/National US&R Task Forces have been deployed to a long list of other state, national, and even international disasters including 2017’s Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, 1992 Hurricane Iniki (Hawaii), the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing, Hurricane Katrina, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami catastrophe, several hurricanes, the earthquake disaster near Mexico City and in Nepal.

For more information, [click here](#).

Governor Newsom Proclaims State of Emergency to Support State’s Response to Monkeypox

[The Office of Governor Newsom issued](#) a statement declaring a State of Emergency to bolster the state’s vaccination efforts. The proclamation supports the work underway by the California Department of Public Health and others in the administration to coordinate a whole-of-government response to monkeypox, seek additional vaccines and lead outreach and education efforts on accessing vaccines and treatment.

“California is working urgently across all levels of government to slow the spread of monkeypox, leveraging our robust testing, contact tracing and community partnerships strengthened during the pandemic to ensure that those most at risk are our focus for vaccines, treatment and outreach,” said Governor Newsom. “We’ll continue to work with the federal government to secure more vaccines, raise awareness about reducing risk, and stand with the LGBTQ community fighting stigmatization.”

To expand vaccination efforts, the proclamation enables Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel to administer monkeypox vaccines that are approved by the FDA, similar to the statutory authorization recently enacted for pharmacists to administer vaccines. The state’s response to monkeypox builds on the infrastructure developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to deploy vaccine clinics and ensure inclusive and targeted outreach in partnership with local and community-based organizations.

A copy of the emergency proclamation can be found [here](#).

What Californians Need to Know About Monkeypox

[The New York Times reports](#) California this week became the latest state to step up its response to monkeypox, with Gov. Gavin Newsom [declaring a state of emergency](#) on Monday because of the growing outbreak.

There have been roughly 800 cases so far in California, with the most per capita in San Francisco, which declared its own state of emergency last week. On Tuesday, Los Angeles County, which has had more than half of California's monkeypox cases, also issued an emergency proclamation, and officials announced that a child in Long Beach had contracted the virus.

If you're feeling worried about another pandemic, it's important to remember that monkeypox is unlikely to become the next Covid-19, Knvul Sheikh explains. Monkeypox is rarely fatal and not as contagious as Covid, and we've had tests and vaccines for the virus for years.

But vaccine supply is limited, and the shots aren't widely available to the public. For the most part, they're being given to people who know they've been exposed to the virus, as the vaccine can help prevent an infection from developing even after exposure.

California has received 61,000 vaccine doses from the federal government so far and has distributed 25,000, according to Newsom's office. But state officials estimate that they need at least 600,000 additional doses.

That's a conservative estimate that would cover men who have sex with men — who account for about 99 percent of cases — and people who engage in other behaviors that put them at high risk of contracting the virus, according to a [letter](#) that California officials sent last month to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director.

To learn more about what you should know surrounding Monkeypox, [view the full article](#).

Biden Names FEMA, CDC Officials to Head Monkeypox Response

[KFYR TV reports](#) President Joe Biden is set to name top officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as the White House coordinators to combat the growing monkeypox outbreak.

The White House said Biden will announce Tuesday that he has tapped Robert Fenton, who helped lead FEMA's mass vaccination effort for COVID-19 as the agency's acting administrator when Biden first took office, as the White House coordinator. Dr. Demetre Daskalakis of the CDC will be named his deputy. Daskalakis, the director of the agency's HIV prevention division and a national expert on issues affecting the LGBTQ community, previously helped lead New York City's COVID-19 response.

The White House said the pair would coordinate “strategy and operations to combat the current monkeypox outbreak, including equitably increasing the availability of tests, vaccinations and treatments.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert and Biden's top science adviser, praised their appointments Monday night and said he hoped they would tighten the coordination between the various federal agencies involved in the monkeypox response.

The monkeypox virus spreads through prolonged and close skin-to-skin contact, including hugging, cuddling and kissing, as well as sharing bedding, towels and clothing. People getting

sick so far have been primarily men who have sex with men. But health officials emphasize that the virus can infect anyone. The virus may cause fever, body aches, chills, fatigue and pimple-like bumps on many parts of the body.

The U.S. saw its first case of the monkeypox virus confirmed on May 18 and now has over 5,800 confirmed infections.

The announcement of the coordinator and deputy coordinator mirrors the Biden administration's response to COVID-19, when the president centralized virus response operations out of the West Wing, first under Jeff Zients and now with Dr. Ashish Jha.

Scientists say that, unlike campaigns to stop COVID-19, mass vaccinations against monkeypox won't be necessary. They think targeted use of the available doses, along with other measures, could shut down the expanding epidemics that were recently designated by the World Health Organization as a global health emergency.

Still, the Biden administration has faced criticism over the pace of vaccine availability for monkeypox. Clinics in major cities like New York and San Francisco say they haven't received enough of the two-shot vaccine to meet demand, and some have had to stop offering the second dose of the vaccine to ensure supply of first doses. The White House said it has made more than 1.1 million doses of vaccine available and has helped to boost domestic diagnostic capacity to 80,000 tests per week.

California on Monday became the second state in three days to declare a public health emergency over monkeypox, following action this weekend by New York, but the Biden administration did not appear to be moving in that direction. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the decision would be up to Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Monkeypox in California: Track Cases in San Francisco Bay Area and Across State

[The San Francisco Chronicle](#) is tracking cases of monkeypox over time in the Bay Area, California and the United States. Our tally includes the number of cases reported since May 2022, using data from the California Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and we chart where and among which populations the cases are occurring.

[Click here](#) to view their ongoing trackers.

COVID-19 Surge Continues Slow Decline in California as Sacramento Numbers Improve

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) Coronavirus activity is gradually declining in California after having surged from about the beginning of April through mid-July, state health data show.

The California Department of Public Health on Tuesday reported the statewide test positivity rate for COVID-19 at 14.5%, down from a July 15 peak of 16.3%.

The latest daily case rate, of 40.7 per 100,000 residents, is down 10% in the past week.

And the number of COVID-positive patients in hospital beds across California fell to 4,654 as of Tuesday's update, down from 4,862 one week earlier.

Positivity numbers remain better than the state average and are continuing to drop in the four-county Sacramento area, with Placer reported at 13.8%, Sacramento at 12.3%, El Dorado at 11.8% and Yolo at 9.4%.

Los Angeles County last week scrapped a plan to return to an indoor mask mandate. Health officials said case and hospital numbers appeared to be stabilizing, though the county found itself classified for a third straight week in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "high" community level for COVID-19 danger, which would have triggered the local mask order until Thursday's reversal.

California as of Tuesday sat less than 18,000 cases away from 10 million COVID-19 lab-confirmed infections since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 and will likely reach the eight-figure milestone later this week.

LA COVID Surge Appears to be Cresting, but the Picture is Still Far from Good

[*The Los Angeles Times reports*](#) the summer coronavirus wave in Los Angeles County — fueled by super-contagious Omicron subvariants — appears to be cresting as cases continue to fall, but the picture is far from good.

COVID-19 deaths — the result of weeks of substantial transmission — remain on the rise and aren't likely to decrease for some time. Moreover, [cases remain highly elevated](#).

The latest data extend the trends health officials noted last week, when they canceled implementation of a long-looming mask mandate. And while the pandemic has regularly upended prognostications, metrics are moving in a promising direction almost across the board.

"Although we had three instances earlier in the spring and summer where we saw dips in cases that, unfortunately, were followed shortly by increases, this decline is more pronounced, and it's accompanied by decreases in our other metrics," county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Tuesday.

Over the week ending Wednesday, the nation's most populous county tallied an average of 5,200 new coronavirus infections per day, down 24% from mid-July — the apparent peak of summer's surge. It's "the largest drop in average case counts that we've seen since the end of the winter surge," Ferrer told the county Board of Supervisors.

On a per capita basis, L.A. County is reporting 363 new cases a week for every 100,000 residents, down 15% from the prior week. A rate of 100 or more is considered high.

The downward trend is evident across California, which is reporting 287 cases a week for every 100,000 residents, a 14% week-over-week decrease. The San Francisco Bay Area is reporting 256 cases a week for every 100,000 residents, a 10% decrease from the prior week. And Orange County is reporting 229 cases a week for every 100,000 residents, down 19% over the past week.

For further details and statistics, [visit the full article](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **2021-22 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) Capacity and Project Development Grants;** *agriculture; environment & water*
 - Funded by: Department of Conservation
 - Deadline: **Monday, August 8, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: TBD
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **Campeño de California Outreach Grant – Complaint System Awareness and Referral Program;** *agriculture; disadvantaged communities; education; employment, labor, & training*
 - Funded by: Employment Development Department
 - Deadline: **Monday, August 8, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$150k
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **Song-Brown Healthcare Workforce Training Programs – Primary Care Residencies (PCR);** *education; health & human services*
 - Funded by: Department of Health Care Access and Information
 - Deadline: **Friday, August 12, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$81 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

2022-23 Domestic Violence Response Team (VA) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program to support communities in building and implementing protocols and practices for a collaborative and coordinated response to incidents of domestic violence.

The Program builds the capacity of communities that demonstrate a need for greater collaboration and coordination between domestic violence service providers and law enforcement.

Applicants must be a governmental or a community-based non-profit organization that employs a Domestic Violence Counselor per Evidence Code § 1037.1(a) (1).

The Program is supported through the Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, August 15, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$500k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022-23 Domestic Violence Assistance (DV) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) created the DV Program to provide local assistance for comprehensive support services for existing domestic violence providers throughout California, including emergency shelter to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Per Penal Code § 132823.15-13823.16, all Subrecipients must provide access to emergency shelter and the supportive services, listed under the Program Components.

Support is also provided for the maintenance and further development of domestic violence services to unserved and underserved populations, including but not limited to, rural areas, non-English speaking individuals, persons of color, and geographical areas without services.

The DV Program provides local assistance for comprehensive support services to existing domestic violence providers throughout California, including emergency shelter to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Applicants must be a governmental or community-based non-profit organization that currently provides comprehensive support services to victims/survivors of Domestic Violence.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, August 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$537,587. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022-23 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) created the KC Program for Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) to provide direct victim services to child abuse survivors and their families through a multidisciplinary team approach. These services must include victim-centered, trauma-informed forensic interviews, advocacy, direct or referral to therapy/counseling, and referrals for medical exams.

Eligible Applicants must work in conjunction with a CAC registered under the Children's Advocacy Centers of California (CACC).

To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the VOCA Match Waiver Request form (Cal OES Form 2-159) with their application. Up to two VOCA fund sources can be entered on one form. An additional VOCA Match Waiver Request form may be necessary when there are more than two VOCA fund sources. All sections of the form must be completed and answers to questions 6 and 7 must be specific and unique to the Applicant and Program.

The deadline to apply for this funding **Friday, August 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$8,646,426. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).