



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (2/3/2023)

Biden to End Pandemic Emergency Declarations in May

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) President Biden informed Congress on Monday that he will end the twin national emergencies for addressing COVID-19 on May 11, as much of the world has returned closer to normality nearly three years after the declarations were instated.

The move to end the national emergency and public health emergency declarations would formally restructure the federal coronavirus response to treat the virus as an endemic threat to public health that can be managed through agencies' normal authorities, reports the [Associated Press](#).

The White House statement from the Office of Management and Budget came in response to two pieces of legislation by House Republicans seeking to end both emergency declarations sooner in what the White House characterized as an "abrupt" manner that would not give time to make the shift in a nondisruptive way.

California Will End its COVID State of Emergency This Month

[The New York Times reports](#) perhaps you heard the announcement this week that President Biden plans to end the nation's Covid public health emergency in May, signaling that the pandemic has moved into a less dire phase.

The state's coronavirus emergency declaration will expire on Feb. 28, almost three years after it began. It gave Gov. Gavin Newsom broad power to issue mandates intended to slow the spread of the virus, as well as to bypass certain state laws. He [announced](#) in October that he would end the emergency in February, and a spokesperson from his office confirmed on Wednesday that that's still his plan.

The sunset of the emergency declaration, which has been the basis for more than 500 legal and policy measures in California, reflects a shift in how state officials are approaching the pandemic, experts say. Newsom [released a statewide plan](#) last year that calls for treating the virus as a manageable risk, as opposed to a crisis.

The coronavirus is still killing about 40 people a day in California, and is infecting people at the level of a "very bad flu season," said Dr. Timothy Brewer, an epidemiologist at U.C.L.A. But the state seems to have avoided a catastrophic winter surge, and [reports of new cases have been falling](#)

[in recent weeks](#). Three-fourths of all Californians have received at least an initial vaccination against the virus.

So more than ever in California, the virus has become something we live with, as scientists in the early days of the pandemic predicted that it eventually would. Health experts still strongly advise staying up-to-date on vaccines and boosters, and wearing a mask in high-risk environments, but they aren't as quick to recommend many other behavioral changes that were once considered necessary.

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

Who are the LA County Residents Still Most Likely to Die of COVID-19?

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) unvaccinated people were more than seven times as likely to die from COVID-19 in Los Angeles County as those who received an updated booster during the latest coronavirus spike, underscoring the potential benefit of an additional shot even as pandemic metrics improve.

Over the 30-day period ending Jan. 3, which covers the bulk of the [post-Thanksgiving coronavirus surge](#), the death rate among unvaccinated Angelenos was 16.6 per 100,000 residents, according to an analysis by the county Department of Public Health. Among those who had received an updated bivalent booster, the comparable rate was significantly lower: 2.3 deaths per 100,000 residents.

For every 100,000 vaccinated people who haven't yet gotten the updated booster, just under five died.

The data illustrate “the very real protection offered by the [bivalent booster](#) and by vaccines, even against the newer variants that are circulating now,” L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said.

“People often mistakenly think that they don't need an updated protection because they've been previously infected with COVID. Or they don't realize that they're even [eligible for the updated booster](#),” she said Thursday. “If you haven't had a booster for COVID since August of 2022, or if it's been more than three months since you had a COVID-19 infection, it is time for the updated booster.”

The county's analysis adds to findings recently released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the [updated COVID-19 booster shot](#) has helped prevent illness from the [XBB-related subvariants](#) — the latest members of the sprawling Omicron family.

According to the most recent [state data](#), unvaccinated Californians were roughly three times more likely to die from COVID-19 than those who had received at least a primary series of shots in November.

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

COVID in California: Infection Raises Risk of High Cholesterol, Studies Find

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection may experience a 24% increased risk for high cholesterol levels for up to a year after infection, according to a recent study published in [The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology](#).

“These are people who never had cholesterol problems before,” said Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly, an author of the study and a clinical epidemiologist at Washington University in St. Louis, told [NBC News](#). “Now, all of a sudden, they started having problems weeks and months after COVID-19.”

Researchers analyzed new diagnoses of high cholesterol among nearly 52,000 patients within the Department of Veterans Affairs who were diagnosed with COVID-19 between March 2020 and January 2021, the period before vaccines were widely available. Their data were compared with 2.6 million people who did not have COVID during that period.

A second study, published in [The Lancet Infectious Diseases](#), detected a similar trend among younger people. Researchers in Switzerland compared the cholesterol levels of 177 members of the Swiss military who had COVID in 2020 with 251 others who had not been infected.

The average age of the participants was 21. The group that was infected had substantially higher levels, said author Patricia Schlagenhauf, a professor in the department of global and public health at the University of Zurich.

“The fact that these young people have a significantly higher cholesterol, higher LDL (“bad” cholesterol) and higher (body mass index) points to a metabolic disorder,” she said.

Cal OES Receives Third Consecutive Emergency Management Accreditation

[Cal OES News reports](#) ensuring the highest standards of emergency management programs, the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has received its third consecutive accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) following accreditation in 2012, and reaccreditation in 2017.

As one of only four states to receive this accreditation since 2021, this intense review of 66 required national standards across 16 areas is one part of the commitment by Cal OES to ensure California is the most prepared state in the country.

“This accreditation reiterates what so many Californians already know is that our state leads the nation in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters of all types. Through the rigorous process of EMAP review, we can further improve the efforts by which we serve the people of our state,” said Cal OES Director Nancy Ward.

As the state’s leadership hub during all major emergencies and disasters, Cal OES oversees and coordinates California’s State Emergency Plan to better respond, direct and coordinate state and federal resources and mutual aid assets across all regions to support the diverse communities across the state.

EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs in the world. Participation in this voluntary standard, assessment, and accreditation program for organizations ensures a compliance worldwide.

EMAP measures compliance with 66 standards in 16 areas, including planning; resource management; training, exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; communications and warning; and administration. Accreditation demonstrates, through self-assessment, documentation, and peer review, which California complies with standards certified by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Western Wildfires Destroyed 246% More Homes and Buildings Over the Past Decade. Fire Scientists Explain What is Changing

[Phys.org reports](#) it can be tempting to think that the recent wildfire disasters in communities across the West were unlucky, one-off events, but evidence is accumulating that points to a trend.

In a [new study](#), we found a 246% increase in the number of homes and structures destroyed by wildfires in the contiguous Western U.S. between the past two decades, 1999–2009 and 2010–2020.

This trend is strongly influenced by major fires in [2017](#), [2018](#) and 2020, including destructive fires in Paradise and Santa Rosa, California, and in Colorado, Oregon and Washington. In fact, in nearly every Western state, more homes and buildings were destroyed by [wildfire](#) over the past decade than the decade before, revealing increasing vulnerability to wildfire disasters.

To view the full study, [click here](#). To read the full article, [click here](#).

Paradise, California: Rebuilding Resilient Homes after the Camp Fire

[FEMA has released](#) a case study regarding Paradise, California and reconstruction following the Camp Fire.

The Town of Paradise employed innovative tactics with state and federal support to empower low-to-moderate income residents to rebuild their homes safely and navigate disaster assistance options after the Camp Fire. Establishing a Building Resiliency Center provided a single place to assist property owners with their rebuilding needs and questions. Direct engagement with impacted residents and a focus on customer service helped overcome challenges and provides an example of trauma-informed disaster assistance at the local level.

To review the full study, [click here](#).

February Snow Survey Reveals January Storms Doubled California's Snowpack

[KCRA 3 reports](#) California's Department of Water Resources kicked off February with its second snow survey of the season.

Following a very cold and snowy month of January, it comes as no surprise that the statewide snowpack has grown quite a bit.

"This is exactly what California needed to start to break away from years of drought," said Karla Nemeth, the director of DWR.

As of Tuesday's readings, the statewide snowpack is at 128% of the April 1 average.

DWR uses that specific date as a benchmark for when they expect the snow's water content to be at its highest.

One month ago, the snowpack was at 64% of the April 1 average. A parade of nine storms over the past month has since doubled that number.

DWR Snow Survey Manager Sean de Guzman led Wednesday's measurements at Phillips Station off Highway 50.

"We're cautiously optimistic knowing how much snow we actually have here today," said de Guzman, "But you know it is only Feb. 1. I like to think of it as we're basically at halftime at this point."

DWR Director Karla Nemeth referenced [last year's record-setting](#) January through March snow drought as a reason to proceed with caution when it comes to forecasting the water supply.

"We're standing on top of a lot of snowpack so in all likelihood that's going to bump up, but we just don't know exactly how significantly. And we do need to think about things differently than we used to," Nemeth said.

But even during last year's unusually dry winter, the statewide snowpack only fell by 12%. According to Andrew Schwartz, who manages the UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab in Soda Springs, much of that depletion came from sunlight, not the air temperature.

Schwartz said that given last year's outcome and this year's much better start, the state should be in really good shape as far as snow is concerned.

"If we don't get much more snow and our temperatures stay relatively low, we should be able to finish at or above average because of the wonderful snowpack that we already have," Schwartz said.

The Central Sierra Snow Lab reached its average season total snowfall about two months early this year, measuring 360 inches since Oct. 1 this past Sunday.

This year's inflated snowpack has many wondering about the status of drought in the state.

According to Nemeth, DWR defines drought using two main factors: hydrology, which includes rain and snowfall and associated runoff, and water supply availability.

Nemeth said by those guidelines, communities that rely primarily on surface water like reservoirs should be in very good shape this year.

As of Tuesday, Lake Oroville was at 65% of capacity, and Lake Shasta was at 56%.

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

Montclair Mall Shooting: Teen Killed in Parking Lot

[CBS Los Angeles reports](#) one teenager was killed and a second was hospitalized in a shooting in a Montclair parking lot Thursday night.

The shooting was reported at Montclair Place, at 5060 N. Montclair Plaza Lane at about 8:10 p.m.

A 15-year-old victim died at the hospital. The second victim was transported by a third party and was in emergency surgery Thursday night. That patient was out of surgery and in stable condition Friday morning.

Montclair police have not released a description of the second victim.

According to the department's preliminary investigation, two groups gathered in a parking lot when gunfire erupted. Witnesses ran toward a Target across the street from the parking lot.

Officers were concerned that a suspect or suspects ran into the Target, prompting an evacuation. Authorities did not find any suspects inside and allowed employees and customers back into the store.

No suspect descriptions were released.

Montclair police were seeking information from the public about the shooting. Police said callers could remain anonymous: (909) 448-3600.

3 Family Members Shot to Death in Home Near Montclair

[The Daily Bulletin reports](#) three family members were found shot to death in a home near Montclair on Monday night, Jan. 30, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said.

No arrests had been announced as of Tuesday evening.

The victims were identified as Sonia Ramirez, 68, George Ramirez, 66, and David Renteria, 43. The Ramirezes were married, said the spokeswoman, Mara Rodriguez. She said she didn't know how Renteria was related.

Another spokeswoman, Gloria Huerta, said investigators at this point do not believe the killings were a murder-suicide.

Deputies were called to the 4800 block of Ramona Place, in unincorporated county territory, just after 9 p.m. after someone discovered the bodies, Rodriguez said.

The bodies were found in a 1,350-square-foot, two-story house with three bedrooms on a cul-de-sac in a neighborhood that was built around 1960. Several of the homes have palm trees out front and wide driveways with RVs and campers.

Chris Sanchez, who lives a few doors from the house, said he has seen deputies there before. Six people live at the house, he said.

Public records show that Renteria and others live at the house as well.

Upland High Student Dies from Fentanyl Overdose

[The Daily Bulletin reports](#) an Upland High student died from a fentanyl overdose over the weekend, the school's principal said, and in response, police will talk to students and parents about drug abuse on Thursday, Feb. 2.

"With the consent of the student's family, we are sharing this information in the hope of preventing similar tragedies in the future," Principal Martin Gomez wrote in a message to the school community.

The name of the student was not available Wednesday.

The overdose came after law enforcement officials in Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties on Jan. 26 announced they have [partnered on a public outreach campaign](#) to help combat the fentanyl epidemic. Fentanyl has become the No. 1 killer of adults ages 18 to 45, the officials said. More than 71,000 people in the United States died from fentanyl overdoses in 2021, Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada said.

Fentanyl, a painkiller that can be prescribed legally, is more powerful than morphine. In street use, the drug is often illegally mixed with heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine and made into pills that appear to resemble prescription opioids. Only a small amount can kill.

Gomez asked parents to talk with their children about the dangers of taking unfamiliar drugs. Gomez also told students that counseling is available to them on campus. Police will address them at 6 p.m. Thursday in the school's lower library.

New Secret Service Research Examines for the First Time Five Years of Mass Violence Data

[The United States Secret Service](#) National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) released [Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016 - 2020](#), a comprehensive report examining 173 incidents of targeted violence and highlighting the observable commonalities among the attackers.

"The prevention of mass violence in America remains as critical as ever. Far too often, communities and families have been devastated by the impact of these tragedies, and public safety professionals continue to work toward preventing future attacks," said U.S. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle of [the report](#). "The information revealed in this report is intended to guide those prevention efforts. NTAC's exploration of each attacker's background, motivation, and pre-attack behavior will assist the Secret Service and our partners in our shared violence prevention efforts. We encourage our public safety partners to review the information within this report and apply it to their own practices for providing a safe environment in communities across the country."

The attacks contained within the report impacted a variety of locations, including businesses and workplaces, schools, houses of worship, military bases, residential complexes, and more. In many of these cases, the attackers had a known affiliation with the site of the attack.

The analysis is intended to provide critical information to a cross-sector of community organizations that have a role in preventing these types of tragedies.

To view the report's key findings, [visit the full article](#).

DWR Awards \$46 Million to Help Communities Statewide Improve Water Supply Reliability, Groundwater Recharge and Water Use Efficiency

[The Department of Water Resources has announced](#) grant awards to nine projects in six counties through the [Urban Community Drought Relief Grant program](#). The \$46 million in financial assistance will provide critical support to implement drought relief projects that build long-term drought and climate resilience in communities across the State, and help advance efforts outlined in Governor Newsom's strategy to adapt California's water supply for a [hotter and drier future](#).

While recent storms have improved conditions and helped fill many of the state's reservoirs to average or above average levels, California may see a return to dry conditions in the months ahead, and much of the state continues to experience drought impacts following the three driest years on record.

For the full list of projects this funding will support, [visit the full press release](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Department of Water Resource's LandFlex Program;** *agriculture; disadvantaged communities; environment & water*
 - Funded by: DWR
 - Deadline: **Friday, February 3, 2023 (TODAY)**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$23.3 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **County Medical Services Program (CMSP) Loan Repayment Program;** *health & human services*
 - Funded by: Department of Health Care Access and Information
 - Deadline: **Monday, February 6, 2023**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$2 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Stop the Hate Program Funding

[The Department of Social Services](#) has created this funding to provide support and services to victims and survivors of hate incidents and hate crimes and their families, to facilitate hate incident or hate crime prevention measures, and to create more inclusive regional and local communities, especially for those who are historically vulnerable because of their racial, ethnic, religious, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or other identities.

Funding will be awarded to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide direct, prevention and intervention services to populations who have experienced or are at greatest risk of experiencing incidents of bias and hate crimes. Funded organizations will receive funds for a 2-year service term beginning 07/01/2023.

This funding is available to nonprofit entities.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 13, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$50 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – DR4610 2021 Northeast Wildfires

[The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program as the result of a Presidential Disaster Declaration. FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. In California, these funds are administered by the Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Section. Eligible subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and some private non-profits.

The HMGP funding opportunity provides support for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In California, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other impacts of climate change. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) and project scoping activities. For eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- State Agencies – Activities must be consistent with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Federally Recognized Tribes – Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved tribal hazard mitigation plan.
- Local Governments/Communities/Special Districts – Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan.
- Private non-profit – the County in which they are located must meet the LHMP requirement.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program requires local entities to provide matching funds. The standard is 75% Federal Share and 25% Local Share

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 20, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$54,241,263. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

CDFR Community Resilience Centers Program

[The CA Department of Food and Agriculture](#) has created this program to build local resilience across California communities by improving community facilities. It is a priority of the CRC program to fund resilience center projects in disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, or sites serving these communities.

Recent and ongoing climate events and public health emergencies impact every part of California. Such events encompass shorter-term events like earthquakes, extreme heat, mudslides, flood, wildfires, power outages, and disruptions; they also include longer-term events like the COVID pandemic, sea level rise, drought, and rising temperatures. Due to historic

redlining and cycles of underinvestment, communities across California face differential access to local community resilience opportunities including public health resources, clean energy infrastructure, and emergency response services. Given California's range of geographies and biomes, diverse populations and their needs, and existing infrastructure, building local community resilience offers the most appropriate, comprehensive, and relevant approach for each community to achieve equitable outcomes in the face of climate impacts and disruptions. Since projects developed for and by community residents have greater success and are better designed to meet and effectively respond to unique challenges and opportunities, community resilience center projects and programming must demonstrate robust, inclusive, consistent, and effective engagement with residents throughout the ideation, development, implementation, and feedback processes.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program described here builds on this foundation, in alignment with California's Statewide Adaptation Strategy and other efforts, to build local resilience across California communities. It is a priority of the CRC program to fund resilience center projects in disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, or sites serving these communities.

The CRC Program will focus on improving community facilities to enhance the state's emergency preparedness capabilities, particularly in response to climate change. Funding shall be used to support infrastructure for emergency evacuation, shelter, base camps during emergency events, and critical deferred maintenance. Elements for this infrastructure may include cooling and heating centers, clean air centers, and extended emergency evacuation response centers, equipped with community kitchens, shower facilities, broadband, back-up power, and other community needs during an emergency or climate events.

A secondary goal of the CRC Program is to equip facilities to provide long-term, year-round community services and activities to enhance the community's resilience through civic, social, educational, and economic development programming.

The CRC program focuses investment on disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Priority communities will be identified as defined by Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code and identified through CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and by Section 65302.10 of the California Government Code and identified through the Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool for Transformative Climate Communities (TCC).

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 27, 2023**. Total estimated available funding is \$38 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).