

BROUGH'S BRIEFINGS

MAY 2020

Orange County Launches GREAT PLATES DELIVERED

May 1st launched the Great Plates Delivered program to support seniors and local businesses needing assistance during the COVID-19 crisis. The County will partner with multiple



local food providers to deliver three nutritious meals a day to adults 65 and older and adults 60-64 who are at high-risk from COVID-19, to support them staying home and healthy and as a form of economic relief to local businesses and workers struggling to stay afloat during the pandemic. Per the State's direction, individuals who wish to enroll in the Great Plates Delivered program must meet specific criteria to qualify. The program is expected to run through June 10, 2020. Individuals interested in receiving meals and businesses wanting to participate can call the Information & Assistance Call Center at (714) 480-6450 for further guidance. For more information about the Great Plates Delivered program, visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/restaurants-deliver-home-meals-for-seniors/>.

For more information on meal assistance programs for seniors in Orange County, visit <http://www.officeonaging.ocgov.com/>.

For more information on business and economic recovery in Orange County, visit <http://www.occommunityservices.org/cid> or call (714) 480-6500.

OC Health Care Agency Expanded COVID-19 Testing Network

The OC Health Care Agency Testing Network offers a safety net for any community member who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms but is unable to receive testing through a health care provider. "We have partnered with an initial set of community health centers who are performing FDA-approved PCR testing, the most reliable testing available to detect current infection," said Dr. Nichole Quick, County Health Officer. Residents with symptoms of COVID-19, which generally include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, should first contact their medical provider to get guidance on testing and care. Individuals who are unable to be tested by their provider may schedule an appointment at any Network test site to receive a medical screening and test. Initial locations include: AltaMed Medical Group, Anaheim; AltaMed Medical Group, Santa Ana/Bristol; Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic, Garden Grove; UCI Health, multiple locations. A continually-updated list of test sites, with information on scheduling and the appointment process, can be found at www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus (click on COVID-19 Testing and Screening) or by calling the HCA's Health Referral Line at 1(800) 564-8448

New CA Childcare Referral Portal:

The need for childcare during this COVID-19 crisis is particularly urgent, particularly for families of essential workers and key vulnerable populations. A new portal to access available childcare providers is now available at

<https://mychildcare.ca.gov/#/home>.

This site enables parents to enter their location along with the type of care they need, and they will receive a list of local center-based and family child care programs.

The list of open licensed child care programs will include health and safety information, age of children accepted, capacity, availability, hours, and contact information for the program and local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. Children's Home Society of California, Orange County's Child Care Resource and Referral agency can answer general questions, including those about child care subsidies at: <https://www.chs-ca.org/>

How to File an Unemployment Insurance Claim?

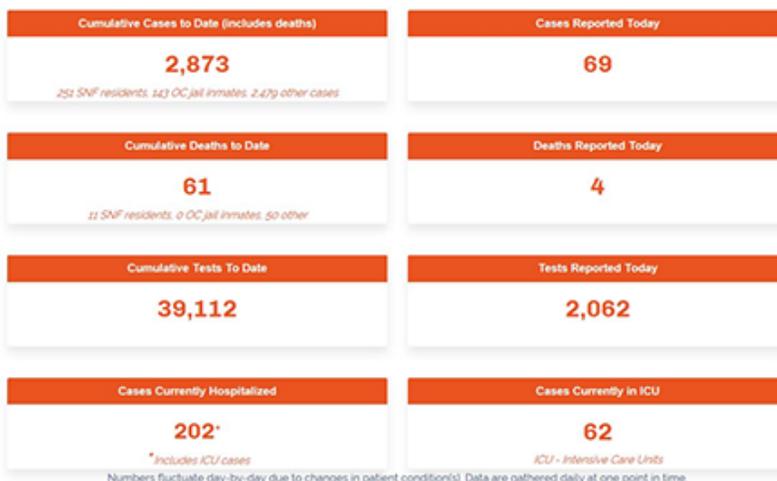
My office has heard from many of you who have been waiting weeks for word on your unemployment benefits, and you have been -- and, in many cases, continue to be -- justifiably frustrated by clogged phone lines and unacceptable wait times when trying to contact the state Employment Development Department (EDD). If you run into any issues when filing, please let me know so we can help. To file an unemployment insurance claim and learn more, please visit:

https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm

If you have never created an account or filed a claim with EDD, go to the EDD website and find the UI Online application [here](#). Everyone fills out the same application, regardless of whether you are eligible for traditional unemployment insurance (UI) or the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. If you have an existing EDD account or previously submitted an application, do not create a new account. Rather, log-in to the [UI Online system](#) using your email address and password that are connected to your EDD customer number and select "File a New Claim." You will then fill out the required information and EDD will

County of Orange, CA COVID-19 Case Count

Posted Date: 5/5/2020



Business Owner Assistance:

If your business has faced hardship due to the coronavirus and you are thinking of reducing work hours for employees or potential closures/layoffs, please visit the EDD's Work Sharing program website, by [clicking here](#). Additionally, the U.S. Small Business Administration is offering aid to small businesses. To learn more, [please click here](#).

Making Working From Home, Actually Work

Boundaries between work and life for those now forced to do their jobs at home are, in many cases, nonexistent. Employees in the US are, on average, logging three more hours per day at work than they were before the pandemic, according to service provider NordVPN. The US has seen the greatest spike in hours worked of all the countries the provider has tracked. Getting work done right now is especially difficult for those with children at home, which is two-thirds of married couples in the US. Many parents are doing their jobs & becoming their children's teachers as schools remain closed. The pressure to be productive despite these distractions can contribute to employee burnout, with a survey by Eagle Hill Consulting earlier this month indicated that about 45% of employees report feeling burned out. While

determine your eligibility.

If you do not qualify for state unemployment insurance and meet one or more of the following conditions, you may be eligible to receive PUA benefits:

- You are a sole proprietor, independent contractor, or gig economy worker
- You previously exhausted your unemployment benefits
- You do not have a sufficient work history or enough wages to establish a regular unemployment insurance claim

Please Note: If you qualify for PUA and submitted an application before April 28, you must submit a new claim. Any application you submitted before Tuesday, April 28 will not be automatically processed for PUA eligibility.

COVID Mental Health Services Available

Mental health crisis calls to law enforcement are up since the COVID-19 public health stay at home order went into effect. Fear and isolation can have a devastating impact on anyone, particularly those that struggle with mental health issues. If you or loved ones need help, there are behavioral health services available to help before there is a mental health crisis. Anyone who has mental health concerns is encouraged to actively seek support and services from their Health Insurance Provider to request telephone or video telehealth services (or, in-person, when available) as behavioral health coverage is a federally-required insurance benefit.

It is also important to find ways to manage stress. If you know someone who is struggling, reach out and ask how they are feeling. If you are struggling and need to talk, simply call, 1(855) OC-LINKS or visit www.ohealthinfo.com/oclinks Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm to talk or chat with a trained, clinical navigator.

working from home can bring its own distractions, it's important to employ tactics to reduce elevating stress levels that take a toll on both mental & physical health.

Staying Healthy at Home:

Employees can regain some control through concerted efforts. Professor of Organizational Behavior at Cornell University, Vanessa Bohns emphasizes the importance of establishing clear boundaries, and suggests defining a cut-off time each day for when work stops. Primary care physician Dr. Saju Mathew advises creating different zones at home for different activities, if possible. He also says it's important to take regular breaks and move around. Standing up at least once an hour and walking around or stretching can help maintain both mental and physical health.

Recognize/Combat Zoom Fatigue:

Many people have felt drained by the onslaught of virtual interactions. Counselors, psychologists, and scientists have explanations for why this is happening. The experience of feeling exhausted after hours of video calls has been dubbed "Zoom fatigue." Often important nonverbal cues associated with traditional communication can get distorted, or can disappear altogether through video chatting. Video chatting still gives people opportunities to connect when meeting in person is not possible. Though the tools might feel overwhelming, a few simple strategies can ease the burden of video-calling for hours on end. Vaile Wright, the American Psychological Association's Director of Clinical Research and Quality, suggests taking regular breaks away from the computer between calls, and, if possible, designating separate physical spaces for work calls and personal calls. If the video aspect of the call isn't essential, it can be helpful to make it audio-only, and to walk around while talking. Despite the challenges of working from home, people across the country are finding creative ways to make it through. Focusing on mental and physical health helps.

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With high schools closed across the country, the administration of college admission tests has been canceled through June, prompting universities nationwide to alter their standardized testing requirements. More than 50 colleges so far have made the ACT/SAT requirement for fall 2021 admissions optional or removed it altogether, with some announcing changes that extend even further. The University of California announced that all nine of its schools will suspend the requirement for fall 2021. These changes to standardized testing policies are prompting educators, elected officials and advocacy groups to discuss the long-term effects that school closures and the stay on standardized testing will have on students. The immediate focus on mitigating learning loss & school accountability during the reality of remote learning was the subject of the Assembly Budget Education Subcommittee this past week. Assemblyman Brough took part in the hearing, asking the California Dept. of Education how the state will ensure that students are not negatively affected due to being out of school, additionally what tools the state has to effectively gauge California student's readiness given the suspension of standardized testing. Educators, admissions professionals, and testing companies, are all doing their best trying to find the answers as the world adjusts to the realities of remote learning. State leaders will continue their oversight of our public schools in respect to budgetary constraints, but also, quality student education.

Student Nutrition Support

On Friday, April 24, 2020, the USDA approved California's application to operate a Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. Children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals will receive \$5.70 for each day of the month in which school was canceled, up to \$365 per child. The CDE and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimate that this will provide over \$1.4 billion to over 3.8 million children. Families with children who get CalFresh, Medi-Cal or Foster Care benefits will automatically receive a P-EBT card in the mail before June 30. Students who receive P-EBT benefits are still eligible to receive meals at COVID-19 emergency sites. More information can be found at the following links:

- CDE P-EBT update: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/pandemicebtchildren.asp>
- CDSS P-EBT Update: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt>

More information on CDE education guidance can be found at:

- All CDE COVID-19 guidance is available at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>
- All USDOE COVID-19 guidance available at: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>

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