

BROUGH'S BRIEFINGS

APRIL 2020

County Hotline Active

Effective immediately, residents can now call one number **(833) 426-6411** for inquiries related to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Orange County. This hotline will provide resources specific to the Orange County COVID-19 response, connecting you to the following county agencies:

- Orange County Health Care Agency – Health Referral Line
- Orange County Social Services Agency – Risk Benefits
- Orange County Office on Aging – Resources for Seniors
- Orange County District Attorney's Office – Scams, Price Gouging
- County of Orange Emergency Operations Center Hotline – Non-Medical Questions



Mental Resilience During a Public Health Emergency

During this difficult time, please not only think about your physical health but your mental health too. What you can do: Remember that knowledge is power. There is great information available on the CA Dept. of Public Health website, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/covid19>. Get your emotional support system in place: Maintain familiar routines in daily life as much as possible; take care of your basic needs and employ helpful coping strategies: rest during work or between shifts, eat healthy food and engage in physical activity. Stay connected with friends and family, even virtually connected, and maintain your social networks. If you or a loved one are feeling anxiety, worry or fear related to the social disruption caused by COVID-19, you can reach out to these resources for support: **Call 1(855) OC-LINKS** or visit www.ochealthinfo.com/oclinks Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm to talk or chat with a trained, clinical navigator.



California's Battle with Coronavirus

As a veteran who enlisted in the U.S. Army after high school serving four years on active duty and as the former White House Liaison at the Department of Veterans Affairs under President George W. Bush, Assemblyman Brough wants to let the public in South Orange County know that they will be seeing an increased military presence in the community due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak. On March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom [requested that the President deploy the USNS Mercy Hospital Ship](#) to increase California's hospital bed capacity to treat non-COVID-19 populations. In addition, 500

California National Guard personnel have been requested by the Governor on March 20, to augment food distribution through food bank and pantry locations. Though the presence of our great military men and women in American cities and neighborhoods can be unsettling, Assemblyman Brough wants to assure the public in South Orange County that they are here to help.

As a community, we need to keep calm and do our best to not spread misinformation. FEMA has established a COVID-19 rumor control page on their website to clear up misconceptions about the virus. Visitors to the page will also find fact sheets and archived news releases. The COVID-19 response pages can be found at: ENGLISH: <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus> or SPANISH: <https://www.fema.gov/es/coronavirus>.

Last, there are important tax changes that readers should be aware:

PENALTY RELIEF FOR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a financial toll on many families and business operations across the county. For help with residents experiencing hardships to pay their property taxes, which are due on April 10th, the Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector has agreed to help homeowners in accordance to existing state law, for waiver of penalties, costs and other charges when failure to make a timely payment is due to reasonable cause and circumstances beyond the taxpayer's control. Eligible taxpayers must file a Penalty Cancellation Request form. To learn more, [please click here](#).

MORTGAGE AND RENT RELIEF:

Governor Gavin Newsom announced an agreement with JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citigroup and U.S. Bancorp, along with about 200 state-chartered banks and credit unions that will allow certain impacted California residents to skip mortgage payments for 90 days if they have lost their jobs or are struggling financially due to the coronavirus pandemic. Bank of America has also agreed to waive payments, but only for 30 days. California residents are urged to contact their lender to discuss options.

TAX DAY MOVED FROM APRIL 15TH TO JULY 15TH

The Treasury Department announced Tax Day would be moved from April 15th to July 15th. More information can be viewed here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/president-trumpactions-to-confront-pandemic/>

California Franchise Tax Board announced that tax filing and pay deadlines have been extended to July 15, 2020. <https://www.ftb.ca.gov/about-ftb/newsroom/covid-19/extensions-to-file-pay.html>

Business Owner Financial Assistance:



On March 16, the Small Business Administration approved an Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration, which makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations to

help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The SBA is already processing applications and providing financial relief to Californians but the backlog will become crowded very quickly. You can also apply for disaster loan assistance here:

<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

If your business is facing hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis, there are many assistance programs available to help you. Please visit:

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources> for the program that best fits your business needs.

Assemblyman Brough Joins Serra Sol Memorial Care Groundbreaking

Assemblyman Bill Brough was proud to attend the groundbreaking ceremony held for a new memory care residence coming to San Juan Capistrano in 2021: Serra Sol Memory Care.



A joint partnership between Protca Senior Living and Agemark Senior Living, Serra Sol will provide expert and loving memory care for nearly 80 community residents. Serra Sol Memory Care is committed to creating moments of joy of those facing Alzheimer's or dementia.

Small Business Daily Webinars:

SBDC will now be holding daily webinars open to all small businesses. With the recent changes in funding available to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, small business owners are getting the most up to date factual information on available options for financing. Daily webinars will be 30-40 minutes long with a brief Q&A at the end. They will each be recorded and sent to all registered attendees at the conclusion. Registration link for the webinars are:

https://fullerton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B21fXU7RNKYtIpBpOUgNQ.

POSTPONED: Asm. Brough & Senator Bates Host South Orange County Senior Day



In response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak Assemblyman Bill Brough and Senator Patricia Bates have postponed the "South Orange County Senior Day." A notice will be sent when a new date has been set.

CA to Permit Vote-By-Mail Procedures to be Used in Three Upcoming Special Elections

Governor Newsom also issued an executive order to permit vote-by-mail procedures to be used in three upcoming special elections, to protect public health and safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. The order can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.20.20-EO-N-34-20-COVID-19-Elections.pdf>

President Suspends Student Loan Payments for 60 Days

The U.S. Department of Education is temporarily waiving interest on all federally held student loans and has directed federal lenders to suspend student loan payments for 60 days. More information can be viewed here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/president-trump-actions-to-confront-pandemic/>

Local Resources and City Updates

Here are some local resources that could be useful.

Orange County Covid-19 updates:

County Updates:

<https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/>

Mission Viejo Community:

Updates: <https://cityofmissionviejo.org/departments/community-relations/covid-19-information>

San Juan Capistrano Community:

Updates: <http://sanjuancapistrano.org/COVID-19>

Dana Point Community:

Updates: <https://www.danapoint.org/department/general-services/emergency-services/covid-19-coronavirus>

Dana Point Chamber of

Commerce: <https://danapointchamber.com/pointing-you-in-the-right-direction/>

San Clemente Community:

Updates: <https://www.san-clemente.org/about-us/city-news/covid-19-coronavirus-information/covid-19-coronavirus>

Laguna Niguel Community:

Updates: <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/1235/Coronavirus>

Orange County Residents Can Sign Up for Text Message Alerts Related to Covid-19

Effective immediately, residents can now sign up to receive text message updates related to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Orange County, California. To opt-in for this service, text OCCOVID19 to 888777.

Real-ID Deadline Postponed for a Year

Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national emergency declaration, the Department of Homeland Security, is extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline beyond the current October 1, 2020 deadline.

DHS has determined that states require a twelve-month delay and that the new deadline for REAL ID enforcement is October 1, 2021. DHS will publish a notice of the new deadline in the Federal Register.

COVID-19 Actions Taken by the Federal Government

The President and the Federal government agencies have taken a number of actions to try and address the COVID-19 crisis. On March 13, the President issued a proclamation declaring a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak. To view the declaration, [click here](#). The White house also released a memorandum on expanding state-approved diagnostic tests. [Click here to view](#).

- On March 27, the USNS Mercy arrived in Port of Los Angeles.
- Federal field hospitals have been established in Riverside County and Santa Clara County.
- The President signed a [Presidential Memo](#) directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use authority under the Defense Production Act to require the production of ventilators.
- March 27, [President Trump signed the CARES act into law](#).
- On March 26, The President released a letter announcing new guidelines for state and local governments were in the works, for COVID -19 mitigation. The letter also announced that officials are gathering testing data that will suggest guidelines categorizing counties as high risk, medium risk or low risk; for the virus.
- On March 26, FEMA announced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed an assessment of eight state-selected facilities throughout California to develop large-scale, supplemental hospital space as the state works to expand existing hospital capacity.
- March 23, deadlines for the Real ID have been extended.
- On March 22, The President activated the [National Guard](#) for use in California, with 100 percent federal cost share. [The National Guard will facilitate distribution of food to pantries and food banks](#).
- [On March 18, 2020, the President invoked the Defense Production Act to ensure the production of ventilators and medical supplies](#). The administration also announced the suspension of foreclosures and evictions until the end of April.
- On March 17, 2020, the President announced on that all states can now authorize tests developed and used within their borders, in addition to the FDA. The Small Business Administration announced all California counties eligible for Economic Disaster Loans on March 17, 2020. The CDC also announced new guidance for mass events and recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people.
- As of March 14, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an Incident Management Assistance Team integrated into the Cal OES State Operations Center in Sacramento to support the State of California and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with the coordination of federal resources.

COVID-19 Actions Taken by the State Government

The Governor and the California government agencies have taken a number of actions to try and address the COVID-19 crisis.

- March 30, Governor Gavin Newsom launched a new initiative to expand California's health care workforce and recruit health care professionals to address the COVID-19 surge. Health care professionals with an active license, public health professionals, medical retirees, medical and nursing students, or members of medical disaster response teams in California are all encouraged to join the new California Health Corps.
- The Governor also signed an executive order that will temporarily expand the health care workforce and allow health care facilities to staff at least an additional 50,000 hospital beds the state needs to treat COVID-19 patients.

- California State Parks announced it is temporarily closing vehicle access at all 280 state parks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Many state parks once again experienced visitation surges that made it impossible for the public to implement appropriate social/physical distancing practices.
- On March 28, Governor Gavin Newsom announced from Bloom Energy site in San Jose that 100s of ventilators were sent for refurbishment.
 - ◆ 80 have been refurbished and sent out to hospitals.
 - ◆ 170 ventilators received from federal government that were not working sent to Bloom for refurbishment to be sent back to LA on Monday.
 - ◆ 350 manufacturers have volunteered to help with response effort.
 - ◆ Anheuser-Busch making hand sanitizer for food banks and for seniors.
 - ◆ Small distillers making hand sanitizer, as well.
 - ◆ GAP making gowns and masks.
 - ◆ St. John Knits to makes gowns and masks.
 - ◆ 7-11 donated 1 million N95 Masks.
- Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order N-37-20](#) intended to be a delay—not a moratorium—on evictions. The order extends the time period before they are physically locked out by the sheriff.
- An additional [executive order was issued to empower the Judicial Council and the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to take necessary action to be able to conduct business](#) and continue to operate while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- All California DMV field offices were closed. Field offices will be temporarily closed to the public statewide beginning March 27 and reopen, virtually, on April 2 at virtual.dmv.ca.gov. Seniors with an expiring driver license will receive a 120-day extension in the mail.
- On March 26, California began receiving shipments from a prior request from the Strategic National Stockpile.
 - ◆ 908,402 N95 masks
 - ◆ 2,137,460 surgical masks
 - ◆ 444,298 face shields
 - ◆ 327,212 surgical gowns
 - ◆ 1,578 coveralls
 - ◆ 810,976 gloves
- On March 25, Governor Gavin Newsom announced financial institutions will provide relief for vast majority of Californians economically impacted by COVID-19 may receive a 90-day grace periods to make mortgage payments. Financial institutions agree not to negatively impact credit reports as a result of accepting payment relief <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/25/governor-gavin-newsom-announces-major-financial-relief-package-90-day-mortgage-payment-relief-during-covid-19-crisis/>

- On March 24, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order mandating COVID-19 protocols for DOJ and CDCR. [Text of order available here.](#)

- On March 23, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the closure of state parks and beaches to combat COVID-19. A list of closures can be found online at www.parks.ca.gov/FlattenTheCurve.

- On March 22, [In a letter to President Donald Trump](#), Governor Gavin Newsom requested a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration to assist in California's COVID-19 preparedness and emergency response efforts. [The President approved the request later that evening.](#)

- March 21, the [Governor's Office released guidance on essential services](#). Governor Newsom directed \$42 million in emergency funding to expand California's health care infrastructure and secure equipment and services to support California's response to COVID-19.

- On March 19, [Governor Newsom held a press conference to announce a statewide stay-at-home order.](#)

- On March 15 Governor Gavin Newsom announced efforts to address the unsheltered homeless population with hotels and motels that will be procured to remove the homeless from the streets; and 450 trailers will be sent to critical points to provide housing to the homeless. He also announced forthcoming guidance for schools that plan to remain open.



Gavin Newsom Praises Trump Administration's Response To Coronavirus



COVID-19 Actions Taken by the Legislature

- The Legislature passed SB 89 and SB 117, that provides \$500 million in General Fund monies to help California fight COVID-19 and authorizes increases up to \$1 billion. The funding will support local government to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in homeless populations and provide safe beds for people experiencing homelessness.
- SB 117 contains changes for education programs that ensures local educational agencies continue to receive funding during the COVID-19 emergency and allow for flexibility for local educational agencies to continue to provide educational options to their students

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