FAQ
Questions asked by Members and Staff of broad interest on the COVID-19 outbreak in California

Agriculture and Food Safety:

Who are the essential personnel in the agriculture food supply chain?

Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies, and other retail that sells food and beverage products, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, corner stores, food banks, convenience stores, liquor stores that sell food, farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, similar food retail establishments and big box stores that sell groceries and essentials.

Farm workers are also essential personnel, including those employed in animal food, feed, ingredient production, packaging and distribution of food, packaging and distribution of veterinary drugs, manufacturing, truck delivery and transport, and farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically.

Farm workers and support service workers include those who work with field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs.

What is being done in the agriculture sector to protect the health of ag workers and the public?

Food producers and manufacturers have been required by longstanding federal and state laws and regulations to prevent anyone who is sick or has a communicable disease from handling, processing or preparing food for human consumption by adhering to the CDC best practice guidelines as follows:

- Maintain diligence in good hygiene, monitor for employee illness, and adhere to social distancing guidelines as possible.
- Adhere to your Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP), ensuring that operations are vigilant in their oversight.
- Ensure adequate frequency of cleaning and sanitizing per CDC guidance.
- Adhere to cleaning and sanitizing frequency of restroom and other high contact areas.
- Consider ways for employees to easily identify themselves (business card, company ID badge) outside of business operations for ease in transportation to and from work while adhering to local ordinances.

Arts and Entertainment

What resources are available for impacted workers in the entertainment industry?

The Entertainment Industry Foundation launched a COVID-19 Response Fund for impacted workers. More information can be found here:
Where can we find additional information about the art and entertainment industry?

The California Arts Council is working to minimize the impact to public service and address the urgent needs of grantees. For the latest news and information, please subscribe to their ArtBeat e-newsletter.

**Banking and Finance**

Where can we find information about loans (mortgage, credit card, student loans) to assist with financial hardships?

Banks and other creditors are ready to assist customers based on their individual circumstances. If constituents are having trouble paying any loan, the best advice is for them to contact their creditor directly and ask for relief from scheduled payments. Constituents should be prepared to provide specific information about how their income has changed due to COVID-19.

This advice applies to constituents with any type of credit product, including credit cards, residential mortgages, small business loans, commercial real estate loans, and student loans. Constituents can also ask their bank to waive overdraft fees or other checking account fees due to financial hardships created by COVID-19.

Will student loans be deferred during this time?

The federal government announced that federal student loan payments can be deferred for 60 days and interest rates will temporarily be reduced to 0%. Track updates on federal student loan policies at this website.

Is there a list available of financial institutions that have agreed to a moratorium on mortgage payments for those impacted by COVID-19?

The American Bankers Association created a website to track the policies of various banks in responding to COVID-19. See Homelessness and Housing section for additional information on moratorium.

What spending has the Governor allocated from the emergency funding in SB 89?

The Governor has allocated $150 million primarily to address the virus among homeless Californians and $42 million to address healthcare infrastructure and equipment needs.
What additional emergency funding has the Governor authorized?

On March 25, the administration transferred the balance of the state’s traditional budget reserve, the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties, to a disaster recovery account (as authorized under law). The funds are expected to be used for hospital surge capacity and equipment, in addition to funding provided under. More information can be found here.

How will federal actions affect the budget and programs?

Information on federal actions is being analyzed. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) is regularly updating a page with federal updates:
https://lao.ca.gov/Government/COVID19

How will this year’s budget process change?

That remains to be seen. On March 24, the Department of Finance informed state departments that the Governor planned to focus on funding current programs - and not new budget proposals like those he advanced in January - in the May Revision.

Where can I find information about protecting my finances?

The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has a website with guidance on how consumers can protect their finances during the pandemic. The website also provides information related to dealing with debt, financial caregivers, and protecting your credit report. You can also find resources to help a consumer file a complaint against a financial services provider.

Budget

Has the state allocated funds to combat COVID-19?

On March 20, the Governor announced the following uses of emergency funding:
- $30 million to lease St. Vincent and Seton Medical Centers for hospital surge capacity
- $8.6 million to expand inventories of respirators and IV fusion pumps
- $2 million for patient transportation and stand by services
- $1.4 million to expand capacity at the Richmond public health laboratory

Business and Professions

What resources are available for companies interested in manufacturing healthcare clothing?

- New garment manufacturers must apply for a garment license. The application and information about how to apply is available here.
To assist existing garment manufacturers, Member offices may send the manufacturers’ information to CalOES Legislative Affairs at LegislativeAffairs@caloes.ca.gov

What is the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) doing to increase the use of simulations and online education models in nursing schools to enable students to fulfill their clinical training requirements?

BRN staff is working through options within their authority. Staffing telehealth and helplines qualify for the clinical training requirement. Additional flexibility could be provided via an EO Admin looking at issues affecting healthcare licensees. Assembly and Senate staff are in communication with the Admin, DCA, and BRN regarding this issue.

What is being done to address the national shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) that medical residents and nursing students use during their specialized training?

The Administration and hospitals are seeking assistance in addressing this shortage. Member offices can send information regarding persons and businesses seeking to assist to CalOES Legislative Affairs LegislativeAffairs@caloes.ca.gov

There is concern that retired professionals may not qualify to relieve medical staff because existing law requires those seeking reinstatement to complete continuing education requirements. What is being done to prevent a statewide shortage of healthcare staff?

The administration is looking at issues affecting healthcare licensees. If Member offices know of specific cases where a renewal or reinstatement is delayed, please email Jennifer Simoes, Department of Consumer Affairs at Jennifer.simoes@dca.ca.gov

Can out-of-state medical staff assist in addressing COVID-19?

The Emergency Medical Services Authority is authorized (BPC 900) to use of out-of-state medical personnel to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information, please see https://emsa.ca.gov/covid19/

Is there any assistance for sole proprietors that do not pay into unemployment?

Workers and self-employed individuals that do not qualify for the existing unemployment insurance benefits may be covered under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance. The State is currently awaiting an update from Congress on benefits. You can find information on filing a claim here.
**Cannabis**

*Are cannabis businesses essential services that may operate during the Stay-at-Home order?*

Since cannabis is an essential medicine for many residents, licensees may continue to operate at this time so long as their operations comply with local rules and regulations.

**Courts**

*How are closure decisions made on the local court level?*

Local court closure decisions are made by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, who makes a request for approval from the Chief Justice.

**Education K-12**

*Will private schools and facilities receive funding for child care?*

At this point, no state funds have been directed specifically to private care. The $100 million (Proposition 98) provided in SB 117 was limited to use by public schools. The $50 million included within the $500 million appropriation in SB 89 is for child care providers that maintain state-subsidized slots. CDE and DSS Community Care Licensing have been releasing COVID-19 guidance to both school and child care providers on their websites (it is a LOT to weed through) but may provide additional guidance.

*What federal support is available for child care?*

The First Five Years Fund is providing $3.5 billion nationally through Child Care and Development Block Grants for immediate assistance to providers so they can stay in business and support child care for families with critical roles responding to the crisis.

Head Start programs are to receive $750 million to respond to COVID-19 related needs, including to make up for lost learning time.

For-profit and nonprofit child care businesses with fewer than 500 employees will be eligible to apply for small business loans of up to $10 million, with up to eight weeks of designated expenses eligible for loan forgiveness.

An additional $685 million has been allocated through the Public Housing Operating Fund.

*Where can we find official state education information?*

The CDE website has links to additional information on a variety of topics:  
https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp
Assembly Education Committee has made the links below available on their website. They continue to update as new information is released.
https://aedn.assembly.ca.gov/committeehome

US Department of Education information on children with disabilities

Questions for CDE about any emergency related issues may be directed to: EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov.

What is being done to feed children on school nutrition programs?


See Additional COVID Information for Governor’s executive orders on education

Elections

How long do counties have to complete the canvass of election results for the March primary?

County elections officials have requested a three-week delay in the deadline given the challenges from COVID-19 in completing their work under the current timeline. The Governor issued an order granting an additional 21 days to complete the canvass.

Environment

Under what circumstances can an entity consider COVID a reason for noncompliance with environmental rules, regulations and orders?

At this point, neither CalEPA nor Resources Agency are considering blanket extensions to any rules, regulations, or enforcement orders. However, if there are special circumstances that are causing hardship, CalOES advises the entity to document the hardship and show good cause for compliance relief. The entity should show a good faith effort at achieving compliance.

Compliance with the state’s environmental rules and regulations are important to protecting the environment as well as public health.

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**Health**

*Where can I find health coverage/services?*

All public and commercial health insurance plans are required to cover the entire cost of coronavirus testing and screening. Contact your local clinics and county health department for information about options for testing. More information is available at [https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/](https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/)

*What if I am undocumented?*

More information on coronavirus testing for undocumented immigrants can be found here: [https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/](https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/)

*How will accessing care for COVID 19 impact "public charge?"*

On March 13, the federal government confirmed that the new public charge rule will not consider testing and treatment of coronavirus. More information can be found here: [https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/](https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/)

*Where can providers get medical supplies?*

To access the national stockpile, providers must go through their county public health department. Each local public health department should submit their request through their Regional Disaster Medical and Health Coordinators. Find a list of regional contacts here: [https://emsa.ca.gov/regional-disaster-medical-health-coordinators-and-specialists/](https://emsa.ca.gov/regional-disaster-medical-health-coordinators-and-specialists/)

*Where can manufacturers/companies go if they are willing to produce tests/medical supplies to help CA?*

CalOES has set up an email box: [contributions@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:contributions@caloes.ca.gov) to receive all requests related to donations, volunteers, philanthropy, and businesses wanting to contract for resources or sell resources.

*Where can health care providers get medical supplies?*

To access the national stockpile, providers must go through their county public health department. Each local public health department should submit their request through their Regional Disaster Medical and Health Coordinators, below is a link to the regional contacts.

[https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Femsa.ca.gov%2Fregional-disaster-medical-health-coordinators-and-specialists%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7CMarko.Mijic%40chhs.ca.gov%7C588c8dc283d64ba112ed08d7cdb1d546%7C265c2dcd2a6e43aab2e826421a8c8526%7C0%7C0%7C637204036005817194&amp;sdata=0BqhxQK28FMLKfvMLX0ldw4y0QOmsojntgyxQGQVrr2E%3D&amp;reserved=0](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Femsa.ca.gov%2Fregional-disaster-medical-health-coordinators-and-specialists%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7CMarko.Mijic%40chhs.ca.gov%7C588c8dc283d64ba112ed08d7cdb1d546%7C265c2dcd2a6e43aab2e826421a8c8526%7C0%7C0%7C637204036005817194&amp;sdata=0BqhxQK28FMLKfvMLX0ldw4y0QOmsojntgyxQGQVrr2E%3D&amp;reserved=0)

Los Angeles County, due to its size, gets direct supplies through the national stockpile.
If folks are not able to get a hold of the RDMHS, they also can reach out to the Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinators. List at below link.  

*Is In Home Support Services (IHSS) eligibility covered by the 90-day extension ordered by the Governor?*


See Additional COVID Information for Governor’s executive orders on COVID testing guidelines for laboratories and providers.

**Higher Education**

*What will happen to public financial aid for college students?*

The California Student Aid Commission does not predict any changes or disruptions to our state financial aid program, including the Cal Grant.

Similarly there should not be any changes or disruptions to the administration of the federal Pell Grant. The Federal Student Aid Office is providing information on this for college students and their families. 
https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus

*What about student loans?*

On March 20, the US Department of Education announced that all borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow them greater flexibility during the national emergency. See US Department of Education announcement:  

For now, California students with private student loans can contact their loan servicer directly and ask for relief. If loan servicers are willing to pause payments, borrowers should also ask the servicer to stop assessing interest during the pause. Before contacting their servicer, borrowers should be prepared to provide detailed information about how their income has been affected by the response to COVID-19. The CA Department of Business Oversight is also working on guidelines to its private student loan servicer licensees on how they should work with consumers during this crisis.
What should students who are veterans do?

California student veterans who have been receiving GI Bill benefits are still receiving those benefits and it is likely that they will continue to do so uninterrupted and without reduction until approximately the end of this calendar year. The US Department of Veterans Affairs recommends that students with inquiries about specific circumstances contact the Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 between 8 AM and 7 PM Eastern Time, Monday-Friday.

Homelessness and Housing

What happens with people who have no housing?

The Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 89 to provide as much as $1 billion for emergency purposes related to COVID and homelessness relief: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB89

The Governor has ordered allocation of $150 million for local emergency actions related to people without housing.

- $100 million is going directly to locals via the Homeless Housing Assistant Program (HHAP) of 2019 formula for shelter support and emergency housing. Funding breakdown: https://bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc/coronavirus19/allocations.pdf
- $50 million used by state to buy travel trailers and procure hotel rooms for those who are positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms. Department of Social Services is the lead and provided lists of eligible properties to respective counties, but counties are then lead on negotiating/executing leases. The state is offering to help contact properties and negotiate leases if counties request that assistance.
- Governor waived CEQA requirements for shelters constructed during the COVID-19 crisis.

More information:
https://bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc/coronavirus19/index.html

What happens to homeowners who can’t earn due to COVID work restrictions?

Governor Newsom has announced a mortgage relief agreement with Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, US Bank and Wells Fargo, plus 200 state-chartered banks, credit unions and mortgage servicers. Borrowers should check with their lenders, but the agreement offers:

- A 90-day grace period for mortgage payments by eligible borrowers.
- No negative credit impacts from taking advantage of relief
- A 60-day moratorium on foreclosure sales and evictions
- Relief from designated fees

Can renters withhold rent during the crisis?
Eviction moratoriums that have been established vary city by city, but none of the ordinances say you don't have to pay rent. Tenants should pay rent if they can. If not, they should reach out to their landlords to try to work something out. Some cities (i.e. Sacramento) have started rental assistance programs.

*Given the extreme circumstances, can the state relax the “no cash out” provisions of home rehabilitation loans offered through cities?*

The state has no jurisdiction over these loans, which are a partnership between cities and federal HUD. Those who are affected can try reaching out to the city operating the program and to congressional representatives.

### Human Services

*What is happening with food banks?*

Food banks have had federal funding increased and are exempt from stay-at-home as an essential service. However, volunteer staff numbers have decreased. In response, the Governor has activated the National Guard to help in Sacramento, Placer, Amador, Indio, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara and Riverside counties.

*Will CalFresh keep operating? Can EBT be used for purchases online?*

CalFresh has seen a surge in applications. The benefit is federally funded, but federal, state and county levels split the cost of running the program.

People who participate in CalWORKs and CalFresh get benefits on an EBT card, and the network is administered by USDA. It also administers the federal CalFresh/food stamp program.

Currently, though some states are piloting EBT online, it cannot be used online in California. The state is seeking the ability to do so. The hope is for quick approval of participation by grocers, such as Safeway.

California is asking Amazon and Walmart, the two authorized retailers for online EBT sales, to waive fees, given concerns about service and delivery charges to very low-income families.

*What is being done for Seniors?*

There are volunteer efforts, including the Governor’s Office of Volunteers, Red Cross and Next Door. CalVolunteers web information at serve.ca.gov.
Meals on Wheels is to receive increased federal funding.

In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) is exempt from stay-at-home as an essential service and eligibility has been extended.

Is emergency child care available?

The State released guidance regarding how to open up temporary child care programs in light of many programs closing. This document covers child care providers and information on temporary programs begins on page 6: https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCLD/PINs/2020/CCP/PIN_20-04-CCP.pdf

Sacramento has opened several such facilities: https://sacramentocityexpress.com/2020/03/20/city-leaders-announce-free-childcare-plan-to-help-those-on-the-front-lines-of-the-covid-19-response/

There are issues, however with background checks. Child care staff need to have background checks completed through submitting fingerprints to DOJ. Normally, there is a convenient option locally using a mobile machine and process called Livescan; however, many of these local sites are closing or closed, making access to Livescan challenging. (This also impacts providers who are new to other programs, like IHSS.) Many family child care homes have closed or suspended work – children are not participating as often, or the provider is over 65 and concerned about health exposure.

**Immigration**

*What if I am undocumented?*

More information on coronavirus testing for undocumented immigrants can be found here: https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/

*How will accessing care for COVID 19 impact "public charge?"*

On March 13, the federal government confirmed that the new public charge rule will not consider testing and treatment of coronavirus. More information can be found here: https://healthconsumer.org/covid19/

**Insurance**

*Under what circumstances can existing benefits be extended for people whose benefits are about to run out who can't find a job in the current environment?*
Recently enacted federal legislation (HR 6201) authorized full federal funding for an additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for a worker who exhausts state-funded benefits.

Are there any existing benefits for workers and self-employed people who may not qualify for UI?

Workers and self-employed people that do not qualify for the existing Unemployment Insurance benefit may be covered under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

More information on Disaster Unemployment Assistance can be found here: https://edd.ca.gov/unemployment/disaster_unemployment_assistance.html

What action is the Department of Insurance taking to protect the health and economic well-being of Californians?

For information about actions taken by the Department of Insurance, please see: http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/140-catastrophes/Coronavirus.cfm

What action has been taken to ease health insurance concerns for Californians during the coronavirus outbreak?

The Department of Insurance and the Department of Managed Health Care, the chief regulators of California's commercial health coverage, have taken action to eliminate patient cost-sharing and surprise bills.

What action has been taken to ensure auto insurance coverage continues for Californians during the coronavirus outbreak?

The California Department of Insurance has requested auto insurers refrain from using the expiration of policyholders' driver's licenses or vehicle registration for 60 days to affect a driver's ability to secure and maintain auto insurance coverage, affect a driver's eligibility for a Good Driver discount, to determine eligibility for a California Low-Cost Automobile policy, or to impact the rates charged to any driver.

For additional information on insurance, see the Additional COVID Information Document.

**Labor and Employment, Jobs and Economic Development**

What benefits are available for workers impacted by the coronavirus outbreak?
On the federal level, H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, was signed into law on March 18. It provides two major benefits for workers—paid sick leave and public health emergency leave. The benefits only attach to employers with less than 500 employees.

The paid sick leave is for 10 days and is available immediately. It covers circumstances such as: an employee being symptomatic of COVID-19 or in quarantine due to the advice of a doctor or by governmental order, caring for a child due to a school or child care closure, and assisting a family member who is in quarantine. The public health emergency leave extends the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to cover up to 12 weeks of leave for school closures. The leave is unpaid for the first two weeks and then increases to two-thirds of an employee’s pay with a cap of $200 a day.

California has relaxed some of the requirements of its employee leave and benefit programs. For both unemployment and disability insurance, the seven day waiting period is waived. In addition, workers will not be denied unemployment because they cannot “actively” look for work.

**What workers are considered ‘essential’?**

Executive Order N-33-20 directed Californians to remain at home unless working in a critical infrastructure sector, as defined by the federal government. The state issued interpretive guidance that largely mirrors the guidance issued by the Department of Homeland Security. The state guidance includes some essential workers not found in the federal guidance, such as certain workers in the cannabis industry, those employed by transportation network companies, and workers responsible for adult protection and child welfare.

For more information on essential workers, visit: [https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf](https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf)

**Is there guidance available for businesses on how to protect employees?**

Both Cal/OSHA and the Centers for Disease Control have released guidance on how to protect workers and minimize exposure in the workplace.

More information can be found here:

[https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html)

**How can food facilities best protect workers and prevent transmission of COVID-19?**
California's standards for food safety and hygiene by the food system workforce are the among the highest nationally.

The FDA has issued guidance on preventing the spread of coronavirus in food facilities. More information can be found here:


Is there information for agricultural businesses concerned about H-2A visas for workers?

The USDA has released guidance on H-2A visas during the coronavirus outbreak.

More information can be found here: https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a

**Parks and Recreation**

*Are state parks open during the coronavirus outbreak?*

While some local agencies, such as Sonoma County, have closed their parks, State Parks throughout the state will remain open to Californians. Its social facilities, such as museums and volleyball courts will not be available.

*Will rangers and lifeguards be working during the coronavirus outbreak?*

Rangers and lifeguards are essential personnel during the crisis. State Parks has all its rangers and lifeguards working as much as possible, in a “heavy visitor education” effort on social distancing. They are focusing law enforcement resources on social distancing, breaking up crowds and educating the public, rather than on issuing citations.

*How are California State Parks encouraging social distancing?*

To promote social distancing, State Parks has adjusted its facilities to discourage group activities, such as separating picnic tables and taking down volleyball nets. Their rangers focus their attention on areas at State Beaches where crowds tend to develop.

*Are California’s beaches open?*

State Parks has started closing parking lots at State Beaches, which was approved by the Coastal Commission, to encourage social distancing. The State Beaches operated by State Parks, however, will remain open. Some local governments, such as Sonoma County, have closed their parks and beaches.
**Privacy and Consumer Protection**

*Have privacy rights for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak?*

In the initial COVID 19 Executive Order issued on March 4, the Administration waived existing law (Civil Code 1798.24), allowing disclosure of patient health information without consent. This action is consistent with the authority provided under HIPAA (45 CFR § 164.512) to public health authorities to not seek consent from a patient for disclosure of personal health information to "prevent or control disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions."

**Public Safety**

*What is the Agency doing to protect incarcerated pregnant women in its care?*

CDCR has an outbreak management plan and has implemented measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. All state prisons and facilities are bolstering response readiness by educating and encouraging social distancing and initiating additional cleaning measures.

California Institute for Women (CIW) is on a modified program – which means all inmate movement is limited – to mitigate the spread of illness to staff, inmates and anyone approved to enter institutional grounds. Modified program includes no cell-to-cell visiting, limiting those in the dining areas for meal shifts and cleaning tables after and between each seating. Showers are limited to cell partners and all surfaces are cleaned after each use. The law library, the canteen and dayroom are limited to no more than 10 women at a time. Those who receive medication must wait in line in single file and keep their distance from one another.

Pregnant inmates will continue to be seen as scheduled and the OB/GYN clinic is thoroughly cleaned before they are seen and between appointments. CIW officials and clinicians are not grouping them or doing anything that would increase their risk of exposure. While inmates can still go to the yard, they are encouraged to practice social distancing and at no time is any inmate denied medical care.

Newly arriving women offenders from the counties are admitted to Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF). If any are pregnant, they will be housed in a separate building from the other newly arriving inmates for 21 days and their processing will be expedited so they can be transferred to CIW.
Taxes

Has the California tax filing deadline been extended?

Yes. The deadline has been extended to July 15th.

According to the Franchise Tax Board’s (FTB’s) March 18th announcement, special tax relief is being provided in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Affected taxpayers are granted an extension to file 2019 California tax returns and make certain payments until July 15, 2020. The FTB will also waive interest and any late filing or late payment penalties that would otherwise apply. FTB is postponing the filing and payment deadlines for all individual and business entities, until July 15, for:

- 2019 tax returns;
- 2019 tax return payments;
- 2020 1st and 2nd quarter estimate payments;
- 2020 limited liability company taxes and fees; and,
- 2020 Non-wage withholding payments.

How can taxpayers get the extension?

Taxpayers should write “COVID-19” in black ink at the top of the tax return to alert FTB of the extension period.

Has the property tax payment deadline of April 10th been extended?

No. The April 10th deadline has not been extended. Property tax revenues are critical for local governments to provide essential services and for school districts to make necessary debt payments so that they don’t have to pay penalties or receive lower, costly, bond rating scores. Property tax dollars are distributed to locals and schools within a week or so of the April 10 deadline. Any delays would cause a lot of fiscal difficulties for schools and local governments.

Will late payment penalties be charged?

Although the April 10th deadline has not been extended, the penalties and costs imposed due to a late payment can be waived in circumstances where a taxpayer cannot physically pay their taxes due to quarantine, illness, or closure of the county Tax Collector’s office. Individual constituents should be instructed to check in with their local county Tax Collector's office.

Will the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) provide tax relief?

Yes. Pursuant to Governor Newsom's announcement on March 12th, CDTFA is authorized to provide relief to individuals and businesses impacted by COVID-19. The relief
includes granting extensions for filing returns and making payments, and relief from interest and penalties.

Because CDTFA administers a wide range of taxes, taxpayers seeking assistance should contact CDTFA's Customer Service Center at 800-400-7115, or visit CDTFA's online Website at www.cdtfa.ca.gov.

**Transportation**

*What is the DMV doing about vehicle registration? If someone’s vehicle registration expires (but they mailed in payment), is there an extension?*

Law Enforcement and DMV have agreed to not enforce registration expiration or DL expiration tickets for 60 days after March 16th (May 15th) due to the pandemic. The 60-day period also applies to vehicle registration renewals for customers who are not eligible to use an alternative service channel because of:

- Outdated insurance information
- Registration expired for 90 days or more
- Smog issues
- A recent transfer

However, if someone has already sent in payment (for registration not expired for 90 days) it is possible the registration tags could be sent.