

# State Park Closures and Other COVID Updates

Last night Governor Newsom held a press conference to review actions taken by the state over the past two days with respect to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to discussing Sunday's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, the Governor also:

- Discussed the closure of parking lots at state parks across California
- Urged federal leaders to pass a stimulus package with haste
- Updated the state's current hospital capacity and efforts to procure/produce the supplies necessary to combat the COVID-19 outbreak

## Key takeaways

- Following the various images of visitors at beaches, trails, and parks not abiding by the six-foot social distancing directive, the Governor is closing vehicle access to various state parking lots. The full list of parking lot closures near parks can be found [here](#)
- Urged Senator Mitch McConnell and Speaker Nancy Pelosi to pass a federal stimulus package ASAP, in light of the historically unprecedented number of unemployment applications California is receiving
- There remain many sticking points between the two Houses' packages. See below. A thorough overview of those differences can be found in this [Politico article](#)
  - The size of cash payments to Americans affected by the COVID-19 crisis
  - Amount of aid for hospitals
  - Expansion of unemployment and paid sick leave
  - Emergency funding for federal agencies
  - The amount of aid allotted for airlines, and attaching that aid to new carbon-emission requirements
  - Tax stimulus plans
  - Limits to executive pay, stock buy-back options and new, federal lobbying restrictions imposed on businesses receiving aid
  - Business tax relief
- Announced that the state is awarding \$100M in emergency grants to secure spaces for the most vulnerable Californians
- On Sunday, Governor Newsom [requested](#), and was [granted](#), a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for the state's COVID-19 response efforts. The Major Disaster Declaration would "include any and all individual assistance programs to assist those affected by the outbreak and lessen the economic impacts of the crisis. The request would provide additional assistance, including but not limited to, mass care and emergency assistance, crisis counseling, disaster case management, disaster unemployment assistance, disaster legal services and Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance"
- The Newsom Administration has launched a new webpage, [California Takes Action to Combat](#)

[COVID-19](#), which has an ongoing list of actions taken by the state related to the COVID-19 outbreak

- The Legislative Analysts' Office (LAO) has launched a new COVID-19 specific [webpage](#) tracking federal actions impacting California. At launch, the LAO released two updates – on unemployment Insurance benefits related to the Federal relief package, and on the federal health care response
  - The LAO's report on [Unemployment Insurance For Workers Impacted By COVID-19](#) is a comprehensive look at the federal relief package signed on March 18, 2020. A brief overview of those provisions includes:
    - Grants flexibility to temporarily loosen state UI policies
    - Provides new UI Administration funding for EDD
    - Increased federal funding for extended UI benefits
    - Suspends state payments and interest on federal loans to the UI trust fund
    - Clarifies that app-based workers do qualify for UI benefits in California, stating “workers may be reclassified as employees and therefore eligible to receive (unemployment insurance) benefits”
- California's consumer COVID-19 [website](#) continues to be updated daily

#### **Homeless update**

The state's Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) announced the California is awarding \$100M in emergency grant funding to cities, counties and continuums of care to help people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Per the BCSH's announcement, “The funding is intended for measures to help prevent and contain COVID-19 and can be used for medically indicated services and supplies, such as testing and hand-washing stations. It can also be used for such things as acquiring new shelters, supplies and equipment for emergency shelter operations, increasing shelter capacity, street outreach, and acquiring locations to place individuals who need to be isolated because of COVID-19 illness or exposure”

- California's 13 largest cities, or cities that are also a county, will receive \$42,968,750, while the state's 58 counties will receive \$27,343,750 and California's 44 Continuums of Care will receive \$29,687,500. Specifics on the allocations are [here](#)

**And, to end with a bit of GOOD NEWS, U. S. Travel has told us that the President and DHS have heard us loud and clear and the REAL ID deadline has been delayed! Date TBD but we're pushing for at least a year.**