

COVID-19 UPDATE



GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER ON CHILDCARE FOR ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES

On April 4th, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-45-20 to provide expanded access to childcare for essential workers during COVID-19 by granting the flexibility to waive certain programmatic and administrative requirements. The order directs the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to work together to develop and issue guidance on how the essential worker prioritization will roll out. This has been finalized and can be found [HERE](#). The purpose is to provide guidance to state-subsidized early learning and care programs that will continue to provide services to currently enrolled families or begin to provide, what CDE refers to as, “Emergency Childcare” for essential workers and other populations. The “Food and Agriculture Sector” has been classified as a priority under this effort.

Additional child care information can be found in the March 17 guidance on [CDE's website](#) on Child Care and Student Supervision. Also DSS's Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) continues to post Provider Information Notices with new waivers [HERE](#) under the Child Care Program section. One of the waivers put out on March 16 (PIN 20-04-CCP) provides a statewide waiver for operation of childcare facilities, including temporary employer sponsored childcare. CCLD has established a dedicated e-mail address to receive public inquiries related to CCLD-licensed facilities and COVID-19. This e-mail address is: CCLCOVID-19INFO@dss.ca.gov A list of DSS's Child Care Regional Offices can also be found [HERE](#).

FDA TO TEMPORARILY CONDUCT FSVP INSPECTIONS REMOTELY

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced last week that it will begin requesting that importers send records required under the Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals (FSVP) rule electronically (or through other prompt means) to the Agency as it shifts to conducting these inspections remotely during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The FSVP rule requires importers to perform certain risk-based activities to verify that their foreign supplier is producing the food in accordance with U.S. food safety standards. Until now, FSVP inspections to review FSVP records typically have been conducted at an importer's place of business. However, under the FSVP regulation FDA has the authority to make written requests for importers to provide records to the agency electronically or by other prompt means. Because of the travel restrictions, social distancing, and other advisories associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, the FDA has determined that most routine onsite inspections are temporarily impractical to conduct at this time.

Therefore, the Agency will shift to temporarily conducting FSVP inspections remotely as practical until further notice. The FDA will immediately begin conducting a limited number of remote inspections, prioritizing the inspections of FSVP importers of food from foreign suppliers whose onsite food facility or farm inspections have been postponed due to COVID-19. The Agency is also planning to continue to conduct previously assigned routine and follow-up inspections remotely during this time. Importers subject to the remote inspections will be contacted by an FDA investigator who will explain the process for the remote inspection and make written requests for records. If you have any questions regarding these remote inspections, please submit them here via email: FDImportsInquiry@fda.hhs.gov

CA FARMWORKER FEDERATION EXPANDING FREE VIRTUAL HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES

The California Farmworker Foundation is currently expanding their free virtual health clinics for Farmworkers who suffer from chronic diseases or respiratory illnesses. Given the current demand of COVID-19 on their healthcare systems, they have partnered with Dr. Nidia Payan to continue to provide care for Farmworkers who suffer from the mentioned illnesses. They have asked us to refer Farmworkers who meet the guidelines so that they can provide them with access to care. If you would like to host an on-site virtual health clinic, please give them a call at: 661-446-4077

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- HEART DISEASE
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- ALTA PRESION
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PLEASE CALL OUR FARMWORKER HOTLINE AT 661-446-4077 TO RESERVE YOUR APPOINTMENT

PARA HACER UNA CITA, LLAME A NUESTRA LINEA DIRECTA PARA LOS TRABAJADORES DEL CAMPO - 661-446-4077.

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PATROCINADO POR:

CALTRANS ISSUES SPECIAL PERMITS AUTHORIZING OVERWEIGHT TRUCKS TO DELIVER EMERGENCY COVID-19 SUPPLIES

Caltrans will temporarily issue special permits for overweight trucks transporting emergency supplies in support of COVID-19 relief and prevention efforts following Governor Gavin Newsom's recent State of Emergency declaration and subsequent activation of the federal Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act. "Authorizing these special exceptions clears a path for greater volumes of material vital in the fight against COVID-19," said Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin. "Emergency medical supplies and equipment, groceries, perishable items, water and countless other essential items will now reach their destinations more rapidly than they did before, at a time when people need them most."

Caltrans will issue permits for overweight trucks on the State Highway System and will help support transportation operators in obtaining permits from local agencies for local roads. These permits increase the maximum allowable gross vehicle weight from 80,000 to 88,000 pounds and will be valid until further notice.

To expedite the permits, Caltrans is performing advance review and analysis on major corridor routes, including: I5, US-101, I-15, SR 60, I-405, SR 99, I-10, SR 91, I-80, and I-710.

This Emergency Declaration provides regulatory relief for commercial motor vehicle operations moving essential goods in support of relief and preventive measures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Essential Goods" are defined as the following:

- Medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19
- Supplies and equipment necessary for community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19 such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfectant
- Food, paper products and other groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centers or stores
- Immediate precursor raw materials such as paper, plastic or alcohol that are required and to be used for the manufacture of items above
- Fuel
- Equipment, supplies and persons necessary to establish and manage temporary housing, quarantine, and isolation facilities related to COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, Caltrans continues its critical functions during this crisis, including highway maintenance and roadway access to medical facilities and facilitating transport of essential goods and services throughout the state.

CAL-OSHA HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

As mentioned in our last newsletter update, the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupations Safety & Health (OSHA) has released health and safety guidance for Covid-19 prevention for agricultural employers and employees. This guidance contains information and recommendations for agricultural employers on how to update their Injury and Illness Prevention Program's to include prevention in the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace.

The guidelines can be found here: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Agriculture.pdf>

The Spanish version is also available here: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-AgricultureSP.pdf>

SECRETARY ROSS SENDS MESSAGE EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE RETAIL INDUSTRY

California Secretary of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross sends message of thanks to retail industry for stepping up during country's time of need. As a record number of shoppers head to their local grocery store to stock up on much needed food items during shelter in place orders, the nation's retailers, grocers and distributors continue to keep shelves stocked and food the flowing.

"Our California farmers, ranchers and farmworkers understand the challenge this crisis has delivered to our retailer partners: to manage adequate supply, maintain efficient distribution, and most of all provide a safe shopping environment for customers and employees. All of this has been accomplished with a level of care, service and dedication that makes us proud to be part of your supply chain," stated Ross.

The letter of gratitude recognizes the efforts of warehouse workers pulling double shifts, truck drivers adding routes, in-store employees, direct-to-consumer serves and retail managers. In addition, the letter offers a promise from the agriculture community to continue to provide nutritious food for retailers to serve the community. "Each harvest provides a brighter future, and together we will do what we've always done to provide healthy nutritious food (and beautiful flowers) for your customers, our neighbors and communities across this state and nation," said Ross.

You can a copy of the full letter on the CA Grown blog here:

<https://californiagrown.org/blog/thank-you-to-our-nations-retailers-and-distributors/>