



CALIFORNIA CORONAVIRUS WEEKLY RECAP

A weekly digest to keep you up to speed on the California coronavirus outbreak.

November 25, 2020

Welcome to the 37th issue of the California Coronavirus Weekly Recap newsletter. Before we get started with this week's news, we want to make sure everyone is aware of the new [Legal Q&A on Proposition 19](#) that breaks down the new rules on tax basis portability.

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The Economy & Your Finances: 750k Californians set to lose unemployment benefits on Dec. 26

With no stimulus deal in sight, more than [12 million](#) Americans are set to lose their pandemic unemployment benefits on December 26. An estimated [750,000](#) of those will be Californians, most of them losing their Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), the rest pushed out of traditional unemployment assistance (UI) by the expiration of a CARES Act provision. [Non-white](#)

[workers](#) face higher odds of losing their benefits than do white workers. A group of 125 economists are urging for more [stimulus checks](#), and [President-Elect Biden](#) is calling on Congress to make a deal before year's end, but as of now Democrats and Republicans in Congress remain at an impasse.

While in October, California's unemployment rate fell [below 10 percent](#) for the first time since the start of the pandemic, spiking coronavirus cases and new restrictions may soon raise that number. Those who are receiving or applying for unemployment benefits continue to experience difficulties with California Employment Development Department (EDD). A state audit revealed that the department has jeopardized [38 million](#) Californian workers' social security numbers since the start of the pandemic. And many Californians have been unduly stripped of the funds on their unemployment [debit cards](#).

The EDD is now requesting income verification documents from some who are receiving unemployment benefits. Members receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits have reported getting email notices from the EDD requesting that they upload documents through their UI Online Home page verifying their 2019 income. Watch out for any such income verification notices from the EDD! If you receive such a notice from the EDD via email or paper, you have only 21 days from the date of the notice to submit the required documents. Failure to timely provide the required documentation may result in a decrease in your weekly benefit amount or you may have to repay what you were not entitled to receive.

Last Friday, Governor Gavin Newsom announced he was [shutting down his economic task force](#) amid a resurgence of COVID-19. He also announced the launch of the [California Rebuilding Fund](#), a recommendation from the task force, which will aid in the recovery of small businesses impacted by the pandemic.

While a quicker-than-expected economic rebound has California anticipating a \$26-billion windfall by the next calendar year, a state legislative analyst is predicting California will be looking at a [budget gap of \\$17.5 billion](#) by 2024-2025.

Sources: NPR, California Policy Lab, LAist, CNBC, The Mercury News, The San Francisco Chronicle, ABC 30, Politico, Office of the Governor of California

The Market & Industry: Record-low mortgage rates, but REALTORS® less optimistic

The California housing market remains [unseasonably strong](#), if slightly slower than September's record-high levels. Buyers have been eager to take advantage of low mortgage rates — last week, rates hit a new record low of [2.72 percent](#) for a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage. In October, closed sales jumped [19.9 percent](#) from October 2019, putting the state within 1.3 percent of its cumulative total of home sales through the first 10 months of 2019 despite suffering declines of 30 to 50 percent during the first few months of the pandemic. Still, on C.A.R.'s most recent weekly survey, fewer REALTORS® have reported having a listing appointment, entering escrow or closing a transaction — and few are optimistic sales or listings will improve in the coming weeks.

Working from home could be more widely beneficial to [Black renters](#) seeking to purchase a home, according to a study from Zillow. By virtue of where they live, how much they typically earn and what jobs they typically hold, Black renters are 29 percent more likely than other renters to be able to buy their first home by taking advantage of teleworking.

Additionally, last week a state auditor revealed the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee allowed [\\$2.7 billion in bond capacity](#) — that could have been used for affordable housing — to expire. And thanks to sluggish sales during the pandemic, [iBuyer market share is set to drop](#) by 50 percent in 2020 compared to 2019 levels.

Sources: C.A.R., Freddie Mac, The Orange County Register, The San Francisco Chronicle, Zillow Research, Mike Del Prete

Around the State: Newsom institutes statewide curfew

The United States is facing its most severe surge since the start of the pandemic — if current trends continue, by December 18, more than [2,300 Americans](#) will die of coronavirus each day.

Daily COVID-19 deaths are already at their [highest level since May](#). In California, daily new cases have [tripled](#); as of Saturday, California was averaging more than [11,500 new cases](#) per day. As of yesterday at 10:40 p.m., cases in California numbered 1,148,080 and deaths had reached 18,881.

In response to the mounting cases, Governor Newsom has imposed a [scaled-back stay-at-home order](#) prohibiting nonessential activity outside the home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. in [purple-tier counties](#). The order will be in place [through December 21](#). You are allowed to walk your dog during the curfew or go to work if you are an essential worker, but you may not go out to eat — in [Los Angeles County](#), where hospitalizations are up 92 percent from the month before, both outdoor and indoor dining have been suspended entirely.

Warning this third wave could make for the [most difficult stretch of the pandemic](#) California has seen yet, health officials are [urging residents to cancel or significantly modify their Thanksgiving](#) plans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [warned Americans](#) last week not to travel and not to spend the day with people outside their household.

The California Division of Occupational Health and Safety (Cal/OSHA) issued [new rules](#), which will be taking effect in the coming weeks and last for six months, requiring employers to: fix various hazards, train employees on preventing the virus' spread, notify workers of exposure and pay for testing when cases crop up.

Also, Governor [Newsom and his family are now in quarantine](#) after three of his four children were exposed to the virus from a person from the California Highway Patrol. The family will be tested regularly, according to a spokesperson.

Sources: The Hill, The Mercury News, The San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, Official California State Government Website, U.S.

News & World Report

Health Check-Up: AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine up to 90 percent effective

Following the news from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, [AstraZeneca and Oxford University](#) released results from late-stage trials of their vaccine showing it to be up to 90 percent

effective. The AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine can be stored at 36 to 46 degrees; by comparison, Pfizer's vaccine requires thermal shippers that use dry ice to maintain temperatures of negative 94 degrees Fahrenheit. It may also [cost less](#) than its competitors: \$3 or \$4 compared with a possible \$25 per dose of Moderna's vaccine.

According to California health officials, when a vaccine is approved, it will be rolled out in [three phases](#): first to healthcare workers working directly with COVID-19 patients and those at risk for severe complications; then to other essential workers and vulnerable populations, like people in nursing facilities; then the rest of the population.

The CDC now warns that all people should avoid travel on [cruise ships](#) because the risk of COVID-19 transmission on cruise ships is so high. Passengers who do go on a cruise should get tested three to five days after they get home and quarantine for seven days.

The Food and Drug Administration issued emergency authorization for use of the [Regeneron](#) antibody cocktail to treat COVID-19 in high-risk patients. The treatment is infused into the bloodstream and is meant to be used early into the infection, before patients require hospitalization or oxygen therapy.

Sources: Los Angeles Times, Science Magazine, The New York Times, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CNN



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