



# **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Information and Resources for Immigrant Communities in the Central Valley**

(updated July 20, 2020)



California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF) and the Sacramento Family Unity, Education, and Legal (FUEL) Network for Immigrants are committed to supporting and serving immigrants during the 2019-2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have compiled here critical information and resources to help immigrant communities navigate this challenging time.

We will continue updating this document throughout the pandemic as much of this information is rapidly changing on a daily basis. Please visit <https://crlaf.org/coronavirus> for the most updated electronic version of this document with clickable links.

To learn more about the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is, you can watch [this video](#) by the World Health Organization.

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Immigration</b>	<b>3</b>
Immigration Court Hearings	3
Important Numbers	3
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Offices	3
ICE / ISAP Check-Ins	3
Immigration Enforcement Activity and Rapid Response Hotlines	4
Sacramento Rapid Response Network (Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties)	4
Valley Watch Rapid Response Network (Fresno, Kern, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties)	4
Public Charge and COVID-19	4
Presidential Proclamation Suspending Entry for Certain Immigrants Applying for Immigrant Visas	5
<b>COVID-19 Testing, Treatment, and Health Care Access</b>	<b>6</b>
Testing and Treatment for COVID-19	6
Health Care Access	6
Legal Health Rights	7
Warnings	7
Other Resources	7

<b>Cash and Food Assistance (Food Banks, CalWORKS, and CalFresh)</b>	<b>8</b>
CalWORKS, CalFresh, and CAPI	8
Pandemic-EBT (extra food benefits)	8
Food Banks	9
School Meals	9
<b>CARES Act - Checks for Taxpayers</b>	<b>10</b>
Who will receive a check?	10
Do I have to file taxes to receive the check?	10
Do immigrants qualify for the financial assistance?	10
<b>Workers' Rights and Replacement Income</b>	<b>11</b>
Summary Chart	11
Unemployment Insurance	13
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for Business Owners, Self-Employed, and Independent Contractors	13
Paid Sick Leave	14
Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL)	14
California's Paid Sick Leave for Certain Food Sector Workers	15
California's Paid Sick Leave (accrued paid sick leave)	15
Family Leave	16
Emergency Family Leave (EFL) to care for a child	16
California Paid Family Leave	16
California State Disability Insurance (SDI)	17
Workers' Compensation	17
Finding Child Care	17
Other Resources	18
<b>Housing Rights</b>	<b>19</b>
Protections for Tenants	19
Public Utilities	19
<b>Census 2020</b>	<b>20</b>

# Immigration

## **Immigration Court Hearings**

Hearings for detained individuals are still ongoing.

Hearings for non-detained individuals in most (but not all) immigration courts scheduled through August 7, 2020, have been postponed.

EOIR has created a website dedicated to immigration court updates.

- Sacramento Immigration Court: Currently open to accept filings, all hearings have been postponed.
- San Francisco Non-Detained Immigration Court: Currently open to accept filings, all hearings have been postponed.
- San Francisco Detained Immigration Court: Hearings are moving forward as scheduled.

If your hearing has been postponed, the Immigration Court will mail you a new hearing notice. It is therefore extremely important to make sure the court has your current address. Please note that providing ICE or ISAP with your new address is not sufficient; you must also update your address with the court using Form EOIR-33.

## **Important Numbers**

- Sacramento Immigration Court: (916) 447-9301
- San Francisco Immigration Court: (415) 705-4415
- EOIR automated hotline: 1 (800) 898-7180. Enter your “A” number and a recording will provide you with information about your case.

## **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Offices**

Beginning June 4, 2020, certain USCIS field offices and asylum offices will resume non-emergency face-to-face services to the public. Read the USCIS notice on their website. USCIS will continue to provide emergency services during this time. Emergency service requests can be made here.

USCIS field offices will send de-scheduling notices to applicants and petitioners with scheduled appointments impacted by the closure. All applicants will be rescheduled when USCIS resumes normal operations. Please make sure USCIS has your current address; if your address has changed, you are required to update USCIS using Form AR-11, which can be submitted online.

## **ICE / ISAP Check-Ins**

ISAP Officers should call to inform you that in-person check-ins are cancelled until further notice. If you have not yet been contacted, please call your ISAP officer for more information.

## **Immigration Enforcement Activity and Rapid Response Hotlines**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has released a [statement](#) describing its intention to “not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent or urgent care facilities, except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.” The statement also says that “Individuals should not avoid seeking medical care because they fear civil immigration enforcement.”

### **Sacramento Rapid Response Network (Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties)**

- Hotline number: **(916) 245-6773**
- Please only call if 1) you are witnessing active ICE enforcement activity or 2) are seeking legal assistance for an individual apprehended within the last 12 hours
- Other resources: <https://www.sacfuelnetwork.org/sacramento-rapid-response-network>

### **Valley Watch Rapid Response Network (Fresno, Kern, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties)**

- Hotline number: **(559) 206-0151**
- If you have an ICE check in, see an ICE raid, militarized policing, racial attacks, threats to religious minorities, or anything that threatens families, please call.

**For other immigration updates**, [CLINIC](#) has been tracking and reporting changes in government policies that affect immigration services in agencies and the immigration courts.

### **Public Charge and COVID-19**

- USCIS announced on March 13, 2020 that COVID-19 testing, preventative services, and treatment will not be considered as negative factors in the public charge analysis. See USCIS' statement [here](#).
  - If an immigrant who is applying for a visa or green card (legal permanent residency status) and must prove that they are not a public charge, they can still submit a statement with his or her application to explain how the spread of COVID-19 affected their financial status, loss of income or employment, and use of public benefits.
    - For example, if an immigrant applicant lives and works in a jurisdiction where disease prevention methods such as social distancing or quarantine are in place, or where the applicant's employer, school, or university voluntarily shuts down operations to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the applicant may submit a statement with his or her application to explain how such methods or policies have affected them.
    - For example, if the immigrant applicant is prevented from working or attending school, and must rely on public benefits for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak and recovery phase, the applicant can provide an explanation and relevant supporting documentation
- Many immigrants are exempt from the public charge test, and many benefits are not included in the public charge rule. See the [Health Consumer Alliance](#) public charge

advisory to read more about exempted benefits, and immigrants who are not subject to the public charge rule.

- For more information on public charge, you can visit:
  - [CRLAF's videos](#) on public charge (in Spanish)
  - Health Consumer Alliance [website](#)
  - Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign [website](#)
  - The Immigrant Legal Resource Center's "[Coronavirus Care & Immigration](#)" flyers in English and Spanish

### **Presidential Proclamation Suspending Entry for Certain Immigrants Applying for Immigrant Visas**

On April 22, 2020, the president issued a [proclamation](#) suspending certain immigrants from entering the United States for 60 days.

- The proclamation applies to noncitizens who are
  - (1) outside of the U.S. as of April 23, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET,
  - (2) do not have a valid immigrant visa, and
  - (3) do not have valid travel documents, such as Advanced Parole, Boarding Foil or Transportation Letter.
- The proclamation does **NOT** apply to:
  - U.S. citizens,
  - Lawful permanent residents,
  - Those holding valid immigrant visas on the effective date of the Proclamation,
  - Immigrants already present in the U.S., including those applying for Adjustment of Status, are not subject to the proclamation
- No valid visas will be revoked under this Proclamation.
- There are many exceptions to the proclamation, including exceptions for certain healthcare professionals, and spouses and children (categories IR2, CR2, IR3, IH3, IR4, IH4) of U.S. citizens.
- Routine visa services have been suspended at U.S. posts worldwide, but as resources allow, embassies and consulates will continue to provide emergency and mission critical visa services for applicants who are not subject to this presidential proclamation.

Read more on [CLINIC's website](#).

# COVID-19 Testing, Treatment, and Health Care Access

## 24/7 Free Medi-Nurse COVID-19 Advice Line

California's Department of Health Care Services launched a free, 24/7 Medi-Nurse advice line (877) 409-9052 to answer questions about COVID-19 for anyone who:

- Doesn't have insurance, or
- Is a Medi-Cal beneficiary but doesn't have a regular doctor or managed care plan to oversee their care.

The nurses who field the questions can help callers:

- Understand if symptoms might be related to COVID-19
- Determine whether they need to self-isolate
- Decide if they need to see a doctor to get tested and/or treated
- Connect with a Medi-Cal provider who can help them get enrolled

Website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/DHCS-COVID%E2%80%91919-Medi-Nurse-Line.aspx>

## Testing and Treatment for COVID-19

Everyone, regardless of immigration status, is eligible for testing and treatment of communicable diseases, including coronavirus.

- **Testing:** Under [federal](#) and [California](#) law, all health insurance plans are required to cover the *entire cost* of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and screening.
- **Treatment:** During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, [California has expanded](#) its public health insurance program, Medi-Cal, to cover testing, treatment, and care for the coronavirus for all California residents, regardless of immigration status, who do not already have insurance, or whose insurance does not already cover these services.
  - All patients with full-service Medi-Cal or commercial insurance in California will have copays, coinsurance and deductibles **waived** for COVID-19 testing and screening.

Hospital emergency rooms must help anyone who needs [emergency services](#) and community health centers also must help anyone. They will treat you whether or not you have insurance, money or immigration documents.

Read more about health resources at California's Official Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response [Health Care page](#).

## Health Care Access

If you are enrolled in a health plan, it is important that you and your family get the care you need! If you are not insured and need medical care, you have other options:

- See if you qualify for [Medi-Cal](#) (California’s public health insurance program) or a subsidized plan on [Covered California](#).
  - Medi-Cal re-eligibility determinations have been [waived](#) until the end of the coronavirus public health emergency ([order](#) updated May 29, 2020)
- Look for a public hospital or community health clinic near you with free or low cost health care services (you can search [at this website](#) for a center near you).
  - All uninsured patients can be seen at federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs) regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. FQHCs can provide screening for program eligibility, and those not eligible for any program can still be seen through their sliding scale fee program.
- To learn more about your health care coverage options, look [here](#).

### **Legal Health Rights**

- Health care workers should not ask for immigration status information, unless you apply for insurance. Your immigration status should not be a barrier to receiving care.
  - If someone asks you about health insurance, you can say “I am not eligible for health insurance and do not want to apply.”
- You do not have to provide your immigration status if you are applying for insurance for your children or a family member. Only the person seeking coverage must provide their citizenship or immigration status.
  - For example, if you are undocumented and applying on behalf of an eligible family member, like a child, you should not provide any information about your immigration status. Instead you may say, “I am not applying for health insurance for myself.”
- Everyone has a right to an interpreter when seeking health care or applying for health insurance.
  - Hospitals and community health centers may use bilingual staff, telephone interpretation services, or qualified in-person interpreters to provide assistance.
- Strong privacy rules protect your personal information when applying for health insurance.
  - Any information you give when you apply for Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, or the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare) will be used only to determine your eligibility for or to administer the program. This information should not be shared for other purposes.

For more information on your legal health rights, see:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#) by the Health Consumer Alliance,
- [Protect Your Health](#) by the Protecting Immigrant Families,
- [Access to Health Care for Immigrants](#) by National Immigration Law Center

## **Warnings**

- Patients should be wary of any offers of coronavirus “cures” or “treatments” such as “teas, essential oils, and colloidal silver.” Federal authorities have identified several companies [accused of scamming patients](#).
- Report [price gouging](#), when sellers try to take unfair advantage of consumers during an emergency or disaster by greatly increasing prices for essential consumer goods and services. You can file a report online at [oag.ca.gov/report](http://oag.ca.gov/report) or by calling (800) 052-522

## **Other Resources**

You can find other important public health information and resources at the following county websites:

[Butte County](#)

[Fresno County](#)

[Kings County](#)

[Kern County](#)

[Madera County](#)

[Merced County](#)

[Sacramento County](#)

[San Joaquin County](#)

[Stanislaus County](#)

[Sutter County](#)

[Shasta County](#)

[Tehama County](#)

[Tulare County](#)

[Yolo County](#)

[Yuba County](#)

# Cash and Food Assistance (Food Banks, CalWORKS, and CalFresh)

## CalWORKS, CalFresh, and CAPI

- See if you or your children qualify for:
  - [CalWORKS](#), California's cash assistance program with other services
  - [CalFresh](#), California's supplemental food and nutrition program, formerly known as "Food Stamps"
  - [CAPI](#), California's monthly cash benefits to aged, blind, and disabled non-citizens who are ineligible for SSI/SSP solely due to their immigrant status.
- Unfortunately, most undocumented immigrants, TPS recipients, and DACA recipients generally are not eligible for CalFresh or CalWORKS, but there are exceptions.
- Even if you don't qualify due to your immigration status, your children may qualify if they are US citizens or have lawful status.
- Re-eligibility determinations for those who currently receive CalWORKS and/or CalFresh benefits have been [waived](#) through June 17.
- You do not have to provide your immigration status if you undocumented and are applying for these benefits for your children or family member.
  - Only the person seeking benefits must provide their citizenship or immigration status. If you are applying on behalf of an eligible family member, such as your child, you only need to share the information for that family member. If you are undocumented and apply for a family member, you should not provide any information about your immigration status. Instead, you can say, "I am not applying for health insurance for myself."

## Pandemic-EBT (extra food benefits)

- [P-EBT benefits](#) help families in California buy food when schools are closed because of the coronavirus emergency.
  - Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school will get extra food benefits called Pandemic EBT or P-EBT benefits.
- Families will get up to \$365 per eligible child on their P-EBT card to use on food and groceries.
- How to get it:
  - **Families with children who already get CalFresh, Medi-Cal or Foster Care benefits do not need to apply.**
    - Most will get their P-EBT card in the mail during the month of May.
    - P-EBT cards will begin arriving in May, 2020.

- **Families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and who do not get their P-EBT card in the mail, must apply online before June 30, 2020.**
  - The online application will launch in late May (approx. May 22, 2020).

### **Food Banks**

Look for your local food bank:

- [Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services](#)
- [Stockton Food Bank](#)
- [Central California Food Bank](#)
- If not listed above, find your local food bank [here](#)

### **School Meals**

Even though most K-12 schools have closed, many school districts will continue providing meals Monday through Friday for any child, regardless of free or reduced eligibility or school of attendance. Meals are typically provided in a drive-through format and children must be present in order for meals to be provided. Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for school meals.

The California Department of Education has posted [a list](#) of all school districts and locations offering grab-and-go meals during the COVID-19 school closure. They've also created [an app](#) to help families locate meals.

- List of [Shasta County](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Butte County](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Yuba City Unified School District](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Marysville Exempted Village School District](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Sacramento region](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Stockton Unified School District](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Modesto City Schools](#) schools offering free school meals.
- Map of [Merced County](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Fresno area](#) schools offering free school meals.

If your school district or region is not listed here, please visit the school district website for any announcements or information about school meals during school closures.

# CARES Act - Checks for Taxpayers

## **Who will receive a check?**

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed on Friday, March 27, 2020, many families will receive financial assistance:

- Adults individuals will receive \$1,200, and married couples who file income taxes jointly will receive \$2,400. Children will receive \$500.
- The amounts of financial assistance will be reduced for those making more than certain levels of income. Reductions will start for individuals making more than \$75,000, heads of household making more than \$112,500, and married couples making more than \$150,000.

## **Do I have to file taxes to receive the check?**

- For those who haven't filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019, the IRS can look at income information in Social Security benefit and Railroad Retirement benefit statements to determine eligibility.
- If you have not filed taxes in 2019 or 2018, or were not required to, visit the [IRS' website](#) to provide your payment information to receive your check.

## **Do immigrants qualify for the financial assistance?**

- Immigrants with valid Social Security numbers and people who qualify as "resident aliens" will receive the checks.
  - ["Resident aliens"](#) are people who have green cards or people who can prove that they have been physically present in the United States long enough to establish "substantial presence," as per U.S. tax law.
  - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders should qualify for the money because they are issued Social Security numbers.
- ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) users do not qualify.
- Mixed-Status Households: If anyone in the family (tax filers and their children) uses an ITIN rather than a Social Security number, or does not have a SSN, the family does not qualify for the relief payment.
  - The only exception would be if one spouse has a Social Security number and at least one spouse served in the military in the last 2019 tax year.
  - For mixed-immigration status married taxpayers (where one taxpayer has an SSN and the other taxpayer has an ITIN), the couple would need to file separately in order to claim the rebate for any eligible household members. However, filing separately may render a person ineligible for Affordable Care Act subsidies that may be larger than the Recovery Rebate. Taxpayers should consult professional tax preparers about the best options for their unique household situation.

For more information: read the National Immigration Law Center's [factsheet](#).

# Workers' Rights and Replacement Income

For a complete guide to workers' rights and replacement earnings, visit the:

- [Coronavirus FAQ](#) by the Centro Legal de la Raza, Legal Aid at Work, and Bet Tzedek, or
- [Health & Safety at Work](#) by Legal Aid at Work.

To learn about what programs are available in California and what benefits you may qualify for, visit these California government websites:

- California's Employment Development Department's [Coronavirus 2019 general information page](#) or their [FAQ page](#).
- California's Official Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response [Guide for Immigrant Californians](#)

**Note on Public Charge:** All of the following benefits (i.e., unemployment insurance, paid family or sick leave, CA's State Disability Insurance (SDI), workers' compensation), are NOT considered as negative benefits in a public charge analysis.

- [USCIS](#) has also said that they will not consider these types of benefits as negative factors in a public charge analysis because they are "considered to be earned benefits through the person's employment."

## Summary Chart

Benefit	Eligibility	Duration	Pay	Immigration Status
<b>Unemployment Insurance</b>				
<a href="#">Unemployment Insurance</a>	If you have reduced work hours or lost employment due to COVID-19.	39 weeks  (26 weeks regular + 13 weeks under PUA)	\$40 to \$450 per week (based on your previous income)  + \$600 per week under PUA	Need work authorization
<b>Paid Sick Leave</b>				
<a href="#">Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL)</a>	If you are sick, in quarantine, caring for an individual who is sick, or caring for a child whose school or child care is closed.	2 weeks of job protected paid or partial-pay leave	Depending on the reason, full or partial pay, read more below  Paid for by your employer	Citizenship and immigration status do <u>not</u> affect eligibility.
<a href="#">California Paid Sick Leave for Certain Food Sector Workers</a>	For workers in the food sector who do not otherwise qualify for EPSL because	2 weeks of job protected paid or partial-pay leave	Full Pay  Paid for by your employer	Citizenship and immigration status do <u>not</u> affect eligibility.

	they work for an employer who employs more than 500 employees.			
<a href="#">California's Paid Sick Leave</a> (accrued paid sick leave)	If you or a family member are sick.	Depends on your <a href="#">accrued paid sick leave</a> under CA state law.	Full Pay  Paid for by your employer	Citizenship and immigration status do <u>not</u> affect eligibility.
<b>Paid Family Leave</b>				
<a href="#">Federal Emergency Family Leave (EFL)</a>	If you are unable to work because you must care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.	12 weeks total (2 weeks unpaid and then 10 weeks paid)  NOTE: you can use EPSL to cover the first 2 unpaid weeks	10 weeks paid at two-thirds your regular pay rate  Paid for by your employer	Citizenship and immigration status do <u>not</u> affect eligibility.
<a href="#">California Paid Family Leave (PFL)</a>	If you cannot work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional.	6 weeks (8 weeks in July 2020)	60-70% of your past wages  Paid for by the State of California	Citizenship and immigration status do <u>not</u> affect eligibility.
<b>Disability Benefits</b>				
<a href="#">California State Disability Insurance (SDI)</a>	If you cannot work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional.	Up to 52 weeks	60-70% of your past wages  Paid for by the State of California	Citizenship and immigration status do <u>not</u> affect eligibility.
<b>Workers' Compensation</b>				
<a href="#">Workers' Compensation</a>	If you are unable to do your usual job because you were exposed to and contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of your work.	Up to 104 weeks	60-70% of your past wages  Paid for by the State of California	Citizenship and immigration status do <u>not</u> affect eligibility.

## **Unemployment Insurance**

**If you are working less or have lost your job because of the coronavirus, you can apply for Unemployment Insurance.**

For enrollment instructions, read the [Guide to applying for unemployment benefits in California](#).

- If your employer has reduced your hours or stopped operations due to coronavirus, you may be able to file an [Unemployment Insurance](#) (UI) claim. You may also be eligible for UI payments if your child's school or daycare is closed and you have to miss work to care for them.
  - Under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance established by recent federal legislation, you may qualify for an additional 13 weeks (on top of the original 26 weeks) of unemployment insurance benefits, and an additional \$600 per week.
  - Starting April 12, California workers who are receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits began receiving an additional \$600 per week.
- To be eligible for UI, you must
  - 1) have had work authorization during the time you earned the wages used to establish your claim and
  - 2) still have work authorization each week in which you are claiming benefits.
  - The National Employment Law Project has a [good explainer](#) about immigrant workers' eligibility for UI.
- Immigrants must have work authorization in order to qualify for UI
  - California [allows DACA recipients](#) with unexpired work permits to apply for UI benefits if they meet all other eligibility criteria.
  - ***If you do not qualify for UI because of your immigration status, be on the look out for California's recently announced [Disaster Relief Assistance](#) for immigrants who do not otherwise qualify for UI.***
- California has waived the usual one-week unpaid waiting period for people missing work due to coronavirus. You can collect UI payments for the first week you are out of work.

## **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for Business Owners, Self-Employed, and Independent Contractors**

- Starting April 28, California will start [accepting applications](#) for the unemployed or partially unemployed Californians who are business owners, self-employed, independent contractors, and others who are financially impacted by the pandemic.

## **More Resources**

For more information about how recent federal legislation affects UI, read:

- National Employment Law Project's explainers on the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) and the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#).
- California's Employment Development Department's [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) page or [Unemployment Insurance FAQ](#) page

If you are looking for work, you can visit [OnwardCA.org](https://www.onwardca.org) to help you find resources and jobs.

For more on unemployment insurance, see [California's page for Workers](#).

### **Paid Sick Leave**

**If you are sick, in quarantine, caring for an individual who is sick, or caring for a child whose school or child care is closed, you may qualify for sick leave.**

- The newly passed Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) created [Emergency Paid Sick Leave \(EPSL\)](#), which is separate from [California's Paid Sick Leave laws](#). Because these programs are separate from each other, you can receive paid sick leave under one and then paid sick leave under the other later to maximize your paid leave.
- Both types of Paid Sick Leave (Emergency and CA's) are paid for by your employer.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for paid sick leave.
- You may also be eligible for Disability Insurance and/or Paid Family Leave (see below).

### **Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL)**

- [Emergency Paid Sick Leave \(EPSL\)](#) entitles certain employees to 2 weeks of job-protected paid or partial-pay leave
- You may qualify for EPSL if you:
  - (1) are subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
  - (2) have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;
  - (3) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
  - (4) are caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2);
  - (5) are caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) for reasons related to COVID-19; or
  - (6) are experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of Labor and Treasury.
- Rate of Pay:
  - For reasons (1) - (3), employees taking leave are entitled to pay at either their regular rate or the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$511 per day and \$5,110 in the aggregate (over a 2-week period).
  - For reasons (4) - (6), employees taking leave are entitled to pay at 2/3 their regular rate or 2/3 the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$200 per day and \$2,000 in the aggregate (over a 2-week period).
- This is for employees who work for employers with fewer than 500 employees.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for EPSL.
- EPSL is paid for by your employer.

- Employees are not required to first use other available paid leave before using paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act.
- Any employee, *regardless of hours of work or length of service* with the employer, is immediately eligible for emergency paid sick leave except that an employer can deny leave to employees who are health care providers or first responders, and the U.S. Department of Labor can issue regulations excluding these workers from eligibility.

### **California's Paid Sick Leave for Certain Food Sector Workers**

- On April 16, 2020, California's Governor Newsom issued an [executive order](#) to give 2 weeks of supplemental paid sick leave to certain food sector workers if they are subject to a quarantine or isolation order or medical directive
- This order was meant to supplement (add on to) the federal government's EPSL (discussed above) because EPSL only covers employers with less than 500 employees. Governor Newsom's order specifies that this supplemental paid sick leave is for employees who work for employers with 500 or more employees and are not otherwise covered by other measures, like EPSL.
- To qualify, a worker must:
  - (a) work in a qualifying "Food Sector" field, AND
  - (b) work for an employer with 500 or more employees, AND
  - (c) be unable to work due to any of the reasons below:
    - They are subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19; or
    - They have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine or self-isolate due to concerns related to COVID-19; or
    - They have been prohibited from working by their employer due to health concerns related to the potential transmission of COVID-19.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for this paid sick leave.
- This paid sick leave is paid for by your employer.

### **California's Paid Sick Leave (accrued paid sick leave)**

- EPSL is *in addition to* (separate from) your [accrued paid sick leave](#) under CA state law.
- Your employer should provide you with the number of paid sick days you have accrued.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for using accumulated sick days.
- Your time off during these paid sick days is paid for by your employer.

For more information about paid sick leave during the COVID-19 pandemic, read:

- The [U.S. Department of Labor's infosheet](#), or their [Employee's Rights infosheet](#), or
- The [National Immigration Law Center's](#) or [CLASP's](#) infosheets.

## **Family Leave**

**If you are caring for a child whose school or childcare is closed, or are caring for a family member who is ill, you may qualify for family leave.**

- Federal [Emergency Family Leave \(EFL\)](#) and California's [Paid Family Leave \(PFL\)](#) are separate from each other, meaning you can use family leave under one and then family leave under the other later to maximize your leave.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for family leave.

## **Emergency Family Leave (EFL) to care for a child**

- Under the newly passed [Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#), you may be entitled up to 2 weeks unpaid and then 10 weeks of emergency paid family leave at two-thirds your regular pay rate if you are unable to work because you must care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.
  - For the first unpaid two weeks, you can use the following to supplement your income: unemployment insurance (UI), Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL), accrued vacation or sick days, California Paid Family Leave (see below), or State Disability Insurance (SDI) (see below).
- This is for employees who work for employers with fewer than 500 employees.
- You must have been employed for at least 30 days.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for EFL.
- EFL is paid for by your employer.

## **California Paid Family Leave**

- Under [California Paid Family Leave \(PFL\)](#), you may qualify for an additional eight weeks of paid family leave at about 60 to 70 percent of your past wages if you cannot work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional.
- Job protection vs. Paid Benefits:
  - California's PFL only provides monetary assistance, not job protection, but PFL runs concurrently (at the same time) as the federal [Family Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#) and [California's Family Rights Act \(CFRA\)](#).
  - The FMLA and CFRA both require that employers provide employees 12 weeks of *job-protected, unpaid leave* when the employee or the employee's family member is sick.
  - This means that while California's PFL provides you with monetary assistance for up to six weeks, during that time you are taking leave, the FMLA and CFRA provide you with job protection.
- In July 2020, PFL will be extended from six weeks of paid benefits to eight weeks.
- Online and paper applications may ask for a Social Security Number (SSN). Undocumented applicants who do not have an SSN can either leave the SSN question blank on a paper application or enter all zeros in the online application.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for California's PFL.

- California's PFL is paid for by the state of California.

For more information about paid family leave during the COVID-19 pandemic, read:

- the [U.S. Department of Labor's infosheet](#), or their [Employee's Rights infosheet](#),
- the [National Immigration Law Center's](#) or [CLASP's](#) infosheets.

### **California State Disability Insurance (SDI)**

**If you are sick and unable to work, you can apply for Disability Insurance.**

- If you cannot work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional, you may be able to file a [Disability Insurance](#) (DI) claim.
- California has waived the usual one-week unpaid waiting period for people missing work due to coronavirus. You can collect DI payments for the first week you are out of work.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for DI.
  - Online and paper applications ask for a Social Security Number (SSN). Undocumented applicants who do not have an SSN can either leave the SSN question blank on a paper application or enter all zeros in the online application.
- California's SDI is paid for by the state of California.

### **Workers' Compensation**

- If you are unable to do your usual job because you contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of your work, you may be able to file a claim for [workers' compensation](#) benefits such as temporary disability payments or medical treatment.
- On Monday, May 6, 2020, Governor Newsom signed an [executive order](#) that makes it easier for essential workers who contract COVID-19 to obtain workers' compensation benefits.
  - Those eligible will have the rebuttable presumption if they tested positive for COVID-19 or were diagnosed with COVID-19 and confirmed by a positive test within 14 days of performing a labor or service at a place of work after the stay at home order was issued on March 19, 2020.
  - The presumption will stay in place for 60 days after issuance of the executive order.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for workers' compensation.
- California's Workers' Compensation is paid for by the state of California.

### **Finding Child Care**

If you are an "essential worker" during this coronavirus pandemic, California has created an interactive map of qualified licensed child care providers at [MyChildCare.ca.gov](#).

For more information, you can also visit the California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response [Find Child Care](#) page.

## **Other Resources**

These organizations have also put together great resources on workers' rights with a focus on immigrant families.

- Legal Aid at Work's [Workers' Rights Guide](#)
- National Employment Law Project's (NELP) explainers on the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) and the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#).
- [National Immigration Law Center's](#) (NILC) or [CLASP's](#) infosheets on paid family and sick leave.
- NELP and NILC's [FAQ: Immigrant Workers' Rights and COVID-19](#).

# Housing Rights

## **Protections for Tenants**

- **UPDATE:** On June 30, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an [executive order](#) extending California's eviction moratorium through September 30, 2020.
- On March 27, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an [executive order](#) banning the enforcement of eviction orders for renters affected by COVID-19 through May 31, 2020. This order has now been extended.
  - This means that law enforcement officials are not permitted to execute a writ of possession as long as the tenant does not owe back rent, notifies the landlord in writing within seven days after the rent is due they are unable to for reasons related to COVID-19 and provides supporting documentation.
  - **WARNING:** Landlords can still start legal proceedings against a tenant or evict them for reasons other than nonpayment, such as renovations, owner move-in, or converting the property to another use or any number of reasons.
    - Read the [Western Center on Law and Poverty's explainer](#) on Governor Newsom's executive order.
- In California, a landlord may not force a tenant to leave the rental unit without written notices and a court order. A three day notice simply starts a process that may well take over a month to finish. Do not believe a landlord who is threatening immediate action.

## **Public Utilities**

- PG&E has [announced](#) that it will not disconnect services for non-payment until further notice.
- SMUD has [announced](#) that it will not disconnect services for non-payment, through January 4, 2021.

# Census 2020

Census 2020 is here! In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it is still crucial to complete the census to make sure your community is accurately counted and receives the resources it needs. Some households are now receiving census forms via postal mail from the Census Bureau containing a unique 12-digit Census ID.

Census participation takes roughly 10 minutes and can easily be completed:

- Online by visiting [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) (Support in various languages)
- Over the phone by calling 844-330-2020 (Support in various languages)
- Returning by mail the paper questionnaire containing your unique 12-digit Census ID

You can prevent Census Bureau takers and field representatives coming to your door by completing the census via online, phone, or mail as early as possible. The 2020 census will not ask about citizenship or immigration status. The Census Bureau does not share any personally identifiable information with any other agency, including federal immigration authorities. This information is kept confidential under law.