



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

(updated March 19, 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.

### **Immigration Court Hearings**

- Sacramento Immigration Court: Currently closed and all hearings have been postponed. You may file any documents for your case with the SF Court ([mailing address here](#)).
- 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)**

All USCIS field offices, asylum offices, and Application Support Centers (ASCs) will not provide in-person services (including interviews, naturalization ceremonies, and biometric collection appointments) until at least April 1. 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**

- If you are unable to attend a check-in because of illness or because you are at particular risk of becoming ill, call your ICE or ISAP office for further guidance.

## **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.

## **Testing for COVID-19 and Healthcare Access**

- Everyone, regardless of immigration status, is eligible for testing and treatment of communicable diseases, including coronavirus.
- COVID-19 testing and treatment is not considered a negative factor in the public charge analysis.
- COVID-19 testing is entirely free for anyone, regardless of health care coverage status or immigration status.
- 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](#) through June 17.
  - 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).
  - To learn more about your health care coverage options, look [here](#).
- For more information on your legal health rights during this time, see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information Factsheet](#) by the Health Consumer Alliance, and [You Have Rights: Protect Your Health](#) by the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign.

## **Unemployment Insurance**

- 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.
- 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. California allows DACA recipients with unexpired work permits to apply for UI benefits if they meet all other eligibility criteria.

- 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.

### **Paid Sick Leave**

- If you cannot work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional, you can use your accrued [paid sick leave](#) to continue being paid for the time you miss work. You may also be eligible for Disability Insurance (see below).
- Your employer should provide you with the number of paid sick days you have accrued.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for paid sick leave.

### **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.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for DI.
- 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.

### **Paid Family Leave**

- If you cannot work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional, you may be able to file a [Paid Family Leave](#) (PFL) claim.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for PFL.
- PFL does not have a waiting period for benefits.
- If eligible, you can receive PFL payments for up to 6 weeks.

### **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.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for workers' compensation.

### **Protections for Tenants**

- 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.
- The Sacramento City Council has established in Sacramento an emergency temporary moratorium on the eviction of tenants unable to pay rent due to a loss of income caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. For more details, including the specific wage loss reasons that are covered and the dates of the moratorium, please view the [City's FAQ page](#).
- The Fresno City Council has established in Fresno a one-month moratorium on evictions, with six months to catch up on deferred payments.

### **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.

- 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.

### **Other Food Assistance**

[Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services](#) | [Stockton Food Bank](#) | [Central California Food Bank](#)

- Re-eligibility determinations for those who currently receive CalFresh (food stamps) benefits have been [waived](#) through June 17. Unfortunately, most undocumented immigrants, TPS recipients, and DACA recipients generally are not eligible for CalFresh.

### **Public Utilities**

- PG&E has [announced](#) that it will not disconnect services for non-payment.
- SMUD has [announced](#) that it will not disconnect services for non-payment, through March 31.
- The city of Fresno has issued a 30-day [moratorium](#) as of March 16 on shutting off water or garbage services for non-payment due to coronavirus impacts.
- The city of Clovis has suspended water shut-offs for non-payment, until further notice.

### **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.

### **Other Resources**

You can find other important public health information and resources at the following county websites (in geographic order): [Shasta County](#), [Tehama County](#), [Butte County](#), [Yuba County](#), [Sutter County](#), [Yolo County](#), [Sacramento County](#), [San Joaquin County](#), [Stanislaus County](#), [Merced County](#), [Madera County](#), [Fresno County](#), [Kings County](#), [Tulare County](#), [Kern County](#)