COVID-19 in California

- COVID-19, which is caused by the coronavirus, is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways

- A shelter-in-place directive was issued March 19th in response to slowing down the virus

- Californians can go out for essential errands or to do critical jobs, but are otherwise advised to stay away from others

- Visit https://covid19.ca.gov/ for continual updates and useful information
Stay-at-Home Order

**Do:**
- ✓ Stay home
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

**Don’t:**
- ✓ Shake hands
- ✓ Touch your face
- ✓ Go to the doctor if you aren’t sick
- ✓ Stockpile masks or gloves
What’s Open During the Stay-at-Home order?

Essential services such as:

- Gas stations, pharmacies, and banks
- Grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, take-out and delivery restaurants
- Laundromats/laundry services
- Essential state and local government functions
Nutritional Resources
CalFresh

• Formerly known as Food Stamps

• Helps to improve the health and well-being of qualified households and individuals by providing them a means to meet their nutritional needs

• Apply for CalFresh online or dial 916-654-1896

• Get your questions answered through the CalFresh Benefits Helpline at 1-877-847-3663
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

• Federal food stamp program

• Provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families

• For more information, call 1-877-847-FOOD (1-877-847-3663) or apply online
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

- Created to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless throughout the US
- Allocates federal funds for the provision of food and shelter, as well as services that provide financial assistance
  
  *United Way* serves as the fiscal agent
Food Banks

• A location where donated food and other products are solicited and warehoused

• Food is distributed to a variety of individuals and community agencies which serve people in need

• To locate a nearby food bank, go to www.cafoodbanks.org or call 1-866-321-4435
Healthcare
VA Healthcare

- USDVA is still accepting applications for health care during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Estimated time for approval is approximately 7-10 days business days

- Apply online or by telephone at 1-877-222-8387
My HealtheVet

• To mitigate community spread visit www.myhealth.va.gov

• Access or manage: Appointments, Prescriptions, Health Records, or Messages to or from your Doctor

• Contact My HealtheVet by phone at 1-877-327-0022
Veterans Crisis Line

• A free, confidential resource that connects veterans with caring, qualified responders

• Available 24/7 to anyone, even if you’re not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care

• If you are in crisis and need to speak with a crisis responder, please call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 or text 838255

• Also offers online chat to provide another way for Veterans to connect with confidential, round-the-clock support

www.veteranscrisisline.net
VA Facilities Directory

• A storehouse of facility and key staff information within 1,934 VA facilities

• Categorizes information for browsing by state, administration, and address

• Locate VA Medical Centers or Clinics in your local area at www.va.gov
Other Websites and Phone Numbers

• Check out publichealth.va.gov for the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus information.

• The VA’s Inquiry Routing & Information System (IRIS) webpage is a one-stop location that routes you to information on many of the different programs offered through the VA.

• 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) is a national toll-free number which assists Veterans in getting their questions answered more efficiently.
More Websites and Phone Numbers

• For Benefits Questions, such as GI Bill, Claim Status or Disability Benefits, contact the **VA Benefits Hotline** at **1-800-827-1000** (Monday - Friday, 8AM - 9PM ET)

• Call **1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387)** if you have a problem with your care provider, VA medical facility, or any other aspect of your care
Community Services and Resources
County Services and Resources

- Each city, county, and local government in California is uniquely working to mitigating the spread of COVID-19

- Find out how your county is responding by getting local information at www.covid19.ca.gov
Education Services and Resources

• Check your local school district for more information on how and where to receive services

• Childcare for essential workers may be available in your area

• Contact your city, county, or local government as available services can vary
Renters and Homeowners Protection

- The California Governor authorized local governments and banks to halt evictions for renters and homeowners, slow foreclosures, and protect against utility shutoffs for Californians affected by COVID-19.

- The order does not relieve a tenant from the obligation to pay rent or restrict the landlord’s ability to recover rent that is due.

- The protections are in effect through May 31, 2020, unless extended.
90-Day Mortgage Payment Relief

• If you are struggling with the COVID-19 crisis contact your financial institution to see if you are eligible to participate in the 90-Day Grace Period for Mortgage Payments program

• This relief package offers mortgage payment forbearances of up to 90 days to borrowers economically impacted by COVID-19
In Addition...

Those institutions will:

- Provide borrowers a streamlined process to request a forbearance for COVID-19-related reasons
- Confirm approval of and terms of forbearance program
- Provide borrowers the opportunity to request additional relief, as practicable, upon continued showing of hardship due to COVID-19
Included with the Package

- Late or missed payments will not be shared with credit reporting agencies
- Moratorium on initiating foreclosure sales or evictions for 60 days
- Financial institutions will waive or refund mortgage-related late fees and other fees for 90 days
Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs)

- A low-interest federal disaster loan that is offered through the U.S. Department of Small Business Administration

- Provides up to $2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue

- Can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact

- Businesses can apply here online
COVID-19 Emergency Financial Relief Program

- Prioritizes and provides financial assistance to individuals who are experiencing financial stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Available to all Veterans, Active Duty, Reserves and National Guard

- Supports 1 month of payment (up to $1500) in areas such as rent, mortgage, auto loan/lease, or utilities (electric, water, heat)

- One emergency financial request per household

Apply Online Today
Important Dates and Deadlines

• State and federal tax deadlines have been extended to July 15, 2020

• The deadline for compliance with REAL ID requirements has been delayed until October 1, 2021
VA Education Benefits
Senate Bill 3503

- Emergency Act to Preserve GI Bill Payments Becomes Law: Effective 3/1/2020 - 12/21/2020
- VA education payments for classes that are "converted to distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-related situation" will continue to be paid as if they were conducted in the classroom
- Affects all VA education payments

www.Military.com
Check the Announcements section for up-to-date information on COVID-19 and any changes that are made in regards to education benefits in general.

Follow USDVA on Facebook @gibilleducation to participate in open discussions related to your GI Bill benefits at this time.

If you have questions about your specific circumstance, please contact the Education Call Center @ 1-888-442-4551.
Maintain Academic Standards

- Remain aware of your Professors expectations as news regarding COVID-19 changes daily

- Continue to communicate any issues or concerns you may have during this unique time

- Apply for Tutorial Assistance if needed, and if you meet eligibility requirements
CVSO Claims & Resources
County Veterans Service Office

- Provide Veterans and dependents free benefit information and assistance for state and federal programs

- Representatives assist with processing intent to files, claims, and appeals

- Available by phone or through e-mail (certain locations may have video chat capabilities)

- Locate your local County Veterans Service Office online
Assistance Offered Regarding...

- College Fee Waiver
- DMV Veteran Designation
- Records Request
- Legal Aid Resources
- Housing Resources
- PTSD & Mental Health Resources

***Please note there maybe limitations to the programs***
Housing
Suspension of Foreclosures

• The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) suspends all foreclosures for the next 60 days

• Applies to homeowners with FHA-insured Title II Single Family forward and Home Equity Conversion (reverse) mortgages

• Meant to address the impacts to the financial well-being of America’s individuals, families, and businesses caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19)

• Includes short and long-term forbearance options, mortgage modifications, and other mortgage payment relief options available based on the borrower’s individual circumstances
Public and Indian Housing

- HUD developed an Information and Resource webpage that makes it easier for state and local health departments to collaborate with housing providers.

- See FAQ regarding COVID-19 and Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs, and Native American programs.
Homeless Service Providers

- People experiencing homelessness often have a higher risk for exposure to communicable diseases and have little access to health care systems and treatment in their communities

- Find information and resources for community partners at [HUD Exchange](https://exchange.hud.gov)

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can fund for a range of eligible activities that prevent and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19

- See HUD’s [Quick Guide](https://exchange.hud.gov) to review eligible activities to support infectious disease response
Employment
Search for Jobs

- Employee Development Department (EDD) provide priority services to all veterans, and their eligible spouse to find jobs and maximize employment and training opportunities.

- Search for federal jobs at USAJobs.gov (Apply for Veterans Preference here).

- Search for California State jobs at CalCareers.ca.gov (Apply for Veterans Preference here).

- Get assistance with the job search process through Work for Warriors.

***Search for Essential positions***
Social Media

- Utilizing different Social Media Outlets can let you post and submit your resume and search for jobs

- LinkedIn can connect you to the world’s professionals to become more productive and successful

- Check out CalVet’s Facebook page for job postings specifically advertised to Veterans, and tips on securing a job
Unemployment Benefits

- File a Claim [online](#)

- If the Veteran has been separated for more than 18 months, they must use the **REGULAR UI Application**

- If the Veteran has separated for less than 18 months, they must fill out the **SERVED IN THE MILITARY Application** (Can only be filed via phone or mailed/faxed, and must include a copy of the veteran’s DD-214)

- Contact your County Veteran Service Office ([CVSO](#)) for all questions and/or help
New Mission: Self Care
Adapt, Overcome, and Improvise

• As of now, life must adapt to a new way of living, which will incorporate a large amount of social distancing and self-isolation.

• For many veterans, this can lead to a whole host of negative symptoms which could possibly affect your transition into civilian life.

• It is important that you find ways to improve your mental health when sheltering in place.
Create a Routine

• Perform the same morning rituals you did before

• Have meals at a consistent time throughout the day

• Try your best to get to bed at the same time each night

• Keep a rough schedule for things during the day; try to eat breakfast, read, or do chores and maybe after lunch, do an online activity or finish some work
Continued Social Interactions

• Stay in touch with friends through texting, phone calls, and video chat

• Go for walks and use that time as an opportunity to get fresh air and a sense of human connection with those who may be doing the same

• Facebook groups are more relevant now, as people become more accustomed to, and more reliant on, online communities for an increasing range of their social needs

• Find virtual meeting spaces, ie: Streaming church services or music events
Ask for Help

• You don’t have to be alone. If you or anyone you know needs help, contact the Veterans Crisis Line.
Contact Us

California Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 O Street, Sacramento CA 95814
1-800-952-5626
www.calvet.ca.gov