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WEEKLY DIGEST

APRIL 2, 2020



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# LOCAL RIGHT NOW, A HOMEMADE FACE MASK IS A GOOD IDEA

April 1, 2020 | Bill McEwen

Health experts in the United States are at odds over whether people should wear a face mask while venturing beyond their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. But before digging into

**"The value of the mask isn't necessarily to protect you from getting sick, although it may offer some protection. It's to protect you from other people. So when someone who's infected is wearing a mask, they're much less likely to transmit infection." — Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former FDA commissioner**

that debate, let's go straight to what the experts agree on. N95 respirator masks and surgical masks should be reserved exclusively for the folks who really need them: healthcare workers and first-responders. So, don't endanger the people on the

front lines of the coronavirus battle by buying up precious personal protective equipment that's in short supply. And don't endanger yourself, friends, or neighbors by denying the professionals the equipment they need to treat coronavirus patients.

Some people are getting this important message. On Wednesday, Home Depot ordered its 2,300 stores in North America to stop sales of N95 masks. The company said that the masks are now going to the front lines of the coronavirus emergency response. In addition, Lowe's has pledged to donate \$10 million worth of protective gear to medical professionals. Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, got the mask debate rolling Sunday in an interview with CBS News. Gottlieb said that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should issue designs for cloth masks that the public can wear. "The value of the mask isn't necessarily to protect you from getting sick, although it may offer some protection," Gottlieb said. "It's to protect you from other people. So when someone who's

infected is wearing a mask, they're much less likely to transmit infection." And, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director, told CNN on Sunday that "the idea of getting a much more broad communitywide use of masks outside of the health care setting is under very active discussion at the task force. The CDC group is looking at that very carefully." However, the CDC has yet to budge. Its position is, "If you are NOT sick: You do not need to wear a face mask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a face mask)."

## Riverside, Los Angeles Leaders Recommend Face Masks for Residents

But some health officials are urging people to don masks anyway. On Tuesday, Riverside County's public health officer, Dr. Cameron Kaiser, said that residents there should cover their nose and mouth with bandanas, fabric masks, or neck gaiters when leaving home. "When the situation changes, the rulebook changes," Kaiser said. "We're seeing our numbers increasing even sooner than we predicted and that means our strategy must change too. Covering your face doesn't change the orders everyone must abide by to stay home as much as possible and maintain social distancing, but it's an extra layer of protection that I think we need to add." Kaiser's recommendation came as Riverside County reported 80 new COVID-19 cases. That increased Riverside's total to 371. That same day, President Donald Trump reiterated a point made by his scientific advisers: The public shouldn't compete with hospitals and health-care workers for scarce N95 and surgical masks. But, said the president, "Use a scarf if you want. It...

**N95 respirator masks and surgical masks should be reserved exclusively for the folks who really need them: healthcare workers and first-responders.**

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# WILL LOCAL DISTRICTS FOLLOW NEWSOM'S ADVICE AND NOT RE-OPEN SCHOOLS?

April 1, 2020 | Randy Reed

Schools across the state should plan on teaching from afar for the rest of the academic year, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Wednesday. “The right thing to do for our children, the right thing to do for the parents, for households, for the community which they reside, is to make sure that we are preparing today to set our school system up where we are increasing class time, but increasing it at home,” Newsom said.

**No Change Yet to Local Closure Schedules**

Many are interpreting Newsom’s statement as confirming that schools will stay closed at least until summer. “Governor Newsom made a difficult, but necessary decision to close schools for the remainder of the school year,” said Fresno Teachers Association president Manual Bonilla in a news release. Bonilla added, “although schools are physically closed, we will

continue to provide learning opportunities to our students via distance learning platforms.” But local school district officials have not changed their official positions on closures at this point. Fresno Unified and Central Unified have both said their schools would not reopen until at least May 4. A Fresno Unified spokesperson said trustees are scheduled to discuss the latest developments Wednesday night.

Clovis Unified’s closure is currently scheduled through April 13, but district spokeswoman Kelly Avants said the school board will consider an extension through May 1 at its Wednesday night meeting. “We recognize that, dependent on the state of this current community health concern, we may have to extend even past that date,” Avants said, “but with the situation changing so rapidly around the nation, we also feel...

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## HERE’S A LIST OF RESTAURANTS THAT OFFER DELIVERY IN FRESNO AND CLOVIS

April 1, 2020 | GV Wire

The online review site Yelp put together a list of local eateries that remain open and are offering meal delivery.

Some offer delivery directly, at no additional charge under certain conditions. GrubHub and DoorDash deliveries are ordered through its mobile and online app and come with a fee.

More information regarding Downtown Fresno businesses and restaurants can be found at this link as well.

From Yelp: “These are places you can go to get delivery. Please contact each restaurant directly for ordering details. We understand that things can change quickly, we will be updating this collection should we receive new information. If you have a suggestion or edit to share, please DM your local Community Ambassador.”

[View the full list at this link.](#)



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## MAYOR ORDERS FRESNO PARKS CLOSED EASTER WEEKEND

April 1, 2020 | David Taub

Fresno Mayor Lee Brand announced Wednesday that all city parks will be closed Easter weekend, April 11-12, in the name of COVID-19 safety. Brand called it “an extremely difficult decision.” Traditionally, Roeding Park and Woodward Park, two city-operated regional parks, draw huge crowds of families and friends celebrating the holiday. “In this COVID-19 environment, it would be very dangerous to keep them open,” Brand said. The parks will reopen Monday, April 13. Brand said code enforcement and “maybe” private security would enforce the closures. He prefers enforcers just sending people home rather than issue any citations or arrests.

**Brand Will Have “Smallest” Personal Easter Gathering**

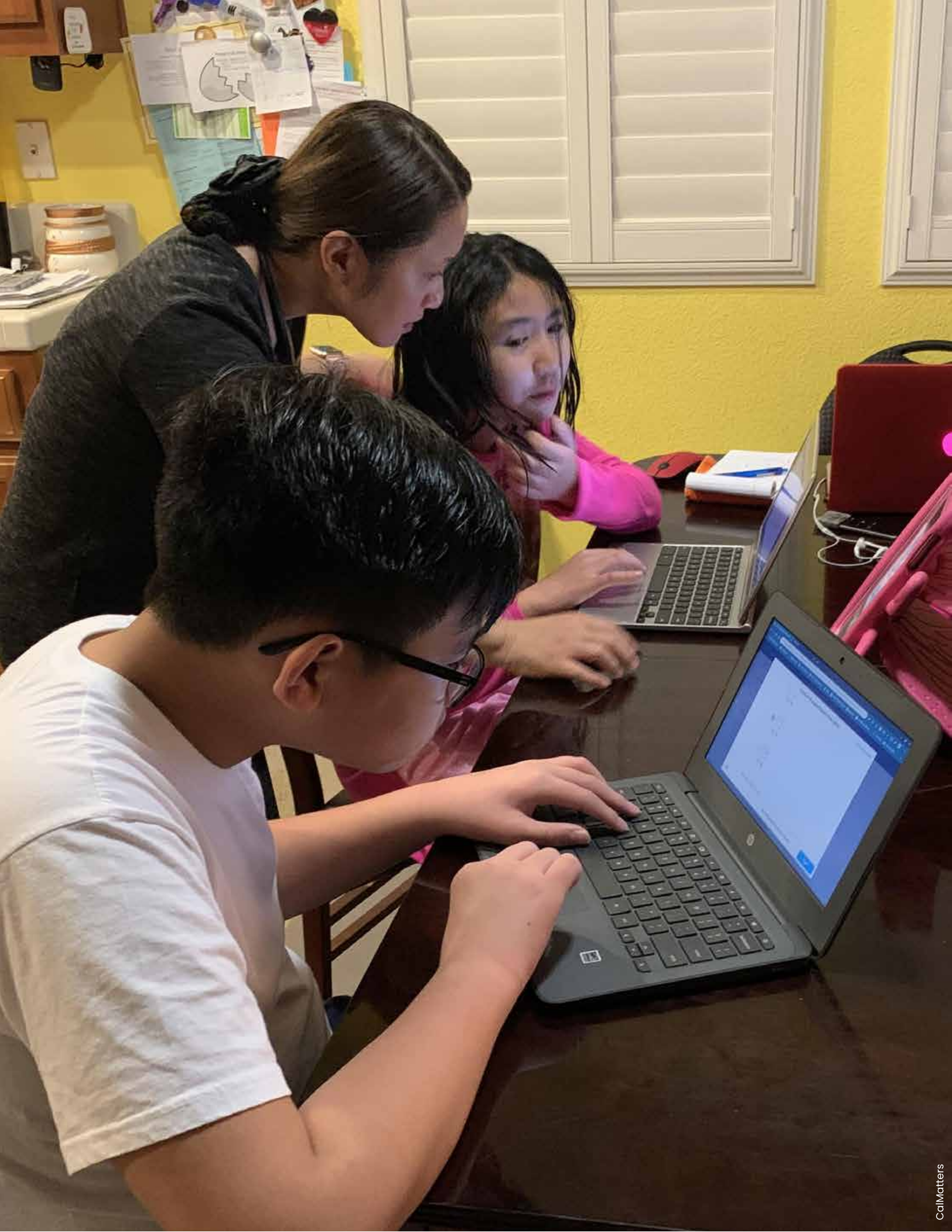
Once again, Brand made the announcement from the driveway of his northeast Fresno home. He did so to practice what he is preaching — staying at home during the pandemic. “Being home all day can make you stir crazy, I know that. I try to make as few trips as possible. I’ve got to lead by example,” Brand...

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GV Wire/David Taub





# CORONAVIRUS STRETCHES CALIFORNIA'S SPECIAL ED SYSTEM TO THE BRINK

April 1, 2020 | [CalMatters](#)

By [Elizabeth Aguilera](#) and [Ricardo Cano](#), [CalMatters](#)

In Modesto, Claire Lazaro is working full time while caring for her kids with autism. She worries about just how much progress her kids stand to lose now that they're mostly without their critical hands-on services, such as her 11-year-old daughter's one-on-one aide and her 12-year-old son's inclusion specialist. The days also seem to blur together now for Sherry Doyle, an Alameda County special education teacher who spends much of her time conferencing with parents, giving them crash courses on how to homeschool their children, while working into the night to piece together her digital classroom. Across California, schools have physically shuttered as they make the unprecedented move

**Nearly 800,000 students in California receive special education services, accounting for almost 13% of the state's student enrollment. That number doesn't include the tens of thousands of children under age 3 who receive specialized services through the state's 21 regional centers.**

toward online instruction amid the coronavirus pandemic. The virus has upended almost every facet of education in California and the nation — but perhaps no other student group stands to be more affected than students with special needs.

Nearly 800,000 students in California receive special education services, accounting for almost 13% of the state's student enrollment. That number doesn't include the tens of thousands of children under age 3 who receive specialized services through the state's 21 regional centers — which provide support services to special needs individuals — under the Department of Developmental Services. Parents, educators and advocates who spoke with CalMatters shared fears that special needs children will not only regress in academics, but lose some of the essential skills they've developed while working intimately with teachers, paraprofessionals and providers such as be-

havior and speech therapists. Now, educators are scrambling to help their most vulnerable students, and working parents long accustomed to advocating for their special-needs children are essentially having to wear yet another hat: being their child's teacher or therapist.

**Parents, educators and advocates who spoke with CalMatters shared fears that special needs children will not only regress in academics, but lose some of the essential skills they've developed while working intimately with teachers, paraprofessionals and providers such as behavior and speech therapists.**

## Big Adjustment

"It is pretty overwhelming," Lazaro said. "I'm worried for my daughter because she is the one who really needs a lot of support, especially with math problems and reading comprehension. Even if I try to do it at home, I can't do as much as they are doing at school. I don't know if she is going to be able to catch up." Lazaro, a clinical director at the Stockton-based Valley Mountain Regional Center, has tried to maintain a schedule for her kids, Hannah and Gabriel, even as she works long hours from home.

Hannah, a fifth grader, uses an assisted communication device at school, gets speech therapy three times a week, and she has a one-on-one aide who helps her stay on task and with her work. Gabriel, in sixth grade, has an inclusion specialist at school who goes into his classroom to check on him and to offer assistance for anything he might need. The school district provides these services. "They are not seeing any of that right now," Lazaro said, adding that Hannah separately receives behavioral therapy three times a week and that is still going on, albeit virtually. Lucia Soares, a Modesto mom, shares similar concerns for her son Daniel, 16, who is on the autism spectrum. Daniel attends general education classes with assistance from a one-on-one aide. He dreams of becoming a doctor...

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## UC DAVIS USES ANTIVIRAL DRUG REMDESIVIR ON 'VERY GRAVE' COVID-19 PATIENT. SHE'S HOME

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April 1, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

UC Davis Medical Center received the first case of community transmission of COVID-19 in the U.S. on Feb. 26. Within 24 hours of admission, the female patient's respiratory status deteriorated. Because of the severity of her illness, the team received approval from the Food and Drug Administration to treat the woman who is in her 40s with an investigational drug called remdesivir.

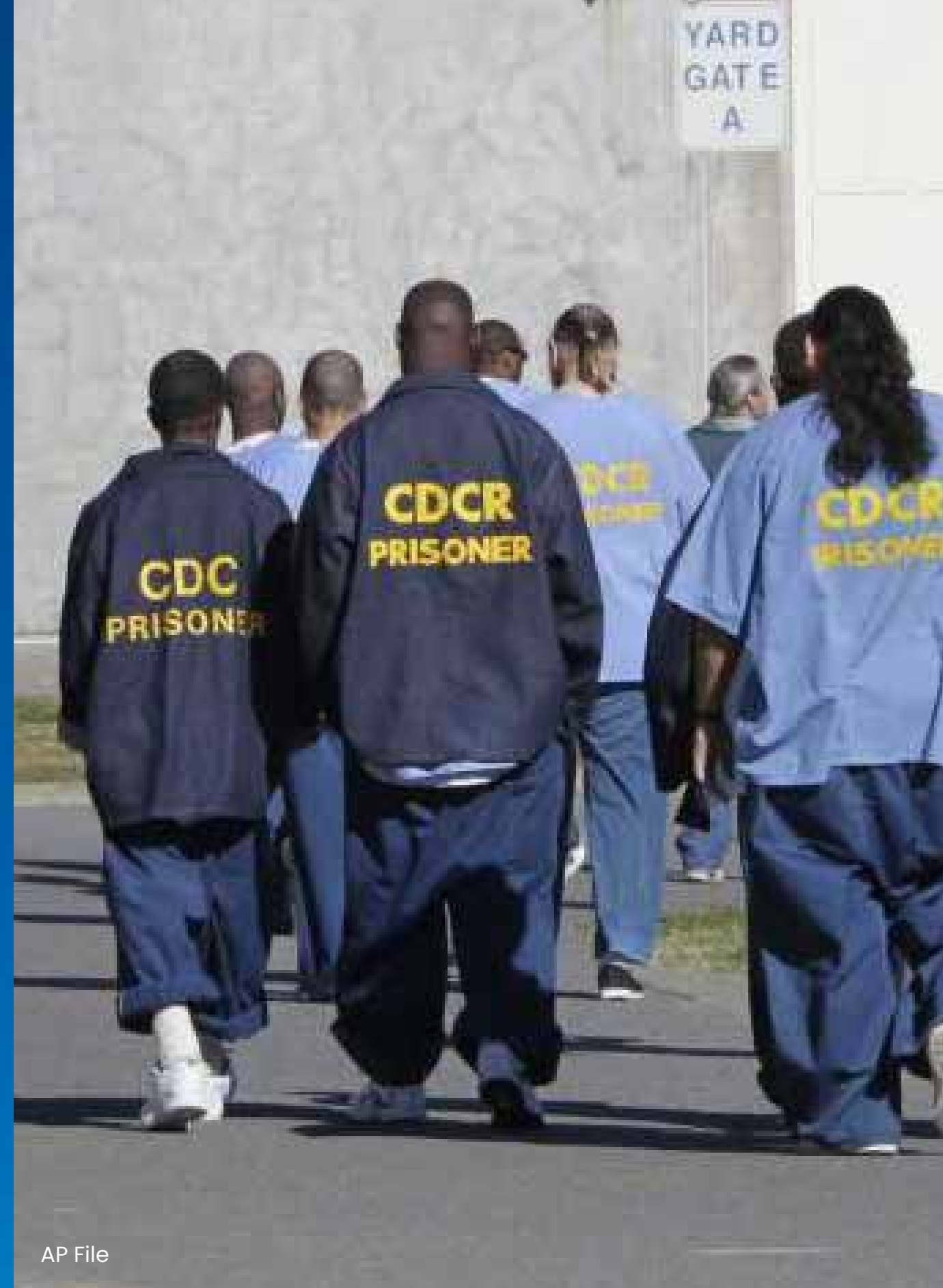
She has since been discharged and is recovering at home. The team emphasizes that whether remdesivir is effective against human COVID-19 is not yet known. Clinical trials funded by the National Institutes of Health and the phar-

maceutical industry will be key to analyzing the drug's effectiveness against coronavirus. The broad-spectrum antiviral developed by Gilead Sciences Inc. has been tested in humans with Ebola and has shown promise against coronaviruses in animal models according to UC Davis.

### What Is Remdesivir and How It Works

Gilead Sciences has initiated two Phase 3 clinical studies to evaluate the safety and "efficacy" of remdesivir in adults diagnosed with COVID-19 following the FDA's rapid review and acceptance of Gilead's investigational new drug filing. "Studies began enrolling patients in March 2020 and will...

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AP File

## CALIFORNIA SEEKS 3,500 NEW INMATE RELEASES OVER CORONAVIRUS

March 31, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California is planning to release within days as many as 3,500 inmates who were due to be paroled in the next two months as it tries to free space in cramped prisons in anticipation of a coronavirus outbreak, state officials said Tuesday. The move comes a week after Gov. Gavin Newsom halted intakes from jails, a move projected to lower the prison's population by about 3,000 inmates in the next 30 days.

The combination is edging closer to the drop of at least 10,000 inmates that advocates say is a baseline for creating enough space particularly in crowded dormitories so that prisoners have a chance to maintain a safe social distance like the rest of the state's population. Most people with the virus experience mild or moderate fever and coughing that clear up in two to three weeks. Some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, can face severe illness, including pneumonia and death. The 3,500...

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## CALIFORNIA RULES ANGER WATER AGENCIES, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

April 1, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California regulators on Tuesday set new rules about how much water can be taken from the state's largest rivers, angering water agencies for restricting how much they can take and environmental groups for not making those limits low enough to protect endangered species. Most of California's water comes from snow that melts in the Sierra Nevada and flows through a series of rivers and streams to the San Francisco Bay.

The state has two complex systems of canals, dams and reservoirs that deliver and store the water. The state operates one system that mostly provides drinking water for 27 million people while the federal government runs the other system that mostly provides water for the state's \$50 billion agriculture industry. Historically, the federal government has set the rules for both systems in cooperation with state officials. But this year, California says the federal government's rules do too much harm to the environment and have sued to block them...

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AP File





Heather Rousseau/The Roanoke Times via AP

# WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET YOUR GOVERNMENT STIMULUS CHECK

April 2, 2020 | AP News

The IRS and the Treasury Department say Americans will start receiving their economic impact checks in the next three weeks. The payments are part of the \$2.2 trillion rescue package signed into law last week by President Donald Trump aimed at combating the economic ravages of the coronavirus outbreak.

Most people don't need to do anything to get the money. But some — including senior citizens and low-income people who might not traditionally file tax returns — do need to take action. People behind on filing their taxes might also want to get caught up. The IRS and Treasury have provided more details on how to ensure you get paid. Here are the basics:

### Who Is Eligible for the Payments?

Anyone earning up to \$75,000 in adjusted gross income and who has a Social Security number will receive a \$1,200 payment. That means married couples filing

**The payments are part of the \$2.2 trillion rescue package signed into law last week by President Donald Trump aimed at combating the economic ravages of the coronavirus outbreak.**

joint returns will receive the full payment — \$2,400 — if their adjusted gross income, which what you report on your taxes, is under \$150,000.

The payment steadily declines for those who make more. Those earning more than \$99,000, or \$198,000 for joint filers, are not eligible. The thresholds are slightly different for those who file as a head of household. Parents will also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

### What Do I Have to Do to Get the Check?

For most people, nothing. The money will be directly deposited in your bank account if the government has that information from your tax return. If you haven't filed your 2019 taxes, the government will use information from your 2018 taxes to calculate your payment

and determine where to send it. It can use your Social Security benefit statement as well.

### I Don't Usually Have to File Taxes. Do I Still Get a Payment?

Yes. People who are not required to file a tax return — such as low-income tax payers, some senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and people with disabilities — will need to file a very simplified tax return to receive the economic impact payment. It provides the government basic details including a person's filing status, number of dependents and direct-deposit bank information.

**Anyone earning up to \$75,000 in adjusted gross income and who has a Social Security number will receive a \$1,200 payment. That means married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment — \$2,400 — if their adjusted gross income, which what you report on your taxes, is under \$150,000.**

### I Haven't Filed My 2018 or 2019 Taxes. Will I Still Get a Payment?

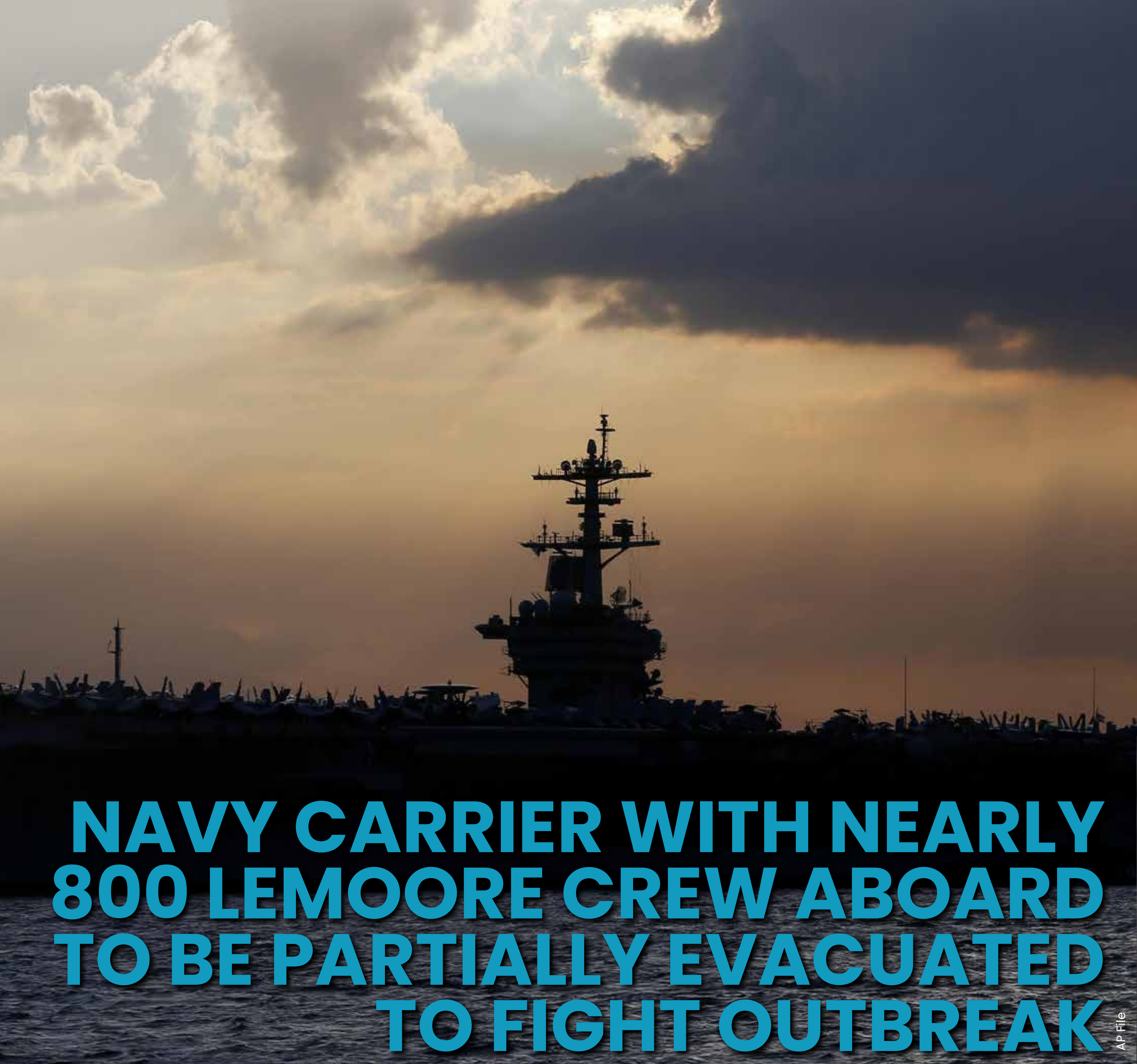
Yes, but the IRS urges anyone required to file a tax return and has not yet done so for those years to file as soon as possible in order to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include their direct-deposit banking information on the return if they want it deposited in their account.

### I Didn't Use Direct Deposit on My Taxes, What Can I Do?

The government will default to sending you the check by mail if you did not use direct deposit. However, IRS and Treasury say that they will develop an online portal in the coming weeks for individuals to provide their banking information so that they can receive the payments immediately instead of in the mail. It has not yet set a deadline for updating that information. The IRS and Treasury say the website [irs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) will soon provide information about the check, including...

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# NAVY CARRIER WITH NEARLY 800 LEMOORE CREW ABOARD TO BE PARTIALLY EVACUATED TO FIGHT OUTBREAK

April 2, 2020 | AP News

Nearly 3,000 sailors aboard the carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt will be taken off the ship in an effort to stop a spreading coronavirus outbreak. Close to 800 NAS Lemoore-based personnel are on-board the ship, attached to two strike F/A-18E fighter squadrons from the base. The sailors will be taken off the ship by Friday, Navy officials said as they struggle to quarantine affected crew members.

So far, fewer than 100 of the nearly 5,000 sailors assigned to the USS Theodore Roosevelt, now docked in Guam, have tested positive for the virus, but the Navy is moving sail-

ors into various facilities and probably will begin using hotel rooms in the coming days. Navy leaders are talking with government officials in the U.S. territory to identify rooms for the crew members.

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly, however, made it clear Wednesday that while several thousand will leave the ship, other sailors will remain on board in order to continue to protect the ship and run critical systems. "We cannot and will not remove all sailors from the ship," Modly told Pentagon reporters. He said officials will send as many sailors...

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AP/Ben Margot

## WHY HEALTH EXPERTS AREN'T WARNING ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

April 1, 2020 | AP News

NEW YORK — Chicken with salmonella can make you sick. So can romaine lettuce with E. coli and buffets with lurking norovirus. So why aren't health officials warning people about eating food contaminated with the new coronavirus? The answer has to do with the varying paths organisms take to make people sick.

Respiratory viruses like the new coronavirus generally attach to cells in places like the lungs. Germs like norovirus and salmonella can survive the acid in stomachs, then multiply after attaching to cells inside people's guts. "Specializing in what tissues to attach to is typically part of the disease's strategy to cause illness," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC and other experts note that the virus is new and still being studied. But they say there's no evidence yet that COVID-19 sickens people through their digestive systems, though the virus has...

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## A GUIDE TO SURVIVING FINANCIALLY AS THE BILLS COME DUE

April 1, 2020 | AP News

The coronavirus has dealt a financial blow to millions of Americans and now April's bills are coming due. The good news is there is help available. Reach out immediately to your mortgage lender, student loan servicer or utility provider to see what's available. Other assistance, such as stimulus checks or unemployment benefits, will take more time. The bottom line is that you need to take action to seek certain forms of relief. Here is help navigating the biggest issues:

### Housing

Numerous mortgage lenders have said they are willing to work with distressed borrowers, including potentially suspending or reducing payments. Contact them immediately to find out about your options. If you hold a mortgage backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac — about half of all mortgage holders do — there is help. The mortgage buyers have suspended all foreclosures and evictions for homes owned...

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# WHAT'S ESSENTIAL? IN FRANCE: PASTRY, WINE. IN US: GOLF, GUNS

March 30, 2020 | AP News

The coronavirus pandemic is defining for the globe what's "essential" and what things we really can't do without, even though we might not need them for survival. Attempting to slow the spread of the virus, authorities in many places are determining what shops and services can remain open. They're also restricting

**"Recent events clearly demonstrate that the process of designating 'essential services' is as much about culture as any legal-political reality about what is necessary to keep society functioning." — Christopher McKnight Nichols, associate professor at Oregon State**

citizens from leaving their homes. Stay-at-home orders or guidance are affecting more than one-fifth of the world's population.

This has left many contemplating an existential question: What, really, is essential? Whether it is in Asia, Europe, Africa or the

United States, there's general agreement: Health care workers, law enforcement, utility workers, food production and communications are generally exempt from lockdowns. But some lists of exempted activities reflect a national identity, or the efforts of lobbyists.

In some U.S. states, golf, guns and ganja have been ruled essential, raising eyebrows and — in the case of guns — a good deal of ire. In many places, booze is also on the list of essentials. Britain at first kept liquor stores off its list of businesses allowed to remain open, but after reports of supermarkets running out of beer, wine and spirits, the government quickly added them.

"Recent events clearly demonstrate that the process of designating 'essential services' is as much about culture as any legal-political reality about what is necessary to keep society functioning," said Christopher McKnight Nichols, associate professor of history at Oregon State University. Countries including India and U.S. states are listing the information technology sector as essential. The world's dependency on the internet has be-

come even more apparent as countless people confined to their homes communicate, stream movies and play games online to stave off cabin fever.

## Several States Deemed Pot Shops and Workers in the Market's Supply Chain Essential

Several states where marijuana is legal, such as California and Washington, deemed pot shops and workers in the market's supply chain essential. For some, the emphasis is on medicinal uses, not enabling cooped-up people to get stoned. "Cannabis is a safe and effective treatment that millions of Americans rely on to maintain productive daily lives while suffering from diseases and ailments," Erik Altieri, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said in an email. "It is the very definition of essential that these individuals can still access their medicine at this time."

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont added gun shops to his list of essential businesses, generating shock and dismay among families of gun violence victims. His spokesman Max Reiss said Lamont is trying not to overly disrupt commerce or interfere with legal rights. Newtown Action Alliance, a group formed after a gunman killed 26 people in 2012 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, urged Lamont to reconsider, noting a recent surge in gun and ammunition purchases. The group predicted an "increased number of deaths due to unintentional shootings, homicides and suicides." Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a legal opinion Friday saying emergency orders in his state can't restrict gun sales. "If you have a break down in society, well then our first line to defend ourselves is ourselves, so I think having a weapon ... is very important for..."

**"If you have a break down in society, well then our first line to defend ourselves is ourselves, so I think having a weapon ... is very important for your personal safety." — Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick**

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## UN BEGINS HOME FOOD DROPS FOR GAZA'S NEEDY TO STEM VIRUS

AP/Adel Hana

March 31, 2020 | AP News

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — A U.N. aid agency Tuesday began delivering food to the homes of impoverished Palestinians instead of making them pick up such parcels at crowded distribution centers — part of an attempt to prevent a mass outbreak of the new coronavirus in the densely populated Gaza Strip.

As the virus continued to spread across the Middle East, Iran, the hardest-hit country in the region, reported 141 new deaths, pushing the death toll closer to 3,000 people. Late Tuesday, Gaza's Health Ministry said two more cases have been confirmed among travelers who returned from Egypt,

bringing the number to 12. In Israel, defense officials said they had converted a missile-production plant into an assembly line for much-needed breathing machines. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, said it would pay medical expenses for anyone infected with the virus.

In Gaza, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees has for decades provided staples like flour, rice, oil and canned foods to roughly half of the territory's 2 million people. Under the old system, those eligible lined up at crowded distribution centers four times a year to pick up their aid parcels. Starting on Tuesday, the agency began...

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## RUSSIA'S PUTIN ORDERS NON-WORKING MONTH TO CURB CORONAVIRUS

April 2, 2020 | AP News

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin on Thursday ordered most Russians to stay off work until the end of the month as part of a partial economic shutdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Speaking in a televised address to the nation on Thursday, Putin said he was extending the non-working policy he ordered earlier for this week to remain in force throughout April. He emphasized that all employees should continue earning their regular salaries during the period.

Putin said some essential industries will keep operating, and grocery stores and pharmacies will remain open. He said Russia's virus-prevention strategies have bought time and helped slow down the outbreak but also warned that the number of cases will continue climbing. Putin said it would be up to regional authorities to decide which companies and organizations could keep working in their areas depending on the situation. Earlier this week, the Russian parliament empowered the cabinet to introduce the state of...

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AP File

## GLOBAL ECONOMY FEELS THE SHOCKS OF COVID-19

March 31, 2020 | AP News

The outbreak of the coronavirus has dealt a shock to the global economy with unprecedented speed. Following are developments on Monday related to the global economy, the work place and the spread of the virus.

### Air Care

Britain's health service is asking airline cabin crew who have been laid off to go to work in temporary new hospitals being built to treat COVID-19 patients. The National Health Service says easyJet and Virgin Atlantic are writing to thousands of staff — especially those with first aid training — asking them to work at hospitals being built inside convention centers in London, Birmingham and Manchester. Those who sign up will perform support roles under the supervision of doctors and nurses. Employees at 16 U.S. air traffic control facilities have now tested positive for coronavirus, including personnel at a center in Houston on Monday, according to...

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AP/Ted S. Warren



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