

CLEAR ADVOCACY

CLEAR COMMENTARY July 2, 2020



Bar Keep, How's About Another?

Not so fast my friend, said Governor Newsom on Wednesday as he ordered 19 counties to [close indoor portions](#) of restaurants, wineries, movie theaters, entertainment centers and other businesses for at least three weeks.

The Governor also ordered the 19 counties — which represent 72% of the state's population and are [being monitored](#) for growing coronavirus outbreaks — to close all bars and recommended they cancel Fourth of July fireworks celebrations.

"But gee, what did we do to deserve this?"

"You aren't following the rules," replies the Governor and the numbers appear to back him up.

Coronavirus-related hospitalizations, including intensive care admissions, shot up 51% over the two-week period ending June 28. Over the last two weeks, the statewide rate of positive cases rose from 4.4% to 5.5%. Hospitalizations spiked by roughly 43% and intensive care admissions increased by 37%.

To see the 19 counties on the state's watch list to which it applies, [click here](#).

The Governor further limited certain closed indoor establishments to help stop the spread for high risk counties. Some beaches are likely to be closed again.

This EXCLUDES retail, clothing stores, and personal services like salons and barbershops. There will be much stronger enforcement for those who do not comply with social distancing, masks and closures. The state is designating Alcoholic Beverage Control, OSHA, CHP, and other agencies to strictly enforce the order.

Several county leaders have called on residents to avoid normal July 4th activities. Officials are urging no large back yard gatherings; LA County has closed beaches and if you do observe fireworks, stay in your car. Many jurisdictions have called off any fireworks displays this July 4th.

So, get out the inflatable pool and your floaties. Wave to your neighbor over the fence. And if you go out front to light some sparklers, wear a face mask. Enjoy a very unusual July 4th.

✓ Budget Done and Signed ✓

Governor Newsom signed a [\\$202 billion state budget](#) Monday, agreeing primarily with lawmakers on the budget hammered out to close a huge deficit prompted by the COVID-19 crisis. The plan reduces revenue to courts and universities, cuts pay for state employees by about 10%, and suspends tax breaks for businesses. The newly signed budget avoids K-12 school cuts and health safety net programs. Many of those programs had been proposed to be cut in May.

Recalling a favored Steely Dan song title, [Any Major Dude Will Tell You](#), there may continue to be adjustments to the budget after taxes are due on July 15. And major cuts will be averted if the federal government comes through with aid by October 1.

We are on high alert and monitoring closely.

See Ya on July 13, Colleagues

Both houses of the legislature are on recess until July 13. When they return it will be 7 weeks to the finish of the 2019-20 legislative session. We expect some push and shove between the two-houses. The Assembly sent to the Senate many more non-COVID related bills than were sent their way.

How those bills are treated is up in the air, but we expect some leftover fireworks. Even in non-COVID years, there is tension between the two houses. And with the legislature on break, Clear Commentary will take a break too. We will be back on July 16.

Have a good weekend, and remember, any questions, any questions at all...contact us!



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