April 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOMA San Diego Board, Government Affairs Committee and Members

FROM: Craig Benedetto, BOMA SD Legislative Advocate

RE: Governor’s “Roadmap to Modify the Stay-at-Home Order”

On April 14, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled his roadmap for re-opening the state economy. He mentioned this the day before at his daily briefing and noted it is a coordinated effort between him and the Governors of Oregon and Washington. It did not specifically state what would be required of businesses or the timing of when it start, but it did give a little more color on what he believes would trigger a decision to start the process.

My company put together the following synopsis of the Governor’s press conference. It includes a link to the Governor’s slide deck on the "road map." Of note, for BOMA members, there was a reference by the Governor in response to questions about the "new normal" and the need for a change in how we work, eat, etc., including a reference to physical separation. In looking at what's being discussed internationally (in countries that are starting to reopen), some requirements that could be considered include: health screenings at building entrances, requirements for minimum separation of work spaces to address social distancing, masks for some jobs, or in common areas, as well as continued enhanced sanitary requirements for maintaining healthy and clean spaces. These would be in addition to a massive expansion of testing capacity that would be needed.

These international protocols, being created and deployed in countries that are re-opening, are likely to be looked at as templates for the US and the states, including California. In terms of timing, the Governor said that it would have to include a decline in hospital and ICU admissions for two weeks, which, given the numbers today, could be as soon as May 1, but no specific date was given. There will be more to come from BOMA International of national standards and best practices, as well as discussions at the local level about potential San Diego specific requirements. BOMA San Diego will attempt to keep the members apprised of those details when they emerge.
Governor Newsom used today’s COVID-19 update to share the framework around “reopening” California and transitioning from our current planning around hospital surge capacity and “stay at home” mitigation orders, towards a new “suppression” strategy that relies more on individual behaviors than on broader populations-based behaviors. He prefaced this with the recognition that 1) we have bent the infection curve and 2) we cannot survive in a permanent state from the shelter in place order. Small businesses have been devastated and preventative health that has been delayed can evolve into acute care situations.

The Governor summarized the COVID-19 pandemic response strategies his Administration have been implementing since January. First, they started with a Containment Strategy surrounding the returning flights from China and the cruise ships docked in Oakland. Second, they moved to the Mitigation phase, where they implemented population-based strategies, like the closure of schools and the statewide “stay at home” orders. Third, they focused on surge planning, where it was necessary to make sure our hospital and alternative care system could both decompress (i.e., delay elective surgeries and preventive care) and ramp up beds, personal protective equipment, ventilators and staffing to meet an anticipated increase in ICU beds needed to treat COVID-19 patients. Fourth, the stage we are beginning to enter, which Newsom labelled as the suppression stage. Under this suppression phase, the plan is to transition to “herd immunity” and to rely on individual testing, tracing and tracking—as well as new physical distancing protocols for businesses and schools—to quickly identify, isolate and mitigate future COVID-19 outbreaks.

To view the Governor’s framework produced in a power point presentation click here –

Here are the highlights from today’s press conference:

- **Governor’s framework for re-opening the state** – Dr. Angell and The Governor offered six major themes they are considering as they develop plans for this next Suppression phase.
  1. How is our ability to monitor positives in the population – can we test everyone? Can we identify individuals that are positive and who they may have contacted? A key component being the development of the workforce to do this testing, tracing and tracking.
  2. How is our ability to prevent infection to those at risk? Are we able to support elderly populations that are isolated making sure they have necessary food and medical care? Can we identify and contain outbreaks in congregate settings like SNFs for high risk populations?
  3. How adept are we at handling surges? Does the system have the necessary beds, staff and equipment? Can we address other medical needs beyond COVID-19?
4. How is our ability to coordinate with academia, research institutions, national and state labs and our universities around the development of therapeutics to combat the disease; develop therapeutics and identify the most promising drugs to fight COVID-19?
5. How effective are we able to reengineer the needs of businesses with physical distancing. What support can the state offer in the form of distancing guidelines, PPE recommendations and health checks?
6. What is our ability to reinstitute the stay at home order if needed? And are we tracking the right data? The Governor was cautious to remind us that this is not like flicking a light switch on and off. Rather, we need to think of it more like a “dimmer” switch that needs to be turned up or down based on the circumstances at the time.

- **When will this happen?** The Governor expressed that the ability for the state to loosen the restrictions are contingent upon the public’s commitment to continue physical distancing. He signaled there would need to be a decline in hospital and ICU admissions for two weeks for modifications to begin. He and his team will provide an update on these questions and answers each week. He also stressed that local leaders ultimately would determine the timeline for easing of restrictions. When asked about sufficient testing levels to ease restrictions, Dr. Ghaly noted that 10s of thousands of tests per day would be needed.

- **Tracing and Tracking Technology**—The Governor offered that they have begun to build out the workforce that will be needed to coordinate and respond to tracing and tracking data coming in from new technologies and apps. They have been working with AmeriCorps, Cal Volunteers and reprioritizing existing state staff to help implement interventions where needed based on this data. He explained that California has a strong infrastructure in place and a history of dealing with infectious disease tracing and tracking from past experiences with Ebola and measles.

- **Today's Numbers** – The Governor offered data on ICUs (below) additional data taken from covid19.ca.govm- As of April 12th, there are 22,348 positive cases and 687 deaths in California.  1,177 are in the ICU (down .1%). Approximately 212,900 tests have been conducted. At least 199,667 results have been received. The Governor also reported that the number of persons under investigation who may have contracted COVID-19 had gone down.

- **Expansion of public heath** – The Governor was clear that the COVID outbreak underscored the necessity to expand access to health care for all Californians. He reminded the reporter of his history of investing in and reforming our health care system, including around pharmaceuticals, the CalAIM proposal to integrate services under Medi-Cal, subsidies for participants in Covered California, and coverage for the Undocumented. He opined that COVID-19 has reinforced the need for greater investments in our health care system, particularly around vulnerable populations and those disadvantaged and lower income communities who are disproportionately impacted by this pandemic. He said that the “scattershot” approach to responding to this pandemic across the United States cannot continue to be the norm.

- **The new normal** – The Governor brought to light some of the measures that Californians should come to expect as we reintegrate into society. He was clear to disabuse people of the notion that we would return to our pre-COVID-19 lives in the near term. Rather, he described a significant change in how we interact with each other and return to work, schools and other areas where people congregate. Restaurants would be open with less tables, food servers will
likely be wearing masks and menus could be disposable. Health screenings to determine if patrons have an elevated temperature would be utilized outside buildings. Schools in California might see staggered classes to reduce gathering size and a large effort to disinfect playgrounds benches and public areas will be needed. He also expects greater use and expansion of distance learning. The Governor also warned when asked about the 4th of July and Memorial Day that we will not see the mass gatherings in the 1000s or 10s of thousands for some time. He added that increased testing and therapy could help to shorten that time frame.

- **Economic Revitalization Team** – The Governor announced a new team with 6 economic experts that are delving into the best ways to invigorate our economy post COVID-19.

  [www.calstrat.com](http://www.calstrat.com)
  contact: [info@calstrat.com](mailto:info@calstrat.com)