Dear Friend,

As we officially enter the pandemic’s second year, the State of California has reached an incredible milestone in our fight against the coronavirus. All Californians ages 16 and older are now eligible to be vaccinated, and over 46% of our state’s population has received at least one shot. This is impressive and encouraging news. As we move closer to the light at the end of the tunnel, let’s continue to work together to support our local businesses, encourage our friends and family to get vaccinated, and stay safe until we can finally put this horrible disease behind us. I will continue to fight in Sacramento for resources for our district not only for covid response, but also for the road to recovery ahead.

As always, if you have any questions about anything in this eNewsletter and/or need assistance with a state matter, please do not hesitate to reach out to my offices.

Stay safe,

Ben Hueso
State Senator
40th District

State Expands Vaccine Eligibility to Everyone 16+ and is Set to Fully Reopen June 15

As of April 15, all Californians ages 16 and older are now eligible for no-cost COVID-19 vaccinations. To find a vaccine site nearest you, visit myturn.ca.gov or call the COVID-19 hotline at (833) 422-4255. To learn more about California’s vaccination plan, please visit vaccinateall58.com.

California has made incredible progress in controlling the spread of COVID-19. We now have the lowest positivity rate in the nation and are on track to fully reopen our economy by June 15. Let’s all do our part â€” wear a mask and get vaccinated. Learn more at covid19.ca.gov.

Senate’s Build Back Boldly State Budget Proposal

Earlier this month, the State Senate announced our budget proposal to build a post-pandemic economy that extends prosperity
4/1: April Fool's Day
4/2: World Autism Awareness Day
4/4: Easter Sunday
4/5: Legislature Reconvenes from Spring Recess
5/12: Ramadan Begins
4/22: Earth Day
4/28: Denim Day
4/30: Last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills introduced in their house

For the complete legislative calendar, please visit: Legislative Calendar

for Californians and invests resources to address the state's most pressing needs in innovative and equitable ways. The Senate's Build Back Boldly budget proposal will get California back on track and help families and small businesses recover while maintaining a focus on funding for higher education, affordable health care, housing accessibility, wildfire and drought mitigation and modernizing state systems. Read the full proposal here.

Governor Newsom Visit to City Heights

Early this month, Governor Newsom visited Senate District 40 to check out San Diego County's COVID-19 vaccination pop-up site at Park de la Cruz. Pop-up sites like this one in City Heights are an important part of our strategy to bring vaccinations closer to where people live. Not everyone has the time or means to travel to one of the "superstation" sites, and it's crucial that we reduce as many barriers as possible to increase accessibility.

State Advances Drought Preparation

Due to a second consecutive dry winter and much of the West experiencing drought conditions, Governor Newsom this month issued an emergency proclamation to direct state agencies to take immediate action to bolster drought resilience if dry conditions continue for a third year. He also announced a regional drought emergency for the Russian River watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

We know from experience that, by acting early, we can mitigate some of the most severe impacts and minimize harm to
I'm honored to recognize Brawley Chamber of Commerce CEO Katie B. Luna as April's Citizen of the Month! Katie has led the Chamber for the past five years and, in that time, has boosted its fiscal stability, increased membership, and launched new programs and initiatives to bolster our business community.

Katie has been a critical resource for our district's businesses throughout the pandemic, helping them to understand and mitigate the impacts of COVID and comply with a complex and fluid regulatory environment. In March 2020, she launched the Imperial Valley Business Recovery Task Force, and has built programs such as the 2021 COVID Labor Law Webinar series to ensure local businesses understand and comply with state regulations.

As a leader, Katie emphasizes diversity and inclusion for all stakeholders, and works hard to maximize benefits from limited resources. Her passion for and dedication to promoting healthy businesses and creating a thriving community is unmatched.

Please join me in recognizing all that Katie does to foster a thriving business community here in the Imperial Valley.

Organization of the Month: Chula Vista Community Collaborative
April's Organization of the Month is Chula Vista Community Collaborative (CVCC)! This incredible nonprofit works with partner organizations in Chula Vista and the South Bay to share information and resources, and develop coordinated strategies and programs, that strengthen families and communities.

CVCC operates five Family Resource Centers that provide a safe, accessible place for families to connect with comprehensive, coordinated services that help them strengthen their families and become more self-reliant. They also host Partners Meetings to create a platform for inter-agency networking and communication of family and youth resources available in Chula Vista. CVCC's Neighborhood Navigator Program HUB deploys Care Coordinators in the community to provide services to families with chronic health and/or mental health issues who have high health care needs or do not have a place to live. Through its Promotoras Program, CVCC assists community residents to achieve optimal levels of health, wellbeing, and community safety through neighborhood and school outreach strategies that focus on prevention and education.

CVCC works hard to improve the quality of life for all in our community, regardless of their circumstances. Please join me in thanking them for their many efforts to protect the health, safety and wellness of South Bay residents!

WHAT'S NEW ...

New Federal Subsidies Available for Health Insurance
If the cost of health insurance has stopped you from being covered in the past, listen up! With the new American Rescue Plan, most applying through Covered California will get financial help to lower the monthly cost of health insurance. Please visit CoveredCA.com.

CA COVID-19 Rent Relief

If you're an eligible landlord or renter who has been financially impacted by COVID-19, the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program may be able to help. Please call 833-430-2122 or go to HousingIsKey.com to check eligibility and apply for financial help.

CalSavers Deadlines Approaching!

CalSavers is California's retirement savings program designed for the millions of Californians who lack a way to save for retirement at their job. CalSavers was created by legislation passed in 2016 requiring California employers who do not offer an employer sponsored plan and have five or more employees to facilitate CalSavers - an automatic enrollment individual retirement account (IRA) with no employer fees or fiduciary liability.

California's new mandate is phased in over three years, with
deadlines based on employer size. The registration deadline for employers with more than 100 employees passed on September 30, 2020 and the deadline for employers with 51-100 employees is June 30, 2021. Employers with 5 or more employees have until June 30, 2022, but are encouraged to register early.

Learn how to get started at CalSavers.com.

Want to receive these updates in real time? Follow me on social media: Twitter | Instagram

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