



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2020

Contact: Jon Ortiz
916-761-8267 cell

California State Scientists Support Gov. Newsom's Plan to Reopen California Union president applauds the governor's 'well-informed' decisions rooted in science

The California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS) this afternoon commended Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to loosen restrictions on certain retail businesses that meet scientific criteria for operating while limiting the risk to public health.

"California has continued to lead the United States in policy and economics because the state is led by a governor and like-minded public servants who make well-informed decisions rooted in fact-based, sound scientific reasoning," said CAPS President Margarita Gordus. "We applaud Gov. Newsom for remaining steadfast in his implementation of science-based precautions for our public's safety, and for engaging public health scientists to ensure the appropriate measures are taken as our state carefully reopens."

CAPS members play a vital role on the frontlines of California's fight against COVID-19 by, identifying infected residents through laboratory testing. In March, state scientists in the Bay Area identified more than 100 passengers on the Grand Princess cruise ship who carried the novel coronavirus connected to the deadly disease.

CAPS also commended the prudence Gov. Newsom demonstrated this afternoon by giving a scientist, Health and Human Services Agency Director Dr. Mark Ghaly, the task of explaining the details of the state's COVID-19 retail reopening plans. CAPS strongly agreed with the governor's comments that the state can promote economic activity, "but always with an eye on science, data and public health."

"California state scientists appreciate the difficulty of Gov. Newsom's position," Gordus said, "and our members stand with him, as always, to protect the health of California's residents."

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ABOUT CAPS

CAPS represents approximately 4,400 state-employed scientists in more than 30 departments throughout California. Their work protects California's drinking water, air quality, habitable land and housing; flourishing ecosystems; and a robust, safe agricultural food supply.