

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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COUNTY

County Warns Against Raw Milk Products Amid Bird Flu Risk



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County public health officials are warning San Diegans not to eat or drink raw milk products or give them to their pets because of the heightened risk for H5N1, or bird flu .

Because raw milk and raw milk products are not pasteurized, they can contain harmful pathogens including H5N1 or bacteria like salmonella, toxin producing E. coli. and listeria. All of these can cause severe illness, hospitalization and even death, especially in people who are immunocompromised, the very young and pregnant women.

The health warning extends to pet products containing raw milk. Dogs and cats can get sick if these products contain harmful bacteria or viruses. People also should also be mindful of keeping their pets away from sick or dead birds outside. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has confirmed two cases of H5 bird flu in cats that consumed recalled raw milk from Raw Farm, LLC.

Pasteurization is a heat treatment process. Pasteurized milk and other pasteurized dairy products are safe to consume because the heat treatment kills bacteria and other pathogens like the bird flu but otherwise does not change the product.

Even before the emergence of bird flu in California, San Diego County public health epidemiologists have linked other illnesses to raw milk, including in 2023 when a series of salmonella cases were reported after consuming raw milk from a producer in Fresno.

Earlier this week, California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency to strengthen the state's response and preparedness for bird flu. The California Department of Public Health reports 34 confirmed cases statewide in humans and says the current risk remains low to for the public.

Bird flu or H5N1 is a highly contagious virus that can sicken or kill birds and other animals. While rare, it can be spread to people when the virus gets in someone's eyes, nose or mouth, or when it is inhaled.

County Public Health Services is monitoring the emergence of H5N1 flu types in coordination with health partners at the federal and state level. The County also is in communication with local veterinarians and healthcare providers. No cases in humans have been reported in San Diego County. The County continues to monitor influenza strains through its robust influenza surveillance system.

Those most at risk for bird flu are farm or wildlife workers who may be around infected animals.

The County has made personal protective equipment available to eligible farms, wildlife groups and animal control officers. While the seasonal influenza vaccine does not protect against bird flu, everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated to reduce the risk of serious illness.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 20, 2024

COUNTY

Art Therapy and the Beautiful Results

Art is a beautiful way for people to share personal thoughts, experiences and emotions that are not easily expressed in words. The process of creating art is therapeutic and can improve mental health, decrease anxiety, build self esteem and improve social skills.

Art therapy is often woven into the treatment plan for people with behavioral health conditions as a complimentary therapy to more conventional healthcare. It provides an enjoyable way for clients to externalize their feelings and experiences and in some cases, begin their healing process.

County Behavioral Health art programs are extremely popular and are revealing impressive talents. To share this success, the Strengths Based Case Management team held a public art show, where clients had the chance to showcase and celebrate their work with their peers and an audience.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 19, 2024

COUNTY

County Offices to Close for New Year's Holiday

All public San Diego County offices, family resource centers, library branches and animal shelters will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday.

Law enforcement, emergency animal control response, and other essential services will continue through the holiday.

County parks, campgrounds and neighborhood day-use parks remain open 365 days a year. However, the following locations will be closed:

4S Ranch Recreation Office only (all parks will be open)

Valley Center Community Hall and Adams Park Pool

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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County Offices to Close for New Year’s Holiday

Camping reservations can always be made online at the County’s Online Camping Reservations web page , but the Department of Parks and Recreation’s reservation phone line will not be staffed during the holiday.

All County public health clinics will be closed

Wednesday.

All County offices will resume normal business hours Thursday, Jan. 2.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 24, 2024

COUNTY

County Offices to Close for Christmas Day Holiday

All public San Diego County offices, family resource

centers, library branches and animal shelters will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Law enforcement, emergency animal control response, and other essential services will continue through the holiday.

County parks, campgrounds and neighborhood day-use parks remain open

365 days a year. However, the following locations will be closed:

4S Ranch Recreation Office only (all parks will be open)

Valley Center Community Hall and Adams Park Pool

Camping reservations can always be made online at the County’s Online Camping Reservations web page , but the Department of Parks and

Recreation’s reservation phone line will not be staffed during the holiday.

All County public health clinics will be closed Wednesday.

All County offices will resume normal business hours Thursday, Dec. 26.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 19, 2024

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration from a photo by Bernard Gagnon · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

BUSINESS

Support San Diego and Join the Excitement of the 2024 DIRECTV Holiday Bowl

Sports San Diego is a non-profit organization that produces events like the DIRECTV Holiday Bowl, the Rady Children’s Invitational, and the California State Games, and proudly serves as San Diego’s sports commission. Our purpose is to generate tourism, create jobs, and contribute tax revenues for our community. In the past fiscal year alone, we delivered over 130,000 hotel room nights, making San Diego better for everyone. We are thrilled to welcome #21 Syracuse and Washington State to San Diego to play in our 45 th annual bowl game on December 27 th at Snapdragon Stadium.

Dec 27, 2023; San Diego, CA,

USA; Louisville Cardinals and University Southern California Trojans face off during the DirecTV Holiday Bowl at Petco Park. Mandatory Credit: David Frerker – DirecTV Holiday Bowl

This highly anticipated matchup will not only deliver an outstanding fan experience but also significantly impact our local economy by filling hotels, restaurants, and shops during a typically slow tourism period.

By purchasing tickets, your business plays a vital role in ensuring the DIRECTV Holiday Bowl’s continued ability to drive tourism and foster community pride.

Here’s how buying 10 tickets to the DIRECTV Holiday Bowl makes a difference:

Support Our Community: Help fill hotels, restaurants, and shops, driving more business to San Diego.

Boost Our Impact: Strengthen Sports San Diego’s impact on tourism and hospitality.

Experience the Excitement: Be part of game day, and use your tickets to host clients,

employees, or partners.

This year’s highly anticipated matchup between Syracuse and Washington State kicks off at 5:00 p.m. at Snapdragon Stadium. Fans can expect an electrifying college football atmosphere, and following the game, the iconic 101.5 KGB Sky Show will light up the Mission Valley sky in a spectacular fireworks display.

Join Us in Celebrating Community and Sports

Since 1978, the DIRECTV Holiday Bowl has been an integral part of San Diego’s identity, showcasing our city’s vibrant spirit while driving economic benefits. This event continues to thrive thanks to the incredible support from businesses and individuals in our community.

We invite your business to be part of this impactful tradition by purchasing 10 tickets to the 2024 DIRECTV Holiday Bowl. For personalized assistance, please contact Phil Snyder, our Director of Ticket Operations, at (619) 283-5808 x302 or psnyder@SportsSanDiego.org

Together, let’s make this year’s DIRECTV Holiday Bowl a memorable celebration of sports, community, and San Diego.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Dec 16, 2024

BUSINESS

Chamber Participates in Statewide Prop 36 Roundtable

Chamber Executive Director of Public Affairs Justine Murray joined elected officials, public safety leaders, and law enforcement officers from across the state on December 12 th in Los Angeles for a discussion regarding the implementation of Proposition 36. Chamber representation was critical to ensure that the San Diego business community’s voice is at the table while decisions are made on the implementation of this important ballot measure.

Prop 36 was one of the most significant criminal justice victories in California history, winning majorities in every county and more than 68% of the vote statewide. Prop 36 must be implemented in a fair and effective way,

protecting law and order while also connecting our most vulnerable with the resources they need to overcome addiction and mental health issues. Public and private sector collaboration is needed across the state for the successful implementation of this measure.

The roundtable featured panels focused on the perspectives of retailers, law enforcement officials, policy makers, treatment and addiction experts, just system and treatment professionals, and more. Attendees discussed how the development of best practices that any county or city can adopt to enforce tougher laws against retail theft, fentanyl trafficking, and to move those suffering from addiction into treatment through the newly authorized treatment-mandated-felony provision. The Chamber will continue to work with leaders across the state to implement Proposition 36, as the safety of employees, residents, and tourists alike remains a top priority for San Diego’s business community.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Dec 16, 2024

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Beautiful results, at what cost?

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

COMMENTARY

Orange Unified Teacher Union Maneuver Offers Cautionary Tale for California
The California Policy Center contends that a swift pay raise after a union-backed recall has pushed the school district toward financial ruin, foreshadowing similar tactics statewide.

Union officials in Orange, California, demonstrated remarkable quickness and tactical skill following a recall election earlier this year, according to the California Policy Center.

The center reports that soon after the March recall replaced two conservative school board members with candidates supported by the Orange Unified Education Association, the new board granted teachers a 10 percent salary increase.

That decision has created severe budget problems for the district, documents secured by the California Policy Center indicate.

In a memo dated September 13, assistant superintendent Sulema Holguin informed district leaders that the post-recall compensation boost was steering the system toward fiscal breakdown.

Holguin wrote that the budget adopted in June failed to fully consider the continuing expenses tied to the raises.

As a consequence, the district resorted to drawing from its reserves, she explained.

Updating projections to include the raise costs would

mean using some reserves to cover obligations, Holguin stated in the memo.

In other words, the district is engaged in deficit spending – spending more money than it is receiving – Holguin wrote.

Holguin emphasized that such deficit spending is alarming because reserves represent one-time resources that should not support recurring costs like salary increases.

Superintendent Ernest Gonzalez resigned suddenly on November 15, possibly responding to the grim outlook, the center notes. The board is now seeking his successor.

The center writes that union organizers centered their recall drive on claims that extremists had seized control of the board and were undermining public schooling.

They pointed to the board's approval of a parent-notification rule requiring family consent before school staff could assist with gender transitions for students.

The effort involved opinion pieces in local papers, canvassing teams, phone outreach and yard signs.

Union participants also filled board meetings, interrupting conservative members and parents, then faulted the board for the resulting disorder, the California Policy Center says.

Internal records, however, reveal the recall's true aim was installing union-aligned trustees who would greenlight the pay boost.

Recalled trustee Madison

Miner told the center that the previous conservative majority had sought to reach agreement with union representatives on raises.

Miner said the union insisted on a 10 percent increase while financial analysts advised that 6 percent was the maximum sustainable level without causing fiscal strain.

The union refused to bargain, according to Miner.

By December 2023 it was evident the union was distorting financial details to its members, Miner added.

They claimed the conservative board offered no raises at all, Miner says.

After the recall and the approval of nearly a 10 percent raise, Miner immediately saw warning signs, knowing even 6 percent would tip the district into trouble.

The California Policy Center's financial reviewers argue that these raises spell disaster for a district already facing falling student numbers.

Absent major spending reductions, instructor dismissals, campus consolidations or a tax increase, the center predicts the district will exhaust its renovation reserves in roughly two years.

Footage acquired by the center shows coordination between the local union and its statewide affiliate, the California Teachers Association.

In a recorded discussion with state leaders nearly a year before the recall, OUEA executive director Roger Urroz Jr. noted he had

contacted CTA officials who were monitoring events in Orange with concern.

Urroz described the effort as a test case, saying state leaders viewed Orange as the pilot: success here would enable replication in other districts across California.

Though the union presented the recall as a local grassroots movement, the center stresses that funding from the California Teachers Association was essential.

This included support from the union's Association for Better Citizenship political action committee.

Urroz indicated they were securing ABC funds through CTA for the recall campaign.

The center notes that even while accusing opponents of relying on outside money to elect extremists, the CTA acknowledged directing hundreds of thousands of dollars from various local chapters to back the union-endorsed candidates.

A June statement from CTA highlighted donations from unions in Westminster, Anaheim, Saddleback, Tustin, La Habra, Buena Park and Capistrano, along with volunteer efforts in signature gathering, canvassing and phone calls.

The CTA described the recall victory as boosting political engagement among its members, who then affiliated with the Orange County Labor Federation.

Yet the California Policy Center calls the union supporters financially uninformed.

Post-recall comments praising the new board's focus on fiscal health now appear ironic given the current budget warnings.

"We look forward to a time where school board meetings can be boring again, with a board that is focused on the financial health of our district," pro-union activist Darshan Smaaladen told Voice of OC.

The center forecasts that the union-supported board will select a new superintendent loyal to the union and favor program cuts followed by tax-raising campaigns.

In those efforts, union officials will likely revive claims of unsafe, deteriorating schools and portray tax opponents as extremists, the center predicts.

Meanwhile, teachers will enjoy contractually protected raises, but students, families and taxpayers in Orange Unified will bear the consequences, according to the California Policy Center.

The center concludes that this episode serves as a warning for the entire state about teacher union strategies.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Dec 20, 2024

ABOUT THIS PAPER
San Diego Newsline covers downtown San Diego first — City Hall, the Gaslamp Quarter, East Village, Little Italy, Barrio Logan and the waterfront — and the county around it. Every item names its source; read the originals and our standards at sandiegonewsline.com.

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