

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2021

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006-21

CA Lottery District Offices Reopen to the Public for Contactless Claim Drop-Off Services

SACRAMENTO – The CA Lottery's district offices are now open to the public for the secure acceptance of prize claims. Secured drop boxes are available at all nine of the Lottery's District Offices across the state. This modified service allows the CA Lottery to continue to meet players' needs while maximizing the health and safety of its employees and the general public. Requirements and procedures are available on the CA Lottery website.

Claimants using the modified drop box service should **remember to complete all claim forms before dropping them off at district offices**. Players should sign the back of the winning ticket, make a copy of the completed claim, and take a picture of the front and back of the ticket for their records before dropping off their claim. The fully completed claim form and associated ticket can then be placed in a sealed envelope and dropped in the secured drop box. **Please note that claims cannot be filled out onsite**. To maximize safety, materials such as pens are not available to the public at the Lottery District Offices. District Office locations, claim forms, and detailed instructions can be found on the CA Lottery <u>website</u>. Claim forms are also available at CA Lottery retailers.

Players can continue to claim Lottery prizes under \$599 at authorized CA Lottery retailers and claims for prizes over \$599 can still be mailed.

The CA Lottery and its employees continue to serve an essential government function, providing supplemental funding to the state's public schools, colleges and universities. In addition to supporting public education, the CA Lottery also provides essential revenue to the local retailers that sell CA Lottery products – most of which are independently-owned by entrepreneurs trying to stay afloat during these difficult times.

The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transfers to public education total approximately \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2018-19, which amounts to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely non-discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period the Lottery generated almost \$7 billion in sales, more than 95% of which goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800-GAMBLER.

www.calottery.com