



YOU'LL BE PLAYING AS:

**CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR**

To view a black and white, printer-friendly version of this packet, click [here](#).

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WELCOME TO LIVES IN BALANCE LETTER

Scan this letter for the basic details you'll need to discuss the Bubble Plans. You can find links to the *Lives in Balance* trailer and tutorial videos here, too.

CHARACTER SHEET (CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR)

Read all about your character's background and goals for this scenario.

SOUTHWEST STATE COALITION MAP

Check out a map of the Southwest States Coalition. Will the pandemic unite or divide these neighbors?

CDC RE-OPENING GUIDELINES

Find out what the experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that states and employers do in the face of a pandemic.

ROLE REFLECTION EXERCISE

Use these prompts to help you get into character before you play *Lives in Balance*.

BASIC TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING SOFTWARE

Look here for help if you're playing *Lives in Balance* virtually and have some trouble with your video conferencing platform.

WELCOME TO LIVES IN BALANCE

The members of the **Southwest States Coalition** are meeting today. They want to work together on their responses to the pandemic. They will look over each state's plan to "re-open" its economy.

The Coalition includes the governors from **Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Nevada**. Also joining is the **U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce**, who will share financial information to help the states decide. The **Deputy Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** will be at the meeting, too. This federal official will share the latest pandemic health information.

The Nevada and Arizona governors will be presenting their "**Bubble Plans**." These plans explain how the states will "re-open" their economies through professional sports events. Today's goal: Each Coalition member will vote to approve or deny "the Bubble Plans."

In **Arizona**, Major League Baseball (MLB) will start its season under their proposed Bubble Plan:

- Players, teams, and personnel will stay in socially distanced hotel rooms.
- All team and stadium personnel will have temperature checks each day.
- All team and stadium personnel will have weekly virus testing.
- Food will come only from the restaurant(s) at the hotels, with rapid testing of workers.
- Teams will be allowed to be face-to-face only in the hotel restaurant and lobby.
- Private shuttles will transport teams to and from the hotel and stadium.
- Shuttles will be cleaned each day before taking the teams to the stadium.
- There will be **no fans**.

In **Nevada**, the National Football League (NFL) will start its season under their proposed Bubble Plan:

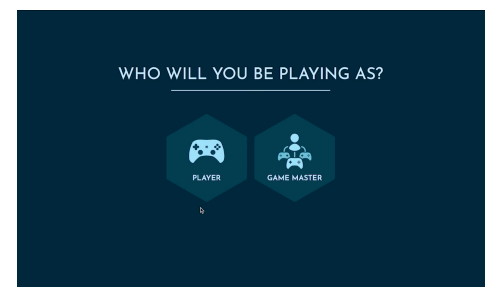
- Players, teams, and personnel will stay in socially distanced hotel rooms.
- There will be one team per hotel.
- All team and stadium personnel will have weekly virus testing.
- All team and stadium personnel will have temperature checks twice a day.
- Players and staff will be allowed to be face-to-face in private meeting rooms only.
- Private shuttles will be transport teams to and from the hotel and stadium.
- CDC-approved helmets will be provided. They feature an improved visor and a certified air filtration system.
- There will be **no fans**.

What is more important, putting people back to work or the health of the residents? Where does the federal government stand? Is it helping or hurting the states? You decide!

BEFORE PLAYING THE SIMULATION,
PLEASE WATCH THE VIDEOS
LINKED BELOW.



LIVES IN BALANCE TRAILER



ITHRIVE SIM WALKTHROUGH

ROLE DESCRIPTION

CALIFORNIA







CAPITAL: SACRAMENTO

POPULATION: 39.51 MILLION



You are the Governor of California. You are the chief executive of the state government. You command the California National Guard and the California State Guard. You are responsible for California residents' safety and well-being. You are in charge of the budget. You make sure state laws are followed and enforced.


ABOUT YOU

-  You started out in politics as the mayor of San Francisco. You quickly made the leap to governor of California.
-  You would like to hold a top federal government job. You have your eye on the White House and the Oval Office.
-  The residents of California like you. You are professional and passionate.
-  You are wired into the pulse of the nation. You are a popular guest on political news networks.
-  Your grandparents went through the 1918 flu pandemic.
-  You weigh all sides of an argument before making a decision.

WHAT YOU DO

- You work hard to protect the residents of California. You know these actions impact the nation as a whole.
- You base your decisions on the math and science. You trust numbers and statistical models.
- In the Coalition meetings you are a voice of reason and caution.
- You follow the CDC's guidelines for re-opening states' economies.
- You usually lead the Coalition meetings.
- You use social media to figure out how the public is reacting to the CDC guidelines. It's important to you that the public understands the CDC's advice.

GOALS



You want the Coalition members to take a slow, safe approach to re-opening their states. You need to convince Arizona and Nevada to stop or delay their Bubble Plans. You feel that taking it more slowly is better for the residents of California and the nation as a whole.

OTHER CHARACTERS

ARIZONA GOVERNOR

You got along well with the **Arizona Governor** before the pandemic. Now, you butt heads over how to manage the virus.

NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR

You like the **New Mexico Governor**. But, you do not have much in common. Your state borders do not touch. Some Coalition members question whether you actually care about New Mexico. They wonder if you use their struggles to push your own agenda.

NEVADA GOVERNOR

You admire the **Nevada Governor's** boldness. You don't fully trust them. But you do your part to keep the relationship positive. This is partly because traffic flows across the California and Nevada state borders all the time.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

You do not respect the **Deputy Secretary of Commerce**. California is a major market. You resent that Commerce doesn't weigh your needs more heavily in their decisions. You think of the Deputy Secretary of Commerce as a puppet. They just deliver messages from Washington.

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CDC

You respect and trust the **Principal Deputy Director of the CDC**. You feel they and the CDC will support most positions that you would take. The health of California's people is most important.

SOUTHWEST STATES COALITION

This map is intended for educational purposes only.



PART ONE: Read about your character, then answer the following questions:

- (1) What role will you be playing?

- (2) Based on what you know about the scenario and the role, what are you most curious about?

- (3) What is one main goal your character is trying to achieve?

- (4) Based on the description, what's one thing about your character you relate to? Explain.

- (5) Based on the description, what's one thing about your character you DON'T relate to? Explain.

PART TWO: Discuss your responses with one or more members of your role-play team. Your role-play team also may choose to warm up for the simulation by introducing yourselves in character.

Complete this exercise using the Google Docs document [here](#).

iThrive Sim: Lives in Balance is designed to be accessible to participants in any location. All you need is WiFi access and a device, such as a laptop or Chromebook.

For students learning virtually, the social interactions in ***iThrive Sim*** will require using an additional video conferencing software tool, such as Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, etc.

ACROSS VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORMS, HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOU ARE USING A BROWSER FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING:

- You will need two (2) browsers open; one for the *iThrive Sim* website and one for the video conferencing site.
- Arrange the browsers side-by-side so that they are both visible. To do this, you may need to minimize both windows so that you are able to adjust the size and arrangement of both to be visible (for example, neither browser should be in full-screen mode).

NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU:

- Call into the meeting using the phone number listed on the video conferencing invitation you received.
- Mute your computer mic and use your phone to communicate.

YOU CAN'T SEE THE VIDEOS IN THE ITHRIVE SIM PLATFORM:

- Post a note in the chatbox to let the facilitator know. The facilitator can play the videos over the video conferencing software instead.

YOUR CAMERA FEATURE ISN'T WORKING:

- As long as you can hear and be heard by the other participants, you will be able to play ***iThrive Sim***.

MORE RESOURCES

Below, you'll find links to help guides for relevant questions on commonly used video conferencing platforms. If there are other platforms you need information about, search for help guides online or feel free to reach out to us at least one week prior to running your simulation at support@ithrivedgames.org.

FOR ZOOM:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Managing Breakout Rooms](#)
- [Pre-assigning Participants to Breakout Rooms](#)

FOR GOOGLE MEET:

- [Troubleshooting Network, Audio, and Video](#)
- [Start a new Google Meet Video](#)
- [Use breakout rooms in Google Meet](#)

FOR MICROSOFT TEAMS:

- [Get Started with a Live Event](#)
- [Using Video in Teams](#)
- [Join a Teams Meeting](#)
- [Use breakout rooms in Teams meetings](#)