# Weekly COVID-19 Update From EKA June 2, 2021

#### **VACCINATION**

## **COVID-19 Vaccines and Transit and Paratransit Service for People with Disabilities**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has a new <u>Transit & Paratransit for People with Disabilities</u> webpage with information to help people with disabilities get to a vaccination site. In addition, if you or anyone you know needs assistance with transportation or are homebound and needs to get vaccinated at home, call the DPH Vaccine Call Center at 833-540-0473. The Call Center is open daily from 8 am to 8:30 pm. You can also submit a request for in-home vaccination by visiting the <u>How to Get a Vaccine</u> webpage. For more information, visit <u>VaccinateLACounty.com</u>. Other pertinent information and resources can be found on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 webpage.

#### Federal Gov't Says Employers Can Offer Vaccine Incentives

Employers can offer incentives to their employees to get the coronavirus vaccine without running afoul of federal anti-discrimination law, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said. In an update of its Covid-19 guidance, the agency said employers may offer incentives to employees who provide documentation of receiving the Covid-19 vaccine outside of work because requesting proof of vaccination "is not a disability-related inquiry" or an "unlawful request" under federal anti-discrimination laws.

**Employer vaccine programs:** But, if an employer is offering vaccines at work, the EEOC cautions that the perks offered when getting the shot cannot be substantial enough to be "coercive." "Because vaccinations require employees to answer pre-vaccination disability-related screening questions, a very large incentive could make employees feel pressured to disclose protected medical information," the EEOC guidance said. Business groups have been pressing the federal agency to clarify whether employers could offer paid time off or even cash to encourage vaccination.

#### State Launches New Vax for the Win Incentive Program

The State of California has launched a \$116.5 million incentive program for vaccinated residents. The vaccine incentive program is the largest in the country and includes cash prizes of up to \$1.5 million. All Californians who have had at least one COVID-19 dose will automatically be entered. Not yet vaccinated against COVID-19? Get vaccinated as soon as possible for your chance to receive a \$50 gift card and other cash prizes.

#### **REOPENING**

#### California's Yellow Tier

Businesses in the Yellow Tier can reopen provided that they follow the capacity limits and implement safety measures required by state and local guidelines, including those under the Cal/OSHA Temporary Emergency Standards and state industry-specific guidelines. The Cal/OSHA standards presently require all persons to wear face masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. Requirements additionally include mask-wearing in public and common spaces. Businesses must also follow any more restrictive county and city requirements.

### **Los Angeles County**

Los Angeles County also jumped into California's least-restrictive Yellow Tier this month. As a result, Los Angeles' Department of Public Health revised its Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community Order, including updates to various industry-specific reopening protocols. Significantly, Los Angeles' reopening protocols for office worksites include several vaccine-related updates. In particular, fully vaccinated offices no longer have a COVID-19-related capacity limit, and non-fully vaccinated offices may now operate at up to 75 percent of maximum capacity where they cannot continue operations remotely.

In addition, the new protocols no longer require office-based businesses to adhere to physical distancing requirements (except where staff interacts with visitors) so long as the business confirms and documents that all employees, contractors and persons who enter the premises are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Records of vaccination status must be retained, but copies of vaccination cards or other provider documentation of vaccination need not be retained. Face masks, daily screenings and compliance with Cal/OSHA requirements are still required for such businesses. Failure to comply with the updated Order remains a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.

#### **UPS 2021 Small Business Grant Application**

UPS is committed to keeping Latinx-Owned small businesses moving forward. Covid-19 has impacted small businesses across the board and minority small business communities have been especially hard hit. UPS has partnered with the <u>USHCC</u> to invest in keeping Latinx-Owned small businesses moving forward. Together they are making a donation to provide direct assistance to small businesses in need. Applications are open until Friday, June 11, 2021 at 11:59 pm ET.

#### **Grant Criteria:**

• Applicants must be a small business with less than 20 full-time employees.

- Applicants must be a majority Hispanic-owned business with an active EIN or ITIN number.
- The business must have been in operation for at least 9 months from the date that you complete this form.
- The business registered main address must be located in the US states or territories.
- Typical grant amounts will be \$5,000 per business that is selected.

### With Holiday, LAX Has Heaviest Passenger Traffic Of 2021 So Far

Los Angeles International Airport broke a 2021 record for passenger traffic Friday, with more than 78,000 travelers going through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints, the airport announced. ... May has been the busiest month for LAX since early 2020, with about 61,400 passengers at TSA checkpoints each day, Los Angeles World Airports said in a news release. Although that's only 53% of the daily passenger traffic seen during the same period in 2019, it's been increasing each week, said the agency, which owns and operates Los Angeles International and Van Nuys airports.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY/CITY

### **Updated Protocol for Music, Television and Film Production**

The <u>Protocol for Music, Television and Film Production: Appendix J</u> was recently updated. Changes are highlighted in yellow: • Updated testing guidelines for fully vaccinated people.

#### **Updated Entry Screening Guidance**

The <u>Entry Screening Guidance</u> has been updated. Recent significant updates are highlighted in yellow: The County now emphasizes that entry screening can be done in person or through alternate methods. The County removed the section on entry screening document retention. An entry screening template form is included with the guidance. This protocol and other pertinent information and resources can be found on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 webpage.

#### **SACRAMENTO**

#### Changes to Cal/OSHA's ETS Coming Soon

The Cal/OSHA Standards Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow to consider and vote on proposed amendments to the ETS. The Standards Board was originally scheduled to vote on proposed amendments at a May 20, 2021 meeting, but that vote was deferred to June 3 to allow Cal/OSHA to consider the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) May 13 update to its <a href="Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated">Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated</a>

<u>People</u> and to present a new proposal to the Standards Board. The updated CDC guidance provides that individuals who are fully vaccinated can largely go without masks or physical distancing in most indoor and outdoor settings, with certain exceptions, including a deferral to applicable law and local business and employer workplace practices and rules

The <u>proposed amendments</u> initially set to be considered and voted on at the May 21 meeting incorporated several key changes (which now may be modified given the CDC's May 13 guidance), including:

- Fully vaccinated employees would no longer be required to wear masks or physically distance, <u>as long as</u> all individuals in the location are all fully vaccinated and asymptomatic.
- Fully vaccinated employees, or asymptomatic employees who have fully recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days, would no longer need to be offered COVID-19 testing or excluded from the workplace after a close contact exposure with COVID-19.
- Employees who wear respirators would be exempt from the ETS physical distancing requirement (but the use of such respirators must be administered in compliance with Cal/OSHA's <u>respiratory protection standard</u>).
- Instead of addressing a COVID-19 exposure based on an "Exposed Workplace," employers would address it based on an "Exposed Group"-a definition that takes into account different shifts of employees, the wearing of face coverings, and the amount of time a COVID-19 case spends in a given area to narrow the employer's obligations (in terms of investigating, contact tracing, notification, required reporting, etc.) under the ETS for a COVID-19 case.

## New California COVID Relief Could Include Checks, Business Grants, Child Savings Accounts

The California Legislature is weighing a raft of proposals to provide new financial help to residents who have suffered economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic, including rent relief, state stimulus checks and grants for small businesses and entrepreneurs wanting to start new ventures. More than a dozen proposals were unveiled this month by Gov. Gavin Newsom as part of his California Comeback Plan, which he wants to finance with a portion of a historic tax revenue windfall as well as more than \$25 billion in federal relief approved by Congress. ... Legislators began holding public hearings on new budget proposals Wednesday.

California Has More Than 123,000 Stimulus Checks That Still Haven't Been Cashed

California, which boasts the highest population in the US, has the most unspent stimulus checks of any state with 123,265, followed by Florida with 92,018, the record request showed. Texas, New York and Pennsylvania have the next highest outstanding economic impact payments. Those states also represented the top five in the number of payments received. The IRS data goes through March 30, which was the latest accounting available, according to the Herald. Still, the number of stimulus checks that weren't cashed in the Golden State constitutes just a small fraction of the total Californians received. A state-by-state breakdown on the agency's website showed that — as of the last update on June 26-17,692,203 checks had been disbursed to residents in California totaling almost \$29 billion.

#### **NATIONAL**

#### **SBA launches the Community Navigator Pilot Program**

The U.S. Small Business Administration launched the <u>Community Navigator Pilot Program</u>, a \$100 million grant program enacted through the American Rescue Plan Act, which will provide counseling, networking and the assistance needed during this time of economic recovery to the nation's smallest businesses. The program will target small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, as well as women and veterans. The SBA will engage with states, local governments, SBA resource partners, and other organizations in targeted outreach efforts. These partners and people in the community are key to this pilot program as they will serve as a two-way information stream, enabling enterprising business owners to receive the help needed from the SBA.

# Intelligence officials told the White House there was unexamined evidence about the virus's origins

President Biden's call for a 90-day sprint to understand the origins of the coronavirus pandemic came after intelligence officials told the White House that they had a raft of still-unexamined evidence requiring additional computer analysis to shed more light on the mystery, according to senior administration officials. The officials declined to describe the new evidence. But the revelation that they are hoping to apply an extraordinary amount of computer power to the question of whether the virus accidentally leaked from a Chinese laboratory suggests that the US government may not have exhausted its databases of Chinese communications, the movement of lab workers and the pattern of the outbreak of the disease around the city of Wuhan.

#### **EMPLOYER ISSUES**

### **COVID-Emergency Regulations Remain As Is – For Now**

A recent article by Thomas Song with <u>CDF Labor law</u> provides insight on the new Cal/OSHA standards. For ease of reference, the article is copied below.

On May 20, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board met to review and vote on proposed revisions to the COVID-19 emergency regulations. However, that vote was delayed due to a <u>letter request</u> by Cal/OSHA – the agency that published the original emergency regulations and the proposed revisions. The delay was implemented in order to respond to updated CDC guidance which would "allow fully vaccinated persons to go without masks in some settings." In its letter, Cal/OSHA noted that beginning on June 15, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) "plans to implement the CDC's guidelines around masking to allow fully vaccinated Californians to go without a mask in most indoor settings." Therefore, Cal/OSHA requested a chance to revisit and amend the currently proposed revisions "in light of this new guidance."

The proposed revisions, if enacted in their <u>current form</u>, include some welcome clarifications. For instance, a workplace is no longer considered to be in an "outbreak" condition if the COVID+ person was only momentarily in the work area and all employees present at the time were wearing masks. While the current <u>FAQs</u> already addressed how a COVID+ case "momentarily" passing through the workplace will not count towards the three (3) total positive cases within a 14 day period that would qualify as an outbreak (and thus require weekly mandatory testing), the newly proposed revisions remove any doubt as to what "momentarily" means by defining the new term "exposed workgroup," which includes a specific exception for those COVID+ cases that spend less than 15 minutes at work, again assuming everyone is properly masked up. This is a great relief for those employers who were in outbreak conditions before, even when a COVID+ case only went to the bathroom or checked in at a common area or kiosk for a brief period of time.

One of the more questionable revisions in the current version of the proposed regulations is that California employers would be required to provide respirators – not just face masks, but *actual respirators* with a proper seal (such as N95 filtering face pieces) – for all unvaccinated employees. Yet, under the proposed regulations, the respirators would have to be provided even though unvaccinated employees would <u>not</u> *be required* to wear them. How this would actually be effective in the workplace is highly questionable, as some, if not most employees who are not willing to get vaccinated will also likely not be willing to *voluntarily wear* a respirator. Yet, the revisions as currently written would still force employers to provide and train on respirator usage for all unvaccinated employees.

In its <u>letter</u>, Cal/OSHA further noted that, "The Division will limit any potential changes to consideration of the recent [CDC] guidance, in order to make possible a targeted effective date of June 15, 2021." This signals that any proposed changes to the currently drafted revisions will be minimal and focus on potentially loosening the requirement for employees to wear masks indoors, in accordance with the CDC guidelines. The Board has indicated that the new draft revisions will be posted by May 28, 2021, and the Board will then vote on the revisions at its June 3, 2021 meeting. If approved that day, the revisions would be forwarded to the Office of Administrative Law in time to be approved and go into effect by June 15. If the revisions are not approved, the current emergency standard will remain in place until its expiration in October 2021, or until a later set of revisions is voted on and approved. CDF will stay on top of these and other changes.

#### **LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS**

## **Hospital Faces Lawsuit Over Coronavirus Vaccination Mandate**

A Texas hospital is facing a lawsuit by 117 unvaccinated employees over its recently announced COVID-19 vaccine mandate, according to reports. Houston Methodist Hospital, which manages eight hospitals, gave employees a June 7 deadline to receive the vaccine or risk suspension and termination, the lawsuit claims. "Methodist Hospital is forcing its employees to be human 'guinea pigs' as a condition for continued employment," the complaint states, according to <a href="the Washington Post">the Washington Post</a>. The lawsuit cited the US Food and Drug Administration authorization, which is for emergency use and is not yet fully FDA approved and licensed. The complaint also cites the Nuremberg Code, which bans forced medical experimentations, again in effect arguing that the vaccine is experimental and potentially unsafe. Attorney Jared Woodfill, who filed the lawsuit, claims the hospital is trying to vaccinate employees in a bid to boost profitability. "To promote its business and increase profits at the expense of other health care providers and their employees' health, defendants advertise to the public that they 'require all employees and employed physicians to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

#### WHAT WE'RE READING

#### California's Unemployment Insurance Fund Is Deep In Debt

A single paragraph on page 180 of Gov. Gavin Newsom's <u>revised 2021-22 budget</u> refers to one of the state government's most vexing dilemmas — an immense debt it owes to the federal government for support payments to millions of Californians who lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By the end of the year, the state's Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) is expected to owe more than \$24 billion that — unless Congress forgives the debt — must be repaid

with interest. And if the state doesn't make its payments, the feds will hike payroll taxes on California employers to retire the loan.

To read the full story, click here.

## Bay Area Counties Have Final Say On June 15 Reopening. Some Have Concerns

Dr. Matt Willis, the Marin County health officer, remains wary of lifting nearly all public health restrictions on June 15. Some of the most vulnerable residents remain in the shrinking pool of people who aren't vaccinated. When everything from churches to grocery stores returns to full capacity and most people stop wearing masks indoors, he worries the virus will find those at risk. "We're leaning toward just following the state guidance. If any county is ready (for June 15), certainly it's Marin County," Willis said. "But I was surprised to see that there was so little by way of guidance from the state. It feels a little like going from A to Z." California will drop capacity and social distancing orders on its reopening day, including the mask mandate for vaccinated people in almost all settings. When the state revealed its specific plans Friday, many public health officials said they were taken aback by the near-total lifting of restrictions. To read the full story, click here.

## **Covid-19 Vaccine Makers Press Countries to Oppose Patent Waiver**

Covid-19 vaccine makers have dialed up lobbying and public-relations efforts to rally opposition to a proposal to temporarily waive their patents. Since the Biden administration threw its support behind the waiver proposal early this month, pharmaceutical industry trade groups have been moving to support Germany, Japan and other countries that expressed opposition, people familiar with the lobbying said. The industry lobbyists have told the governments, in meetings and phone calls, that a waiver wouldn't address shortages any time soon, while straining raw material supplies, the people said. Vaccine makers have also rolled out pledges to deliver more doses to developing countries, which have pressed for the waiver. To read the full story, click here.

# The World's Biggest Vaccine Maker Is Stalling On Exports. That's A Problem For The Planet's Most Vulnerable

When Uddhab Gautam got his first vaccine dose back in February, Covid-19 cases in Nepal were low. Now, three months later, coronavirus infections in the Himalayan nation have spiraled out of control, leading to a shortage of hospital beds and oxygen, and sending most of the country into lockdown.

But despite needing it more than ever, the 67-year-old retired banker has no idea when he'll get his second dose of Covishield, the AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII). "As an older person, I'm afraid of contracting the virus," he

said from his home in Nepal's capital Kathmandu. "I have chosen to stay indoors." To read the full story, click <u>here.</u>

## **California To Simplify Rent Relief Application**

A new survey finds tenants are having a hard time accessing the state's \$2.6 billion emergency rent relief, which is contributing to the slow distribution of California's marquee program to thwart a potential statewide eviction tsunami. With one month until the end of the state's eviction moratorium, the survey of 177 tenant advocates released Tuesday found that tenants had trouble applying in languages other than English and Spanish and that a lack of digital proficiency and access to documents showing income losses due to COVID limited tenants' ability to apply. To read the full story, click <a href="https://example.com/here.">here.</a>

Scary 'Long Haul' Symptoms Found In Many COVID Patients, Stanford Researchers Say More than 70% of COVID-19 patients studied report having at least one "long haul" symptom that lasts for months, including depression, shortness of breath and brain fog, a new Stanford analysis of dozens of research projects finds. Most of the patients studied had suffered moderate to severe COVID cases and had been hospitalized before being hit with lingering problems, the Stanford review found in analyzing 45 research projects from around the world, one of the largest studies of its kind. The research projects followed a total of 9,751 COVID patients for at least three months after their illness, 83% of whom had been hospitalized. Patients reported 84 different symptoms affecting seemingly every system in the body: cardiac, respiratory, neuromuscular, neurological, circulatory and immune, the researchers said in an analysis posted Wednesday in JAMA Network Open, an open access publication of the American Medical Association. To read the full story, click here.

#### Biden Calls for Intelligence Report on Origins of Covid-19

President Biden ordered a US intelligence inquiry into the origins of Covid-19, following renewed scrutiny of the possibility that the outbreak of the virus might have started with a laboratory leak in China. The White House has come under pressure to carry out its own investigation after China told the World Health Organization that it considered Beijing's part of the investigation complete, calling for efforts to trace the virus's origins to shift into other countries. Mr. Biden, who wants a report within 90 days, said that US intelligence has focused on two scenarios—whether the coronavirus came from human contact with an infected animal or from a laboratory accident. He said that there is a divergence among officials in the American intelligence community, or IC, on how the virus might have emerged. To read the full story, click <a href="https://example.com/here-emerged

US Jobless Claims Fall To 406,000, A New Pandemic Low

Thursday's report from the Labor Department showed that applications declined 38,000 from 444,000 a week earlier. The number of weekly applications for jobless aid — a rough measure of the pace of layoffs — has fallen by more than half since January. The decline in applications reflects a swift rebound in economic growth. The government separately estimated Thursday that the economy expanded at a strong annual pace of 6.4% in the first three months of this year, unchanged from its initial estimate. More Americans are venturing out to shop, travel, dine out and congregate at entertainment venues. All that renewed spending has led companies to seek new workers, which helps explain why a record number of jobs is now being advertised. To read the full story, click here.

# Despite Vaccines, California Employers Must Still Follow Strict Rules On Masks In Workplaces To Protect All Workers

As the state prepares to reopen fully on June 15, workplace regulators are taking a cautious stance to protect unvaccinated workers, saying that masks can come off only in settings where someone is working alone or where everyone has gotten a shot. To read the full story, click <a href="https://example.com/here-everyone">here-everyone</a> has gotten a shot.

## **California Considers Timing On Easing Workers' Virus Rules**

California workforce regulators recommended Friday that the state stick with a July 31 deadline for updating certain employer pandemic safety rules instead of adopting Gov. Gavin Newsom's mid-June lifting of mask and physical distancing requirements in most social settings. To read the full story, click <a href="here.">here.</a>

#### With The Pandemic Waning, Californians Are Ready To Travel This Summer

More than three-quarters of Americans say they are ready to plan trips right now, and 35% of them researched travel ideas online in the past week, a record high over the past year, according to new survey data from Destination Analysts. ... After a year that cut back California's formerly booming travel industry dramatically, from \$145 billion in visitor spending in 2019 to \$65 billion in 2020, things are looking up. In his latest budget revision, Gov. Gavin Newsom allocated \$95 million to jump-start tourism. Much of it will flow through Visit California, the state's tourism bureau, to lure back international and out-of-state travelers the state has been sorely missing. At a recent press event, Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis urged Californians to begin making summer vacation plans. To read the full story, click here.

### Americans' Boost to Spending Is Adding Fuel to Economic Growth

Consumer spending, the biggest source of economic demand in the US, rose 0.5% last month after surging in March, the Commerce Department said Friday. The report offered mostly positive signs about the direction of the economy's path out of the

pandemic-induced downturn. After months of buying goods from the safety of their homes, Americans are increasingly comfortable enough to go out in public and buy things in person, a shift that economists say is crucial to getting the economy running at full speed again. Spending on services, which account for the bulk of all consumer purchases, rose 1.1% last month; spending on goods fell 0.6%. The higher spending is being fueled by rising vaccination rates, falling business restrictions and ample household savings, much of it from the federal government. States and cities continue to lift restrictions on businesses such as restaurants, gyms and concert venues, and customers are returning. To read the full story, click <a href="https://example.com/here-com/h

## California's EDD Is So Hard To Reach That Unemployed People Are Paying Go-Betweens To Do It For Them

With EDD's phone lines perpetually jammed, thousands of people are paying \$20 to \$80 per call to private companies that connect them to EDD by robo-dialing it — which in turn adds to the congestion. At the same time, many non-English speakers are paying intermediaries to fill out their unemployment applications and often pay them again every two weeks for the simple process of recertifying to keep the benefits flowing. Meanwhile, the agency's data shows that its call volume is soaring and it's lagging on answering. For the week that ended on May 15, EDD received 5.12 million calls from 378,146 unique callers — with almost a third of those callers unable to get through. To read the full story, click <a href="here">here</a>.

Northern California Counties Once Spared By COVID-19 Now Seeing Cases Surge As of Friday, Shasta County reported a seven-day average of 9.1 new daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents and a testing positivity rate of 3.7%, four times the statewide rate of 0.9%. ... The numbers are even starker in neighboring Siskiyou County, which has an average of 10.4 new COVID cases per 100,000 residents over the past week and a testing positivity rate of 6.5%, according to state data. Out of the 27 coronavirus deaths reported in the County since the pandemic began more than a year ago, five have occurred since May 6. Del Norte County, in California's northwestern corner, also has an average of 10.4 new cases a day per 100,000 people, with a positivity rate of 2.4%. Both metrics are also far worse than the state averages in Humboldt County, just to the south of Del Norte, and Modoc County on the state's northeastern border. To read the full story, click here.

Schools Face Mental Health Crisis Among Students As Pandemic Trauma Remains
The overwhelming stresses of the last 14 months have magnified a long-simmering crisis
of mental health struggles among students. Hospitals across the US reported an
alarming increase in attempted and completed suicides among youth. The rate of
children ages 11 through 17 who were screened in 2020 for anxiety and depression was

9% higher than in 2019, according to a Mental Health America report. Relatively few teachers have been adequately trained to spot the signs of trauma and respond to it appropriately, mental health advocates say. Currently, there is no mandated mental health training for K-12 teachers, according to the California Department of Education. At many schools in Southern California, teachers say it can take weeks for a student to connect with a counselor or social worker. The state's average student-to-counselor ratio for the 2019-20 school year was 601 to 1, according to the American School Counselor Assn. — more than twice the recommended ratio. To read the full story, click here.

## Only 4 States Are Now In COVID' High Risk' Level. Here's How They Compare To California

California has a case rate of 2.9 per 100,000, an infection rate of 0.87 and a positive test rate of 0.9%. Additionally, 56.7% of Californians have received at least one vaccine dose, according to COVID Act Now. The nonprofit gets its data from official sources including the US Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York Times, and official state and county dashboards. Only four states are in the "high risk" category: Colorado, Florida, Washington and Wyoming. Factors driving the numbers vary from state to state, but it appears that many of the new cases are occurring in younger people and in children, as those younger than 12 do not yet qualify for a coronavirus vaccine. To read the full story, click <a href="https://example.com/heres/least-state-

#### Moderna Seeks Full FDA Approval Of Its Covid-19 Vaccine

Moderna has asked the Food and Drug Administration for full approval of its coronavirus vaccine in people 18 and older. The company is the second vaccine maker to seek full approval from US regulators, which would allow it to market the shot directly to consumers. Full approval also makes it easier for schools, employers and the military to require inoculation against Covid-19. The company said it is providing data to FDA on a rolling basis and is seeking priority review from the agency. To read the full story, click here.

Note: While EKA monitors governmental announcements, guidelines and recommendations, our updates are prepared for informational purposes and are compiled from publicly available sources. Our updates should not be considered health, medical, legal, or tax advice. Always consult a qualified professional regarding any specific questions you may have. All hyperlinks are live and will bring you to the information mentioned. If you are not interested in receiving future emails from us, please reply with a "Remove" in the subject line and note the email addresses to be removed.

## **Previous Updates**

Our previous COVID-19 updates can be found <a href="here">here</a>. Feel free to share our updates with friends and colleagues. We hope you find the information in the EKA updates and the questions they raise to be informative. If you have any COVID-19 government or communications questions, please reach out to any EKA team members.