

Weekly COVID-19 Update From EKA
June 23, 2021

REOPENING

Reopening LA County Website

LA County has updated the [ReopeningLACounty.com](https://www reopeninglacounty.com) website. On the website, you will find the new [Health Officer Order \(HOO\): A Safer Return Together At Work and In The Community](#): Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy – Encouraging COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage with Limited Risk Reduction Measures effective as of last week. The HOO also urges everyone, especially those who are not or cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19, to continue to exercise caution and good judgment as physical distancing requirements and capacity limitations are removed. Businesses and customers should continue reviewing best practice documents and sector-specific protocol for designated areas on a regular basis to ensure they are complying with the latest health protection and prevention measures.

- [Appendix K](#): Reopening Protocol for Day Camps
- [Appendix K-1](#): Reopening Protocol for Overnight Organized / Children's Camps
- [Appendix T1](#): Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools
- [Appendix T2](#): Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan in K-12 Schools

In addition to the HOO, you will also find information on:

- What to Know about Reopening ([Masks](#), [Traveling](#), and What to do if you are [Sick](#))
- Best Practices in the Workplace ([Food Service](#), [Indoor Fitness](#), [Large Events](#), [Offices](#), [Personal Care](#), and [Workplace](#))
- Go Out and Have Fun Safely
- Isolation and Quarantine
- Retired Protocols – Not in Effect

Please visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) (or Spanish - [VacunateLosAngeles.com](https://www.vacunatelosangeles.com)). The English and Spanish [How to Get Vaccinated](#) webpages now allows you to search for a vaccine by zip code, vaccine type, hours, and location type.

VACCINATION/MASKS

McDonald's & COVID-19 Vaccinations

Yes! Now you can even get fries with that COVID-19 vaccination. As part of the state's ongoing efforts to make COVID-19 vaccines more convenient for Californians, California Department of Public Health and California McDonald's franchisees launched a new

partnership under its Vaccinate ALL 58 effort to set up pop-up clinics at more than 70 locations across the state. To view the locations, click [here](#).

California Rolls Out Virtual Vaccine Cards

State officials announced a new voluntary tool that allows people to access an electronic copy of their CDC COVID-19 vaccination card. Californians can fill out a short form at myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov which will then send them a link and QR code with their immunization record. The system was set up in part to quell concerns about counterfeit CDC cards.

Mask Guidance

Following the vote by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to adopt revised COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards that reflect the state's latest COVID-19 public health order, Governor Gavin Newsom today signed an executive order enabling the revisions to take effect without the normal 10-day review period by the Office of Administrative Law – providing clarity and consistency for employers and employees as California fully reopens its economy. Among other updates, Cal/OSHA's revisions align with the [latest](#) guidance from the California Department of Public Health – based on guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – on face coverings and eliminate physical distancing requirements, except for certain employees during outbreaks. Unless they show symptoms, fully vaccinated employees do not need to be offered testing or be excluded from work after close contact with a COVID-19-positive person. Ensuring workplaces throughout the state have consistent guidance as California officially moves [Beyond the Blueprint](#), the Governor's order waives the 10-day review process by the Office of Administrative Law. The emergency regulations will take effect upon their filing with the Secretary of State. Businesses seeking assistance to provide N95 respirators for unvaccinated employees as required by the revised Emergency Temporary Standards can find distribution locations for state-provided N95 respirators [here](#). The full text of today's executive order can be found [here](#).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY/CITY

COVID-19: Updated Best Practice Guidance and New Signage

LA County updated their [Best Practice Guidance and Signage](#) on 6/18/2021. As a reminder, EVERYONE, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask:

- On planes, trains, buses, ferries, taxis and ride-shares, and all other forms of public transport,

- In transportation hubs like airports, bus terminals, train stations, marinas, seaports or other ports, subway stations, or any other area that provides transportation,
- Healthcare settings,
- Shelters and cooling centers,
- Indoors at any youth-serving facility (such as K-12 schools, childcare, day camps, etc.), AND
- ANY business or government office serving the public that requires everyone to wear a mask.

In addition, people who are NOT fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must also wear a mask in indoor public settings and businesses, for example:

- Movie theaters
- Restaurants
- Retail Spaces
- Family entertainment centers
- Mega-events
- Meetings
- Government offices serving the public

The above indoor public settings and businesses may continue to require masks for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, if they are unable to verify the vaccination status of customers. Signage has been created to support this.

Signage (Translation is pending.)

- Indoors - Masks required for everyone [English](#)
- Indoors - Masks required for people who are not fully vaccinated [English](#)
- Outdoors - Masks recommended for people who are not fully vaccinated [English](#)
- Steps for handwashing [English](#) [Spanish](#)
- Stay away if you are sick [English/Spanish](#)
- Prevent outbreaks in the workplace [English](#)

Please visit [ReopeningLACounty.com](https://www.reopeninglacounty.com) for all the information you need to Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, & Get Vaccinated. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to protect the health and well-being of Los Angeles County residents.

SACRAMENTO

Did California's Vaccine Lottery Work? Here's What The Data Shows

The number of Californians getting their first vaccine dose increased modestly on May 28, the day after Newsom announced the lottery and incentives. That day, the number

of Californians with at least one vaccine dose increased by about 89,800, compared to an increase of 79,600 the day before, according to the California Department of Public Health. The jump did not appear to last long. The number of Californians with at least one dose of vaccine grew by about 1,478,000 in the 15 days before Newsom announced the lottery, as newly-eligible teens lined up to get their first dose, according to Department of Public Health data. In the 15 days after the announcement, it increased by about 772,000. State officials have pointed out that vaccinations have been slowing across the country, and that the original goal of the lottery was to slow the decline in California. Newsom spokesman Alex Stack said administration officials had predicted a lull in vaccinations that the incentives seem to have staved off.

In New Milestone, California Administers 40 Millionth Dose Of COVID-19 Vaccine

State officials announced the latest total, 40,098,803 doses, Thursday afternoon, two days after the economy was fully reopened. Officials and health experts have said California's high vaccination rates have reduced the risk of outbreaks with the wide reopening, noting that new cases and deaths continue to plummet. According a Times analysis, the doses have been administered to California residents and out-of-state visitors. About 57% of Californians have received at least one dose. Only a small portion of the shots — about 700,000 — have gone to out-of-state residents. California in recent weeks has also reported some of the lowest virus transmission rates in the nation — a stark change for a region once besieged by COVID-19.

California Weighs Extending Eviction Protections Past June

Gov. Gavin Newsom says California will pay off all the past-due rent that accumulated in the nation's most populated state because of the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, a promise to make landlords whole while giving renters a clean slate. Left unsettled is whether California will continue to ban evictions for unpaid rent beyond June 30, a pandemic-related order that was meant to be temporary but is proving difficult to undo. Federal eviction protections also are set to expire on June 30. California had passed its own protections that applied to more people. Newsom and legislative leaders are meeting privately to decide what to do, part of the negotiations over the state's roughly \$260 billion operating budget. An extension of the eviction ban seems likely to give California more time to spend all the money to cover unpaid rent. But landlords and tenants' rights groups are arguing over how long that extension should last.

NATIONAL

U.S. Covid-19 Deaths Top 600,000

The number of confirmed US deaths from Covid-19 surpassed 600,000 on Tuesday. The milestone follows a significant slowdown in all Covid-19 metrics after a winter surge that reached every corner of the country and strained healthcare systems. Since the rollout of highly effective vaccines, deaths have plummeted, recently reaching their lowest point since March 2020. Fatalities in the US peaked in mid-January, when the seven-day average of reported deaths was around 3,300 a day, up from a rate of 1,100 just two months earlier, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The seven-day average, which helps smooth out states' irregular reporting schedules for Covid-19 data, has been below 1,000 deaths since early April, and below an average of 500 deaths since the beginning of June. On Monday, it stood at 343.

The CDC. Designates The Delta Version Of The Virus A 'Variant Of Concern.'

Federal health officials have classified the Delta variant of the coronavirus now circulating in the United States as a "variant of concern," sounding the alarm because it spreads rapidly and may partially sidestep certain antibody treatments. Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday emphasized that the authorized vaccines are highly effective against the variant, however, and urged all Americans who have not yet been inoculated to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. In England, the swift spread of Delta variant has forced government officials to postpone the lifting of pandemic restrictions, called Freedom Day, which was to be June 21. Now the government will maintain some restrictions for four additional weeks. Reports from Britain indicate that single doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca vaccine are only 33 percent effective at preventing symptomatic Covid-19 caused by the Delta variant.

The US. Will Spend \$3 Billion On Developing Antiviral Pills To Treat Covid-19

The US government will invest \$3.2 billion to develop antiviral pills for Covid-19, the Department of Health and Human Services announced on Thursday. Such a treatment could keep people out of the hospital and potentially save many lives in the years to come, as the virus becomes a perennial threat despite the distribution of effective vaccines. A number of other viruses, including influenza, HIV and hepatitis C, can be treated with a simple pill. But despite more than a year of research, no such drug exists for the coronavirus. Operation Warp Speed, the Trump administration's program for accelerating Covid-19 research, invested far more money in the development of vaccines than of treatments, a gap that the new program will try to fill.

White House: 70% of Americans 30 or older get COVID-19 shot

More than 70% of Americans age 30 or older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, the White House said, even as President Joe Biden is set to fall short of reaching his goal of giving a shot to the same percentage of all American adults by

Independence Day. The Biden administration is releasing the new data Tuesday showing it expects to reach 70% of Americans age 27 or older with at least one shot by the July 4 holiday. A White House official said it is now redoubling its focus on vaccinating younger Americans age 18-26, who have proved to be least likely to get a vaccine when it's available for them. The White House said meeting Biden's vaccination goal is less important than the pace of the nation's reopening, which is exceeding even its own internal projections as the overwhelming majority of the nation's most vulnerable people are fully vaccinated and cases and deaths are at their lowest rates since the earliest days of the pandemic.

EMPLOYER ISSUES

Revised Emergency Temporary Standards Effective Today

The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board adopted revisions to the COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards that account for recent guidance from the California Department of Public Health based on increases in the number of people vaccinated. Governor Gavin Newsom today signed an [executive order](#) enabling the revisions to take effect without the normal 10-day review period by the Office of Administrative Law—providing clarity and consistency for employers and employees as California fully reopens its economy. The revised standards took effect today.

The revisions include the following:

- Fully vaccinated employees do not need to be offered testing or excluded from work after close contact unless they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Fully vaccinated employees do not need to wear face coverings except for certain situations during outbreaks and in settings where CDPH requires all persons to wear them. Employers must document the vaccination status of fully vaccinated employees if they do not wear face coverings indoors.
- Employees are not required to wear face coverings when outdoors regardless of vaccination status except for certain employees during outbreaks.
- Employees are explicitly allowed to wear a face covering without fear of retaliation from employers.
- Physical distancing requirements have been eliminated except where an employer determines there is a hazard and for certain employees during major outbreaks.
- Employees who are not fully vaccinated may request respirators for voluntary use from their employers at no cost and without fear of retaliation from their employers.

- Employees who are not fully vaccinated and exhibit COVID-19 symptoms must be offered testing by their employer.
- Employer-provided housing and transportation are exempt from the regulations where all employees are fully vaccinated.
- Employers must review the [Interim guidance for Ventilation, Filtration, and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#).
- Employers must evaluate ventilation systems to maximize outdoor air and increase filtration efficiency, and evaluate the use of additional air cleaning systems.

Cal/OSHA is updating its resources to assist employers with understanding their obligations required by the revised emergency standards. The [webpage](#) contains an [updated fact sheet](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about proposed revisions to the emergency temporary standards. In addition, Cal/OSHA is currently updating its model [COVID-19 Prevention Program in English](#) and [Spanish](#) and information on planned webinars hosted by its Consultation Services Branch.

COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Requirement Update

The CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support webpage has been updated with new or clarifying language related to requirements of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. This webpage serves as a repository for any updates to the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Agreement including any updates to recommendations, requirements, and other guidance related to the program. Please visit [COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Requirements and Support](#) to view the updated information.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

NH Hoteliers Score Partial Coverage Win In COVID-19 Suit

A New Hampshire-based hotel company and its affiliates were granted partial summary judgment in their business interruption suit with insurers when a state judge ruled Tuesday that damage caused by the presence of the coronavirus was a “direct physical loss or damage” to the hotels. Merrimack County Superior Court Judge John C. Kissinger Jr. held that the coronavirus causes “a distinct and demonstrable alteration” to property, triggering business interruption coverage for Schleicher and Stebbins Hotels LLC and its affiliates which look to tap into part of a \$600 million tower of insurance for losses. By turning to the New Hampshire Supreme Court’s interpretation in [Mellin v. Northern Security Insurance Co.](#), that physical loss doesn’t require structural damage but only a showing by a policyholder of a “distinct and demonstrable alteration” of the property.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Iconic Langer's Deli Celebrates Return To In-Person Dining After 469 Days

Employees at the iconic Langer's Deli in the Westlake neighborhood of Los Angeles are celebrating the return of in-person dining after 469 days. "It's an opportunity to bring a smile back to everybody's face," owner Norm Langer said. Christina Pascucci reports for the KTLA 5 Morning News. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus Regulations: A State-By-State Week In Review

Here's a breakdown of some of the COVID-19-related state measures from the past week. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California's Virus Reopening Met With Cheers And Caution

The state ended rules on physical distancing or capacity limits at restaurants, bars, supermarkets, gyms, museums, amusement parks, stadiums or anywhere else. Masks are no longer mandated for vaccinated people in most settings, though businesses and counties can still require them and other restrictions. Many businesses said they would rely on the honor system when it comes to determining whether patrons are vaccinated. The reopening was met with exuberance — especially on a day when many areas of the state saw sweltering outdoor temperatures and indoor air conditioning beckoned. But it also prompted caution from people well aware that millions still haven't had their shots and the coronavirus is anything but eradicated. More people tested positive for the virus in California (3.8 million and counting) and more people died (63,000 plus) than anywhere else in the country during the pandemic, although the nation's most populous state had a lower per capita death rate than most others. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Many Bay Area Restaurants Are Setting Their Own Masking Rules Despite State's Reopening

At some restaurants, owners say they'll continue requiring masks for employees to make diners feel more comfortable. At others, workers will soon get to decide whether to mask up. Many restaurants will no longer expect diners to wear masks — but people should keep a mask in their pocket, just in case they wander into a spot that still mandates face coverings. The mixed plans show that the state's June 15 reopening won't be a simple return to normalcy. Plus, there's widespread confusion in the industry about the state's rules for employees, which currently still require masks for workers. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Will Travel And Tourism Return With California Reopening?

With California reopening today to mostly full capacity, its travel and tourism industry is aching for a significant bounce back. But experts are tempering expectations; domestic travel won't fully recover until 2023 and the number of international tourists, especially from China and Mexico, remain less than half of pre-pandemic levels. And a full reopening won't happen until large conventions return — not a certainty with the wholesale move to work shift. ... While tourism dropped 36% nationally in 2020, California's tourism revenue dropped 55%, according to Dean Runyan. And more than half of California's roughly 1.2 million-person tourism workforce lost their jobs in the first month of the lockdown, according to a report released in May 2020. The Legislature passed a law requiring businesses to prioritize rehiring those who lost jobs, and many workers are hoping to resume work. To read the full story, click [here](#).

San Francisco To Require Staff In Hospitals, Jails And Nursing Homes To Get COVID-19 Vaccine

San Francisco's order, like the one issued by UC and Cal State, would allow for workers in "high-risk settings" to seek an exemption based on medical or religious grounds. High-risk settings are defined in San Francisco's order as those that involve many people where vulnerable individuals reside out of necessity and where risk of coronavirus transmission is high. Besides acute-care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, such high-risk settings include jails, residential care facilities for older people and homeless shelters. Once the FDA fully approves any COVID-19 vaccine, San Francisco will require that all businesses and government agencies with workers in high-risk settings find out the vaccination status of all workers who routinely work on-site and ensure that they are fully vaccinated within 10 weeks of official vaccine approval. To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Is Fading in US, but Officials Will Still Have to Manage It

One possibility is that Covid-19 will settle into flu-like patterns, ramping up in colder weather, epidemiologists say. Dr. Duchin stressed the importance of investing to improve ventilation in buildings, including schools, to try to slow the spread of Covid-19 when people head back indoors in the fall. The broad reopening of society may spur a flu resurgence after Covid-19 interventions appeared to damp that virus last winter. Whether health systems can cope with both the flu and Covid-19 at the same time will be a big factor in determining how much of the new disease is manageable, Dr. Duchin said. Some health officials said that they anticipate continued flare-ups and that surveillance will be crucial to support more normal patterns of life. Covid-19 will require closer monitoring than the flu because it is such a new disease, said Dr. Brooks at the CDC, which has a system that collects data on Covid-19-linked hospitalizations from more than 250 hospitals. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Unemployment Claims Jump Amid Reopening

California workers filed 68,600 initial claims for unemployment benefits during the week that ended on June 12, an increase of 15,700 from the 52,900 claims that were filed during the week ending June 5, the US Labor Department reported Thursday.

Nationwide, workers filed 412,000 first-time claims for jobless benefits last week, an increase of 37,000 from the 375,000 claims that were filed the week before, according to the Labor Department. The increase in unemployment claims in California suggests that the state's economy hasn't fully recovered from the brutal blows it has taken since March 2020, when state and local government agencies launched widespread business shutdowns to combat the coronavirus. To read the full story, click [here](#).

US Jobless Claims Tick Up To 412,000 From A Pandemic Low

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose last week for the first time since April despite widespread evidence that the economy and the job market are rebounding steadily from the pandemic recession. The Labor Department said Thursday that jobless claims rose 37,000 from the week before to 412,000. As the job market has strengthened, the number of weekly applications for unemployment aid has fallen for most of the year. The number of jobless claims generally reflects the pace of layoffs. Weekly applications for unemployment aid had dropped for six straight weeks, and economists had expected another dip last week. Still, the report showed the four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week ups and downs, fell by 8,000 last week to 395,000 — the lowest four-week average since the pandemic slammed the economy in March 2020. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California: People Must Look For Work To Get Jobless Aid

California will stop giving unemployment benefits to people who are not actively applying for jobs, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration announced Thursday. Federal law requires people who are out of work to be actively looking for jobs to be eligible for unemployment benefits. But the federal government let states waive that requirement during the pandemic because so many businesses were ordered to close. To read the full story, click [here](#).

High Hopes for Johnson & Johnson's Covid Vaccine Have Fizzled in the US.

With only 11.8 million doses administered in the United States so far — less than 4 percent of the total — the "one and done" vaccine has fallen flat. States have warned for weeks that they may not find recipients for millions of doses that will soon expire, partly because the vaccine's appeal dropped after it was linked to a rare but serious blood-clotting disorder and injections were paused for 10 days in April. The vaccine took another hit last week, when regulators told Johnson & Johnson that it should throw out tens of millions of additional doses produced at a plant in Baltimore because they might

be contaminated. The diminished supply and enthusiasm for the shot mean that its role in the United States is fading fast, even though millions of Americans have yet to be vaccinated. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Most Teachers Are Vaccinated, Union Says

The National Education Association, which has three million members nationwide, said about 86% of its members have received at least one dose of the vaccine, up from 49% a month ago, according to a survey released Thursday. The survey in which 2,690 members were polled was commissioned by the union from May 19-26. ... The American Federation of Teachers, the country's second largest teachers union, said last month that 89% of its members have been fully vaccinated or want to be. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California's Unemployment Debt Grows As Businesses Ask Newsom For Help

California's borrowing to pay unemployment benefits will balloon to \$26.7 billion by the end of next year as state funds prove inadequate to cover the costs of unprecedented joblessness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a new report warns. Even as the economy is rebounding, unemployment remains high, and the debt is forecast to grow beyond the \$24.3 billion estimated for the end of this year, state officials said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California unemployment rate dips as employers add new jobs

California has regained more than half of the 2.7 million jobs it lost at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, officials said Friday, a trend driven by restaurants and hotels hiring more people as the nation's most populous state reopens its economy. Employers added 104,500 new jobs in May as California's unemployment rate dipped slightly to 7.9% from 8% in April. It's still one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, but it is the fourth month in a row that the state has added at least 100,000 new jobs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

This Bill Was Meant To Protect California Workers From COVID. These Counties Are Using It To Protect Employers Instead

Only about one-third of the state's 58 counties released specific information on workplace outbreaks in response to recent public records requests, and those specifics varied wildly. The state is now collecting detailed data, as required, but posts only numbers by broad industry categories that offer few useful insights on risk. Remarkably, some government agencies insist they are prevented from publicizing workplace outbreaks by the very law — AB 685 — that sought to force them open. Labor advocates and legal experts blame two culprits for the law's failure: sloppy legal language and recalcitrant bureaucrats who claim to be protecting employee privacy. The combination

is curtailing public knowledge at a time when improving case rates have led many California businesses to call their employees back to non-socially distanced, mostly maskless workplaces. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Moderna Plans to Expand Production to Make Covid-19 Vaccine Boosters, Supply More Countries

Moderna Inc. is adding two new production lines at the rebuilt former Polaroid plant where it manufactures its Covid-19 vaccine, part of a push to prepare for making booster shots and the future of the pandemic. At a site brimming with new steel production tanks and heavy equipment, construction workers in neon safety vests are working to get one new line up and running by fall and the other by early 2022. The additions will help Moderna increase overall production capacity by 50% at its plant in the Boston suburb of Norwood, company officials said. Moderna and its manufacturing partners also are expanding production capacity outside the US, with a goal to roughly triple the annual global output of Covid-19 vaccine doses to about 3 billion in 2022 from as many as 1 billion this year. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Some Vaccine Experts Having Second Thoughts About Rushing To Inoculate Kids

The FDA authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for emergency use in adolescents as young as 12 on May 10. In the weeks that have followed, the safety monitoring systems managed by the FDA and CDC detected dozens of cases of a possible side effect in newly vaccinated teens: an inflammation of the heart muscle known as myocarditis. The cases typically developed in older adolescents, most of them boys, three to four days after they got a second dose. Virtually all were considered mild, presenting as chest pain and tightness that resolved after treatment with over-the-counter medications. None of the patients appear to have died or suffered serious cardiac malfunction, though it's too early to know whether they will suffer long-term effects. As of June 10, the government's vaccine monitoring systems detected 226 cases of myocarditis or a related condition called pericarditis after vaccination in people younger than 30. Normally, fewer than 100 cases would be expected for this age group, said Dr. Tom Shimabukuro, deputy director of the CDC's Immunization Safety Office. More investigation is needed to determine whether the vaccine caused these heart problems or if the timing was merely a coincidence, he said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA's COVID-19 Death Rate Falls Below That Of Bay Area In Another Sign Of Widening Recovery

In a sign of its dramatic recovery, LA County reported about two COVID-19 deaths a day over the past week, down from a peak of 241 in January. By comparison, the Bay Area — comprising Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano and Sonoma counties — is reporting four deaths a day, down from a

peak of 63. LA County has a population of 10 million; the Bay Area has 7.7 million. This is just one more piece of evidence about how the course of COVID-19 has changed in California, and why officials are confident that the state faces little risk of the surges that repeatedly shut down large swaths of the economy over the past 15 months. To read the full story, click [here](#).

US Economy Is Bouncing Back From Covid-19. Now Foreign Investors Are Rushing In

According to UN figures published Monday, overseas investments by businesses around the world fell by a third in 2020 from the previous year. The US recorded a 40% fall in investment but narrowly held on to its long-held position as the top destination ahead of China. The UN in January estimated that the US had lost the top slot. For 2021 and 2022, the UN expects the US to cement its leading position, with China in the second spot, as overseas investors expand capacity to meet huge post-pandemic demand. The Federal Reserve expects the American economy to grow 7% this year, supported by nearly \$6 trillion in approved stimulus spending and about \$2.6 trillion in extra savings American households have built up during the pandemic.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

In 11 US States, The Rate Of Vaccination In Those Over 65 Lags The National Level

Those 65 and older have the highest rate of vaccination among all age groups, with 87 percent having received at least one dose, compared with 60 percent for people ages 18 to 64, and 31 percent for those 12 to 17. But in 11 states, seniors who have yet to get a dose of the vaccine pose a risk to their states' recovery as most places remove restrictions aimed at limiting new outbreaks. Most of them are in the South: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee. Georgia, Idaho and Missouri are at the 20 percent threshold. West Virginia and Wyoming also have more than 20 percent of people 65 and over without one dose.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

Border Vaccination Plan With U.S.-Donated Shots Starts In Baja California

Baja California has started administering over 1.3 million Johnson & Johnson single-shots donated to Mexico by the US as part of a strategy that could lead to the reopening of the border. This border state became the first in Mexico to open COVID vaccination to people 18 years and over and is on its way to also become the first to reach herd immunity, according to Baja California's secretary of health, Alonso Perez Rico. On Thursday, the first day of this vaccination phase, more than 196,000 people were vaccinated with J&J doses in Baja California. "That's a historic record for our state, Pérez Rico said. This vaccination strategy is considered key to reopening the U.S.-Mexico land border crossing, which has been closed to non-essential travel since March 2020. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California's Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Record Has Glitches. Here's How To Fix Yours

One snag that's emerged is the requirement for an email address or phone number — which has to match what a person submitted when receiving her or his COVID-19 vaccine. However, that information might be missing for some. Because the system pulls from records maintained within and accessible through the state's immunization registry systems, it's also conceivable someone's record may be filed under an email address or phone number that's either outdated or was used for a non-COVID-19 vaccine. ... Staff will review each and make any necessary updates. Residents should receive an email when that's done — though officials note the process could take two to three weeks. "The troubleshooting process will correct human error in data entry and the source data," Sami Gallegos, press secretary for the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, wrote in an email Monday. She added that "most issues have to do with missing contact information. The requests go to a queue to research and update after we have permission of the individual to so. This is currently a manual process." To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID Economy: California Unemployment Claims Backlog Worsens

On June 12, the overall logjam to deal with unemployment claims by California workers totaled 1.126 million, up about 1,100 from the bottleneck reported by the EDD for June 5. ... In an email a few weeks ago, an EDD spokesperson said the state agency preferred to use the numbers that detail the labor agency's failure to make a decision on a certified claim within 21 or fewer days. Yet even that measure is far worse than what was the case on April 10, when it reached its lowest point since the state agency began posting its dashboard on February 13 of this year. On April 10, only 111,333 claims were taking more than 21 days to be paid or rejected by the EDD. The most recent 21-day backlog number posted for June 12 was a whopping 99.9% higher than the April 10 number — nearly double. For the category of claims still awaiting certification by the unemployment applicant, the number reported on June 12 was 3% higher than the lowest such number on record, 877,212 on February 13. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Help wanted: Labor crisis shocks California restaurants

The worker shortage is also affecting restaurants across the US. The National Restaurant Association has reported the eating and drinking industry shed 2.5 million jobs in 2020. Federal data show nearly 1.4 million job openings in the restaurant and hotel sector in April. The California Restaurant Association earlier estimated as many as one-third of the state's restaurants would not make it through the pandemic. For those that survived, the employment gap is a "full-blown crisis," said Jot Condie, who heads the organization. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom is fond of saying that California's

economy is roaring back. Indeed, employment figures released Friday showed the state added over 100,000 jobs in May, the fourth consecutive month of gains after 2.7 million jobs vanished during the early months of the pandemic. But in the state's battered restaurant industry, the return toward normalcy is being slowed by the struggle to find an adequate number of cooks, bartenders, food servers and kitchen staff. Since May 2020, restaurants and hotels have added 420,400 jobs — the most of any sector — but the industry remains about 450,000 jobs below its pre-pandemic level. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Delta Coronavirus Strain Is Growing Fast In California, With Risk For Unvaccinated People

The highly infectious delta coronavirus variant is rising fast in California, with cases more than doubling in the past month and tripling in one Bay Area county, according to genomic sequencing results reported by state and local public health departments. ... The delta variant is more infectious than alpha, and may be twice as transmissible as the original strain of the coronavirus from Wuhan, China, according to preliminary studies. But infectious disease experts say it's unlikely to cause as much chaos in California as it has in other parts of the world, including the UK and India, because of the state's high vaccination rates. ... The concern in California and the Bay Area is the potential for delta to spread in communities where vaccination rates overall are low. Statewide, 48% of Californians are fully vaccinated and 13% more have had at least one shot of a two-course vaccine, but those rates aren't even across counties. The Bay Area generally has very high vaccination rates; in San Francisco, 65% of residents are fully vaccinated. But some counties have much lower rates — only about 20% are fully vaccinated in Lassen County, for example — and Black and Latino residents are less likely to be fully vaccinated than white and Asian residents statewide. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Rising Inflation Looks Less Severe Using Pre-Pandemic Comparisons

While inflation's 13-year high, as measured by the annual change in the consumer-price index from a year earlier, has caused concern, the central bank restated its belief that the rise in prices is "largely reflecting transitory factors." The Fed cuts its benchmark interest rate in economic downturns to lower borrowing costs and boost activity. When the economy is thriving, prices rise and the Fed tends to raise rates to keep inflation from climbing too far above its 2% target. Its preferred gauge, the personal-consumption expenditures price index, typically tracks just below the consumer-price index. A sudden burst in consumer demand from the economy reopening and an imbalance in supply disruptions are among the main factors driving up prices compared with the same period last year. 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 [here](#). 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.