

COVID-19 Update From EKA – April 13, 2020

EKA's media, government, public relations and crisis support services teams are tracking the state, local and national government responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This update has been prepared for informational purposes and is compiled from publicly available sources and is not intended to be legal or tax advice. All hyperlinks below are live and will bring you to the information mentioned.

Mandated Face-Covering

The following counties and cities require face coverings:

- San Bernardino County: There's a \$1,000 fine for anyone not wearing a face-covering in public
- Riverside County: Enforcement is up to local law enforcement, but face-coverings are recommended for anyone leaving their home.
- Beverly Hills: Face-coverings are required for anyone leaving their home
- Burbank: Face-coverings are required inside essential businesses
- Carson: Face-coverings are required for anyone leaving their home
- Inglewood: Face-coverings are required inside essential businesses
- Los Angeles: Face-coverings are required inside essential businesses
- Long Beach: Face-coverings are required inside essential businesses
- Pasadena: Face-coverings are required inside essential businesses

In Orange County and the city of Irvine, public health leaders stopped short of an official order requiring face coverings, opting to encourage their use strongly.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Revised Safer At Home Order

Businesses Must Complete and Post the Social Distancing Protocol Document by April 15

All essential businesses **must** complete the [Social Distancing Protocol](#) form provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The form **must** be completed, provided to each employee, and posted at or near the entrance to the facility so that it is easily viewable by the public and employees by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. Revised provisions include that Essential Employers **must** provide employees with a cloth face covering to wear while performing duties that involve contact with others.

Additional Essential Businesses and Business Activities Allowed

The revised "Safer at Home" public order updates and clarifies some essential businesses and business activities. Businesses that are considered essential and which may continue in-person operations include:

- Pet day care providers
- Stores that sell beer, wine, and liquor

- Pawnshops
- Nurseries
- Individuals and businesses that ship, truck, transport, or provide logistical support to deliver groceries, food, goods, or services directly to residences or businesses engaged in essential activities or essential infrastructure.
- Virtual real estate showings, or if a virtual showing is not feasible, by appointment in vacant units or vacant houses, only with no more than two visitors at a time residing in the same household and one individual showing the unit.
- Businesses that manufacture personal protective equipment (including cloth face coverings), and businesses that sell materials for purposes of assembling such face coverings (subject to certain qualifications).
- Public Health operations

Permitted Activities at Non-Essential Businesses

Businesses regarded as “non-essential” are permitted to conduct **minimum basic operations** including inventory, security, custodial services, payroll and employee benefits processing, and any reasonable activity designed to maximize the ability for employees to work remotely from their homes.

New Free Critical Delivery Service for Older Adults

The Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), with the support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, announced a free delivery program for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Qualifying Culver City residents can take advantage of this Countywide program that will deliver groceries, household items, and other vital necessities to individuals who are unable to leave their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Items may be delivered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at no cost to you. No application process is required; however, items must be pre-paid and ready for pickup. Deliveries may be scheduled by calling (888) 863-7411 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. You may utilize this service up to four times or 40 miles per month, whichever comes first. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Critical Delivery Service program.

CalFresh Emergency Benefits Available

The state has authorized an emergency issuance of additional CalFresh (food stamps) benefits for all eligible households. Additional CalFresh benefits for the month of March were issued yesterday. Additional benefits for the month of April will be issued on Sunday, May 10. To learn more, click [here](#).

SACRAMENTO

\$100 Million to Support Child Care Services for Essential Workers and Vulnerable Populations

Gavin Newsom released \$100 million to support childcare services, and to support child care providers who are stepping up to serve essential infrastructure workers and vulnerable

populations and their children during this critical time. Of the funding, \$50 million will go to the California Department of Education to be used to pay for up to 20,000 limited-term additional state-subsidized slots for childcare. The other \$50 million will go to the Department to ensure childcare centers, facilities and family provider homes are safe and clean for the children and families they are serving by reimbursing them for the purchase of gloves, face coverings, cleaning supplies, and other labor-related to cleaning in accordance with federal and state public health and safety guidelines.

Governor Newsom [recently signed](#) executive orders to ensure the prioritization of children of essential infrastructure workers, as well as those in vulnerable populations, including children at risk of violence or neglect, and those with disabilities, in accessing child care services during the state's COVID-19 Response. Under the executive orders, the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services developed and have issued guidance on the prioritization for access to childcare services. Essential infrastructure workers include health care workers, emergency response personnel, law enforcement, and grocery workers. The Governor sent a letter to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee announcing his intent to spend \$100 million from the funding appropriated in SB 89, [emergency legislation signed into law last month](#). The legislation created an additional mechanism to provide up to \$1 billion General Fund for expenditures related to the COVID-19 emergency.

California's Early Coronavirus Efforts Will Cost \$7 Billion

The estimate, contained in a letter to the Legislature's joint budget committee, is the first comprehensive look at the fiscal impact of responding to the Pandemic. It does not include substantial costs already borne by city and county governments across the state. Read the full story [here](#) and the letter [here](#).

NATIONAL

Fed Unveils Up To \$2.3 Trillion Of Additional Virus Relief For Small Businesses And Local Governments

The Federal Reserve [unleashed its latest policy arsenal on Thursday](#), offering up to \$2.3 trillion in economic aid to businesses and state and local governments. The central bank extended \$600 billion in loans through its Main Street Lending Program to small and medium-sized businesses pummeled by the coronavirus outbreak. Up to \$500 billion will be offered to state and local governments to avoid budget shortfalls and maintain spending on critical relief programs, the Fed said in a statement. The bank's corporate credit facilities and Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility are now collectively offering up to \$850 billion to households, employers, and companies. To see other Federal Reserve COVID-19 actions, click [here](#).

Federal Tax Holiday Proposal For First Responders, Corrections, Healthcare Workers Introduced

If passed, the HEROES Act would provide four months of federal tax relief for firefighters, EMS providers, law enforcement and corrections officers, and healthcare personnel. To read more, click [here](#).

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Decontamination Services

This week, we want to highlight the important work our client, ANCON, has performed during the COVID-19 crisis and how their services can be of use to you.

ANCON is a turnkey industrial service company that provides decontamination services, as well as Bio-Haz emergency and planned responses. Weekly, their services have been used for Cal Trans, homeless camp clean-ups, Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports, Carnival Cruise Lines, as well as companies like Walmart and Target.

ANCON has specific COVID-19 science-based remediation protocols and procedures and they have worked on many of the sites mentioned in news reports during the last nine weeks. They just recently cleaned the Fire Station in Long Beach, where eight firefighters tested positive for COVID-19 and were called in to clean the cruise ship that was stationed outside of Oakland a few weeks ago. Also, ANCON has a team that clean 24/7 in between every shift in the Ports for the workers that are on the frontlines of this crisis.

Whether it be municipal facilities such as jails, hospitals, fire stations; or private companies like casinos, factories/warehouses, or stores- whatever needs to be cleaned and sanitized during this scary time- ANCON can handle. They also specialize in working with government to get reimbursements at the state and federal levels if applicable. ANCON is a Los Angeles based contractor that is 100% family-owned and operated since 1968. ANCON has over 200 field employees in California.

If you are interested in utilizing ANCON's services to decontaminate your business or facility professionally, please reach out to EKA, and we will be happy to connect you.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

California's COVID Success Story

Just over a month after the first confirmed case of community spread of the novel coronavirus in the nation, California is showing signs of flattening the curve — and triumphing over the global Pandemic. To read more, click [here](#).

Positive COVID-19 Test Shuts Down California Health Department Office

A California Department of Public Health office in Natomas is closed after an employee tested positive for COVID-19, according to emails sent by managers. An employee at the Department's Center for Health Statistics and Informatics received positive test results on Wednesday, according to an email from the Department to staff. To read more, click [here](#).

Lost Wages And Jobs Haven't Dented Support For Stay-At-Home Orders

Ninety-five percent of respondents said they supported L.A. elected officials' decision to implement a stay-at-home order for all but essential personnel. And 86% said they wanted local

authorities to take over hotels and motels if it became necessary to quarantine people most at risk for coronavirus and COVID-19 patients. To read more, click [here](#).

California Faces Two Years Of High Unemployment

California's unemployment will register double digits through 2021, Jerry Nickelsburg, director of the UCLA Anderson Forecast, said Friday. Even in the first quarter of 2022, nearly two years from now, the state's joblessness will probably be as high as 8.5%, according to the university's forecast. That would be more than twice as high as February's 3.9% unemployment rate, before the effects of the economic shutdown registered. To read more, click [here](#).

California Newspapers Seek State Help As Virus Hits Revenue

California newspapers are asking the state to rescue their industry as the economic crisis from the coronavirus slashes print advertising revenues. The California News Publishers Association made the dire request for grants and low-interest loans this week in a letter to the governor and state lawmakers.

The group said 33 daily newspapers reported losing on average \$1 million in print ads in March. Newspapers also are seeking ways to boost readership, including sales tax exemptions and tax deductions for subscribers and advertisers. To read more, click [here](#).

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Los Angeles County

covid19.lacounty.gov

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus

Riverside County

<https://rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

San Bernardino County

<http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus>

Ventura County

<https://www.vcemergency.com>

San Diego County

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus.html>

Orange County

<https://occcovid19.ochealthinfo.com>

Help for Victims of Domestic Violence

<https://corona-virus.la/DVResources>

Free Testing for Eligible Residents

<https://lacovidprod.service-now.com/rrs>

Free Mental Health Services

<https://dmh.lacounty.gov/covid-19-information/>

City of Los Angeles

coronavirus.lacity.org

City of Long Beach

<http://www.longbeach.gov/health/diseases-and-condition/information-on/coronavirus/>

Culver City

<https://www.culvercity.org/live/public-safety/emergency-preparedness/current-disaster-information>

State of California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

<https://covid19.ca.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>