

COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 12, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 55

Today is day 55 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 63 days ago, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Pandemic. Safer at Home orders have been in place in Los Angeles since March 19.

If you have any COVID-19 government or communications questions, please reach out to any member of the EKA team. As always, feel free to share our COVID-19 updates. EKA's previous COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Right of Recall

The Board of Supervisors is set to consider an ordinance today that would give janitors, maintenance workers, security guards and hospitality industry employees a "right of recall" to jobs from which they were laid off during COVID-19. As detailed in previous updates, Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis co-authored the motion, which covers an additional ordinance providing worker retention in the event of bankruptcy filings or sales. The ordinance would apply to unincorporated areas of the county. When rehiring, employers would be required to offer jobs to those who once held them if the worker was let go as a result of a downturn in business related to the pandemic and employed by the business for at least six months. If fewer workers are required, employees with seniority would be given preference. Retaliation against workers seeking to enforce this right would be prohibited. Any new owner would be required to follow the same regulations for at least six months after a business reopens and to retain those workers for at least 90 days. The motion's authors have requested that the proposed ordinances be both introduced and adopted at today's meeting.

Masks Are Now Mandatory For Court Officials

Judges and other staff in LA County Superior Court are now required to wear face coverings in the courtroom and other public areas inside courthouses. The Order was issued Saturday by Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile. The announcement of the change said that even though the court system was exempt from the County Orders requiring masks to be worn in public places, court officials have been strongly encouraging the public to use them, including by handing out paper masks at courthouse entrances. To read the statement, click [here](#).

LA County Beaches

Los Angeles County beaches will reopen Wednesday for active use only, but parking lots, piers and boardwalks will remain off-limits. The beaches have been closed for two months and when they reopen, beachgoers will also be restricted to active uses. In other words, sunbathing, sitting on the sand, setting up canopies and picnicking will all be off-limits. Beach parking lots will remain closed, as will the beach bike path and all piers and boardwalks. Beachgoers will also have to wear masks and maintain a six-foot buffer between themselves and others under

continued social-distancing requirements.

Los Angeles County Jail

Cases of COVID-19 in the Los Angeles County jail system have spiked by nearly 60% in the span of a week, according to Sheriff Alex Villanueva. At his news briefing, before sharing that 357 inmates had tested positive for the coronavirus since the outbreak began and nearly 40% of the population is in quarantine to prevent further spread, the Sheriff showed video footage of inmates at the North County Correctional Facility passing around a hot water dispenser used for ramen and hot drinks. The Sheriff said that the footage and other video surveillance show inmates are deliberately intending to infect themselves with the COVID-19. More than 5,000 inmates have been released from county jails to slow the spread of the coronavirus, bringing the population down from roughly 17,000 to about 11,700 individuals currently. To view the video and see the Sheriff's comments, click [here](#)

Reopening Schools

LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said that although the school year in Los Angeles is set to begin in mid-August, the prospect of opening 900 campuses will rely on solutions for daunting and costly problems — including whether half a million students and their families would be tested for COVID-19. He told the Los Angeles Times that "There has been discussion about the need to have students with families tested, but no clear picture yet is drawn as to where the tests would be provided and who will pay for them." His staff is working with state and local authorities and a team of UCLA experts on reopening protocols. Two other significant concerns include coming up with a plan — and funding — for supplying masks for students and staff, perhaps multiple masks a day for children, and sanitizing schools.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Budget and Finance Committee

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the budgeting process, with revenue projections much lower than anticipated and cuts anticipated for departments in the next fiscal year. The decline in revenue will force Los Angeles to use an estimated \$188 million in reserves by the end of this fiscal year, the highest amount since the 2009-10 financial crisis. The City expects revenue during the current fiscal year to come in about \$108 million short of what was originally budgeted. The Budget and Finance Committee convened the first hearing for the [2020-2021 city budget](#) yesterday. As initially outlined in the Mayor's proposed budget, COVID-19 will have tremendous short and long-term impacts on revenue and city services. Committee Chair Krekorian was clear in explaining that unlike previous years, the 20-21 City budget will be a moving target and that there will be a continued and ongoing analysis of the City budget throughout the year.

Los Angeles' entire budget is proposed to be about \$10.5 billion for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, with a general operating fund of about \$6.6 billion. The committee heard stark reports from the [City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst](#) as well as the [Office of Finance](#). By any measure, revenue has decreased substantially because of the mandatory

closures in effect since the outbreak began in early March. According to the CAO and CLA, the City has spent \$145 million dollars responding to COVID-19 thus far, with great hope of reimbursement from the State and Federal Government. Admittedly, the City is currently providing services that are not normally within its scope of responsibility, but under the circumstances, there are millions of impacted residents who rely on the City for help with basics, including senior meals, shelters and housing.

From mid-March to mid-April, Los Angeles used \$44 million to address staffing needs during the pandemic. Of that, 75% is expected to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which does not cover salaries. The reimbursement from FEMA is only for COVID-19 responses for overtime pay, emergency services, senior meals, hospital surge, small businesses loans, rent assistance, coronavirus testing and other issues. The City is already trying to furlough 15,000 employees, to the tune of about 10% in reduced annual pay, in order to save about \$139 million. Most public safety positions are exempt from that proposal. The City is also in a hiring freeze across most departments.

City Administrative Officer Richard Llewellyn told the committee that during past disasters, some expenses that were not covered by FEMA were usually funded by the state, but he said it's uncertain if that will happen during the pandemic. The City will now have to balance the ongoing needs related to COVID-19 recovery, employee furloughs, homelessness and decreases in revenue in the context of the City budget.

The Committee will meet again during the course of the weeks and months to make decisions on how to move the City forward and hear a report on furloughs at its next meeting, which has yet to be scheduled. The budget is expected to be heard on Council's docket on May 20 for public comment, and May 21 for Council consideration. It is not clear how the Council will proceed, but the Budget Chair shared his desire for any budget change that the Council requests will be filtered and considered by the Budget and Finance Committee before being finalized. EKA will continue to update you on the budget process as it continues to unfold during these unprecedented times.

LA City Council Items For May 12 And May 13

The chart shows the list of items EKA is tracking for the Council meetings this week. You can find the complete May 12 agenda [here](#) and the May 13 agenda [here](#).

Item	Description	Council File
------	-------------	--------------

May 12 Council Meeting Agenda Items		
14	CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION (MARTINEZ - RODRIGUEZ - PRICE) relative to establishing the City's position regarding SB 1244 (Bradford), which would authorize licensed testing laboratories to receive and test samples of cannabis or cannabis-related products from a state or local law enforcement agency, or a prosecuting or regulatory Agency.	20-0002-S64

19	MOTION (PRICE - MARTINEZ) relative to the Governor's Discretionary 25 percent Emergency Additional Assistance Grant Funds. Establish a receivable within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Fund No. 57W from the State of California Employment Development Department for \$810,000.	20-0536
----	---	-------------------------

May 13 Council Meeting Agenda Items		
5	PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to requiring a Special Event Permit recipient to provide equal compensation and prize money for any athletic event featuring athletes of more than one sex or gender.	19-0860
12	COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to amending the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) to allow the City Council to authorize the head of a City Department to approve a contract extension for any contract that is scheduled to expire within a year from the declared emergency and to temporarily suspend during a declared emergency the requirements for contracts with other governmental entities, or that continue City services, or that safeguard life, health, safety, and property.	20-0432
13	COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to amending the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) to allow the City Council to delegate contracting authority during declared emergencies to the chief administrative officers of City departments.	20-0433
14	CONSIDERATION OF MOTION (RYU - RODRIGUEZ) relative to prohibiting the sale, disposal, donation, or confiscation of personal belongings in rented storage units, if an individual's storage lease goes into default resulting from the effects of the Coronavirus emergency. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance prohibiting the sale, disposal, donation, or confiscation of personal belongings in rented storage units, if an individual's storage lease goes into default resulting from the effects of the Coronavirus emergency.	20-0472

16	<p>CONSIDERATION OF MOTION (RYU - RODRIGUEZ) relative to developing a restaurant relief program:</p> <p>1. INSTRUCT EWDD, CLA, and CAO, to immediately develop a restaurant relief program that would allow local independent restaurants to temporarily contract with the City to provide meals to residents experiencing homelessness located at emergency shelters, seniors who were previously receiving congregate meals at city dining centers and/or home delivered meals, students who received meals or supplemental nutrition as part of a city-sponsored after-school program, the City's first-responders, and City employees that are temporarily serving in a Disaster Service Worker capacity, amongst others, as necessary, and transmit the proposed program for Council consideration.</p> <p>2. INSTRUCT the EWDD, with the assistance of the Office of Finance, CLA and CAO, to identify any short-term options to improve restaurant and local food chain operations, and offer any remedies to reduce costs and impacts, such as an abatement of the City's business taxes, a waiver of fees including the suspension of permitting fees for change of use, amongst others, as necessary.</p>	20-0496
19	<p>COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST (CLA) and RESOLUTION (BLUMENFELD - PRICE) relative to establishing the City's position regarding any legislation and/or administrative action to address the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on society to provide funds support state and local governments; increase Federal Medical Assistance Percentages to provide greater healthcare coverage; provide funds for education; expand health coverage for government employees: and, create an infectious disease standard to protect frontline workers.</p>	20-0002-S60
20	<p>CONSIDERATION OF MOTION (KRIKORIAN - MARTINEZ) relative to the Council District Two Emergency Grant Program that will assist live performance spaces with operating expenses through the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	20-0531
25	<p>MOTION (HUIZAR - PRICE) relative to funding the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Subsidy (ERAS) Program to provide qualifying renters cash subsidies to protect against potential housing displacement impacts and generally mitigate the overwhelming economic hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	20-0560

Posters for Businesses

The City of Long Beach has created a variety of posters that business owners can print and post at their businesses. Following are links to a few helpful signs:

For customers

- [Maintain Physical Distancing poster](#)
- [Please Wear a Face Covering poster](#)
- [Do Not Enter This Facility if You Are Experiencing Symptoms poster](#)
- [Restroom Plumbing poster](#)
- [Farmers Market Safety Tips poster](#)

For staff

- [Health Guidance for Restaurants poster](#)
- [Food Safety Guidelines poster](#)
- [Health Guidance for Facilities poster](#)
- [Grocery and Convenience Store Guidelines poster](#)
- [Food Trucks and Food Carts Guidelines poster](#)
- [School Districts and Charitable Food Operations Guidelines poster](#)
- [Farmers Market Vendor Guidelines poster](#)
- [Essential Business Owner Guidelines poster](#)
- [Essential Business Office Guidelines poster](#)
- [Essential Business Employee Guidelines poster](#)

Webinar: How to Sell on Instagram

This webinar will teach business owners the basics of how to develop their brand on Instagram and how to use it as a platform to sell their products or services. Participants will learn:

- What the Instagram platform is and how it is different from other platforms
- How to set up their profile to be found by their target audience
- How to schedule their content for the entire week
- How to organically get followers
- How to turn "likes" into sales
- How to create compelling content

The webinar will take place tomorrow (Wednesday, May 13) from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more information and to register for this webinar, please click on the following link: [SBDC webinar](#).

SACRAMENTO

Unlimited Job Protected Leave For All Employees

AB [3216](#) by Assemblymember Ash Kalra proposes UNLIMITED Job Protected Leave for ALL Employees of Employers of any size. The federal Family and Medical Leave Act and the California Family Rights Act provide job-protected family and medical leave for employers of a certain size (generally 50 or more employees within a 75-mile radius) and for employees who

have performed a minimum amount of service for the employer (typically 1,250 hours over 12 months). By contrast, AB 3216 applies to private and public employers of any size, and applies to all employees, regardless of how long the employer has employed them. Therefore, the mandate established by AB 3216 will apply to all employers, even the smallest employers in the state. In addition, the family and medical leave under AB 3216 is unlimited, meaning there is no upper limit on how long an employer must provide leave and be required to reinstate the employee. Every other leave law at the federal, state or local level has some type of leave period limitation to provide certainty to the employer. For example, the FMLA and CFRA limit leave to 12 weeks in 12 months. However, AB 3216 would compel an employer to grant leave to an employee and hold their job open indefinitely, which is unprecedented.

As detailed in many of our previous updates, at the federal level, the Families First Coronavirus Protection Act (FFCRA), which went into effect on April 1, already provides for various forms of job-protected and paid leave for employees impacted by COVID-19. The law provides for up to 80 hours of emergency paid sick leave for a variety of COVID-19 related reasons, including when the employee or a family member has been quarantined or has a need for care due to COVID-19. In addition, the FFCRA provides for 12 weeks of job-protected leave (10 of which are paid) for any employee who has worked at least 30 days for a covered employer to care for a child who is home due to school or childcare closures. Emergency family and medical leave under the FFCRA runs concurrently with leave a covered employee may be entitled to under the FMLA. In addition, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order that provides 80 hours of paid sick leave for certain food sector workers, many of whom would also be covered by AB 3216. On top of that, as we have noted in previous updates, several local jurisdictions (including Los Angeles) that have enacted their own COVID-19 paid sick leave requirements in recent weeks, many of which apply to employers not already covered by the federal FFCRA. All of these state and local mandated leaves would be in addition to the unlimited family and medical leave proposed under AB 3216.

Leave Time And Unemployment Benefits

Assemblymember Weber has introduced [AB 2992](#) would significantly expand multiple protected leaves of absence laws. AB 2992 proposes to expand three separate leaves of absence: leave under Labor Code 230, leave under Labor Code Section 230.1, and leave under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), allowing employees unlimited leave for themselves, immediate family members, and "household members," i.e., roommates. These three expanded leaves of absence are on top of the federal paid sick leave that is currently in effect and provides 80 hours of protected leave as well as the expansion of the federal family medical leave act that provides 12 weeks of protected leave. AB 2992 also dramatically expands the definition of "family member" under CFRA to include a child of a domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or domestic partner. Additionally, the bill removes the requirement that a "child" be under the age of 18 or a dependent adult child. Under the bill, an employee could take leave under AB 2992: CFRA for three months to care for a domestic partner, child of a domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling, return to work, and then take another 3 months off under FMLA for the employee's own medical condition or the

medical condition of a spouse, child or parent or for the birth, adoption or foster care placement of a child.

Expanded Protected Leave For Parents

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson has introduced a bill intended to expand job-protected leave for working parents affected by school and childcare center closures due to federal, state or local emergencies. Senate Bill 1383 would allow all of California's working parents the ability to take more than 40 hours of unpaid, job-protected leave during emergencies; current law limits job-protected leave to companies with 25 or more employees and is limited to 40 hours. To read SB 1383, click [here](#). To read the Senator's press release, click [here](#).

Vote-By-Mail

The Governor signed an Executive Order that mandates that every registered voter in the state is automatically mailed a ballot for the November presidential election. The Executive Order does not replace in-person voting. To read the Order, click [here](#).

Cal/OSHA Updates Prevention Guidelines

Cal/OSHA published updated COVID-19 prevention guidelines for specific essential businesses. With limited exceptions, the guidelines cover a number of general safety topics previously discussed in Cal/OSHA's prior publications, such as training, cleaning and disinfecting, increasing physical distancing, sanitation practices, and precautions for dealing with a worker who becomes sick with COVID-19. While Cal/OSHA makes clear that its guidance "does not introduce any new legal obligations," a number of the recommendations made by the Agency, such as requiring employee training and ensuring sanitary bathroom and hand-washing facilities, are covered by pre-existing and controlling occupational health and safety laws. Cal/OSHA's general and industry-specific guidelines for these essential industries offer a helpful preview into how the Agency will begin to enforce the state's occupational health and safety laws in the context of COVID-19. Because these publications were intended for a much wider audience, however, they do not address the specific processes and procedures unique to each employer's operations. To read the 35-page Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 document, click [here](#).

ABC is providing notice on Proposed Emergency Regulations

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has begun a five-day notice period for Proposed Emergency Regulations to allow the department to make emergency administrative decisions to prevent public harm while its normal regulatory process is pending. The changes involve the COVID-19 pandemic and state of emergency. To read the full text of the Proposed Emergency Regulations on the Regulations & Rulemaking page, click [here](#).

Western States Pact Urges Federal Support for States and Cities

In a letter to Congressional leadership today, governors and legislative leaders from five western states requested \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to preserve core government services like

public health, public safety, and public education, and help people get back to work. The letter can be read [here](#).

NATIONAL

New Stimulus Proposals

Over the past month, four separate (and very different) second stimulus proposals have been made on Capitol Hill. Here's a brief rundown of what each proposal would entail.

- The first proposal is known as the [Emergency Money for the People Act](#), which is the best known of the four proposals would provide up to \$2,000 in monthly income to single taxpayers and \$4,000 to married couples filing jointly for up to one year. Single filers earning less than \$130,000 and married couples filing jointly with less than \$260,000 in earnings would qualify for this payout. Additionally, parents and households would be eligible for \$500 extra per child, with a cap of up to three children. One marked difference between this proposal and the CARES Act is that dependents aged 17 and older *would qualify* for this stimulus payout.
- The second proposal offered by Senator Sherrod Brown doesn't even have an official name yet, but it's somewhat similar to the bill above. Brown's proposal calls for \$2,000 payments per person each quarter, rather than monthly. This is somewhat similar to a [bill](#) introduced in March by Brown with a handful of Democrat co-sponsors that aimed to provide \$2,000 up front, a possible second payment of up to \$1,500, and additional quarterly payments of up to \$1,000 to taxpayers.
- The third stimulus proposal comes from Senator Josh Hawley. The [Getting America Back to Work Act](#) provides for a refundable payroll tax rebate designed to cover up to 80% of employer payroll costs, applicable up to the median wage. Hawley's proposal isn't going to put cash in people's pockets, per se, but it's going to make it considerably easier for businesses to hang on to their employees, as well as open back up a lot quicker once the COVID-19 pandemic is in the rearview mirror.
- The fourth proposal being proposed is the [Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act](#), which would allow rent and mortgage payments to be legally cancelled for a period of one year without adversely impacting a person's credit score. The proposal introduced by Ilhan Omar would allow the Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a fund that would be responsible for paying landlords and mortgage holders to cover their losses from lost rent and mortgage payments.

It's Time For Dodger Baseball

Major League Baseball owners gave the go-ahead to making a proposal to the players' union that could lead to the coronavirus-delayed season starting around the Fourth of July weekend in ballparks without fans, a plan that envisioned expanding the designated hitter to the National League for 2020. Spring training would start in early to mid-June. MLB officials are slated to make a presentation to the union today.

How COVID-19 Can Spread in a Community

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created a video that explains how COVID-19 can spread in a community. Investigation of COVID-19 cases in Chicago identified a cluster of 16 confirmed or probable cases, including three deaths, likely resulting from one introduction. Extended family gatherings, including a funeral and birthday party, likely facilitated transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in this cluster. To view the video, click [here](#).

Federal Reserve Board Expands Scope and Eligibility of Main Street Lending Program

The Federal Reserve released additional details about the Main Street Lending Program (MSLP), and announced that it is expanding the scope of and eligibility for the program. Initially, the MSLP consisted of two loan facilities: (1) the Main Street New Loan Facility and (2) the Main Street Expanded Loan Facility. In response to public comment, the Fed created a third loan option, the Main Street Priority Loan Facility and released updated [term sheets](#) and answers to [frequently asked questions](#). The Fed intends that the MSLP will ensure credit flow to small and mid-sized businesses that were in good financial standing before the COVID-19 crisis, on terms and conditions to be set by the Federal Reserve Board. The publications contain a few notable clarifications of changes to the MSLP:

- Methodology to be used to calculate adjustments to an Eligible Borrower's 2019 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization ("EBITDA").
- The addition of a third category of loan facilities - MSPLF loans
- Decreased minimum loan size for MSNLF loans, and increased minimum and maximum loan size for MSELF loans
- Clarification that loans under each facility type may be secured or unsecured
- Clarification regarding restrictions on paying other debt while the MSLP loan is outstanding
- Increase in maximum size of eligible businesses (in both number of employees and annual revenues) and clarification regarding inclusion of affiliates in calculations.
- Removal of the requirement that Eligible Borrowers have to self-certify as to exigent circumstances presented by COVID-19.

Like with other programs implemented by the CARES Act, the EKA team is tracking the major developments and we will continue to share additional guidance as it is released by the Federal Reserve Board.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Tesla Restarts Fremont Car Manufacturing Despite County Orders, Coronavirus Threat

Workers are building cars again at Tesla's Fremont factory in defiance of Alameda County's shelter in place orders during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a Tesla employee. Some production lines for the Model 3 car began operating this weekend, according to the worker, who did not want to be named for fear of retaliation. More production lines will be churning

out other types of electric vehicles as soon as Tuesday, the source said. A factory parking lot was nearly full on Monday. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Strip Clubs, Other 'Disfavored' Businesses Entitled To Emergency Loans In Pandemic: US Judge

A US judge ruled on Monday that strip clubs cannot be blocked from obtaining emergency federal loans during the coronavirus pandemic, and declared invalid a rule barring a wide range of businesses from obtaining those loans. US District Judge Matthew Leitman in Flint, Michigan, issued a preliminary injunction barring the U.S. Small Business Administration from enforcing a rule to exclude businesses that present live performances or sell products of a "prurient sexual nature" from loans under the Paycheck Protection Program. The judge also said the SBA cannot exclude other businesses such as banks, political lobbying firms and restricted private clubs from the roughly \$660 billion program, saying Congress intended to support all qualified small businesses, including those it might have been "disfavored" before the pandemic struck. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Just Revealed A \$54.3 Billion Deficit — Signaling Deep Cuts Ahead

California finance officials revealed a \$54.3 billion deficit in the first economic assessment of the coronavirus pandemic's devastating blow to the fifth-largest economy in the world. That figure is higher than the deficit during the Great Recession and obliterates the state's once-healthy reserves. Without sugar-coating how hard the prolonged shutdown of businesses and job losses will hit the state, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration released bleak projections on key statewide indicators. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California considers unprecedented \$25-billion economy recovery fund, rental relief

Two unprecedented proposals to help Californians weather the fiscal storm unleashed by the coronavirus crisis are expected to be unveiled Tuesday by Democrats in the state Senate — one to help struggling renters, the other to create a \$25-billion economic recovery fund by issuing long-term vouchers to those willing to prepay their future state income taxes. Taken together, the ideas suggest lawmakers are willing to launch never-before-tried experiments to avoid the unpaid debts and deep cuts to government services that resulted from the Great Recession more than a decade ago. To read the full story, click [here](#).

State Workers Got Furloughs Before With A \$40 Billion Budget Hole. Now It's \$54 Billion

The last time California faced a massive budget deficit, the Governor soon started talking about furloughs. Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed unpaid days off for state workers in 2008, when the state faced a roughly \$40 billion deficit. On Thursday, the Department of Finance projected a \$54 billion deficit, raising questions about where the state will look to reduce spending this time around. Furloughs have not been discussed — at least publicly. So far, departments have been directed to avoid unnecessary travel and contracts, to use discretion in hiring and to cancel leave buyback programs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Here Comes The Hard Part For Gov. Newsom -- And California

The job is about to get a lot tougher for Gov. Gavin Newsom. He faces the certainty of whacking government services while raising taxes. Newsom hasn't uttered the feared "T" word publicly

that I know of. But jacking state taxes even higher in infamously tax-burdened California is inevitable. Every Governor who has faced a significant budget deficit for the last 60 years has reluctantly hiked taxes. To read the full story, click [here](#).

San Jose Leaders Push For Outdoor Dining To Revive Restaurant Industry

Civic leaders in San Jose want to allow restaurants to use sidewalks, streets, parking lots and other outside spaces to reopen during the coronavirus pandemic. The "Al Fresco San Jose" proposal will go before the Rules and Open Government Committee meeting on Wednesday. If approved, it will be scheduled for a full city council vote in about two weeks. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Doctors Keep Discovering New Ways The Coronavirus Attacks The Body

Deborah Coughlin was neither short of breath nor coughing. In those first days after she became infected by the novel [coronavirus](#), her fever never spiked above 100 degrees. It was vomiting and diarrhea that brought her to a Hartford, Conn., emergency room on May 1. To read the full story, click [here](#).

It Pays To Stay Unemployed. That Might Be A Good Thing

Americans have lost jobs by the millions as the coronavirus pandemic continues to bludgeon the US economy. However, many jobless workers stand to reap a financial benefit from their layoffs. Some could more than double their prior salaries. The distortion results from the \$2.2 trillion economic relief bill enacted in March, which [boosted jobless benefits](#) to a level unseen since the unemployment insurance program was created in the 1930s. To read the full story, click [here](#).

\$2,000 A Month: Senate Democrats Propose More Stimulus Checks

Three Senate Democrats behind the proposal say the one-time, \$1,200 stimulus checks were not nearly enough to help Americans through the COVID-19 crisis. With the coronavirus pandemic sending unemployment in the US to its highest rate since the Great Depression, three Senate Democrats have introduced a plan for Americans to receive \$2,000 per month until this crisis ends. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Cleanup On Aisle Everywhere: A Day In The Life Of Supermarket Workers During Coronavirus

They spotted the man's naked face in the frozen food aisle. And in the age of COVID-19, it seemed positively indecent. The way he perused the freezers, nose and mouth uncovered, as if a virus weren't floating around, raring to kill. Shoppers stared. A worker who was guiding customers to each checkout lane rushed to tell the store director, who quickly found the outlier. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Oceanside City Councilman Urges Businesses To Violate San Diego County Health Protocols

An Oceanside city councilman was admonished by the City's Mayor for urging nonessential businesses and houses of worship to violate COVID-19 protocols by reopening ahead of schedule and asking residents to disregard county- and state-mandated regulations by patronizing them. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The Bailout Is Working — for the Rich

Ten weeks into the worst crisis in 90 years, the government's effort to save the economy has been both a spectacular success and a catastrophic failure. The clearest illustration of that came on Friday, when the government reported that 20.5 million people lost their jobs in April. It marked a period of unfathomable pain across the country not seen since the Great Depression. The S&P 500 is now up 30% from its lows in mid-March and back to where it was last October, when the outlook for 2020 corporate earnings looked sunshiny. Companies have sold [record amounts of debt in recent weeks for investment-grade](#) companies. Junk bonds, historically dodgy during an economic swoon, have roared back. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Is Ramping Up Antibody Tests. The Technology Is Promising, But Big Questions Remain

California public health officials have begun distributing tens of thousands of coronavirus antibody tests from Abbott Laboratories to more than a dozen labs across the state as counties prepare to reopen and allow people to return to work, school and recreation. Other testing and health service companies are promoting antibody testing as a way to help people feel safer, get back to work and establish "a path toward normalcy for Americans." But in small print, a disclaimer required by the Food and Drug Administration on some of these tests is stark: Negative results do not rule out SARS-CoV-2 and positive results may be false. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How Will COVID-19 Change The World By 2025?

"COVID 2025: Our World in the Next 5 Years" video series features leading scholars discussing how coronavirus will change health care and international relations, education, and urban life, and many other aspects of our lives and world—and what steps are crucial now to shaping that future. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Could The 'City Of Lost Wages' Persevere With Half-Full Casinos? Las Vegas Ponders Its Coronavirus Future

Security guards pace aimlessly and cyclists pedal silently along thoroughfares once teeming with tourists and showgirls. Janitors — wearing face masks and gloves — spray disinfectant on infrequently touched handrails, doorknobs and staircases along the eerily silent Strip. In the desert heat, neon lights outside empty casinos display messages urging people to stay away. More than seven weeks after Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak's stay-at-home orders were put in place to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus, the bustling heart of Las Vegas remains one of the bleakest faces of the nation's pandemic-driven crisis. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California's Coronavirus Outlook Worse Than Researchers Expected, As Cases And Deaths Rise

While California has avoided the grim death toll of coronavirus hot spots like New York, there are growing concerns that the state's most populous regions have not yet seen the rapid decline in deaths and cases needed to significantly reopen the economy. Cases and deaths in the state have remained relatively flat in recent weeks, with some areas, including Los Angeles

County, continuing to see rapid growth, and some rural areas seeing much less. To read the full story, click [here](#).

White-Collar Companies Race to Be Last to Return to the Office

Even as President Trump [has said](#) "we have to get our country open again," much of corporate America is in no rush to return employees to their campuses and skyscrapers. The companies are racing not to be the first back, but the last. An increasing number of them, which mostly have white-collar employees, have recently extended work-from-home policies far beyond the shelter-in-place timelines mandated by state and local authorities. Google and Facebook employees were told Thursday that they could stay home until next year. Capital One informed 40,000 workers that they will be out through Labor Day and possibly longer. Amazon is saying October. Nationwide Insurance is moving more aggressively than other firms, shuttering five offices around the country and having its 4,000 employees telecommute permanently. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Churches, Gunshops And Irate Brides: All The Shutdown Lawsuits Against Newsom Explained

Though the state is taking flak from an array of aggrieved Californians, there is a common denominator for most of these lawsuits: Her name is Harmeet Dhillon. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Republicans Willing to Back \$500B Stimulus, Menendez Says

Two or three Republican senators are "just about committed" to supporting a \$500 billion stimulus bill that would send money to states and counties hammered by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, said US Senator Bob Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat. Menendez, who is co-sponsoring the bill with Senator Bill Cassidy, a Republican from Louisiana, said the additional GOP senators would be ready to commit to the proposal by the end of this week. And there's "a lot of momentum" in the House of Representatives, Menendez said at a news conference in Trenton. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Note: 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 are live and will bring you to the information mentioned.