

## COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 13, 2020

### Stay At Home Order Day 56

Today is day 56 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 64 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](#).

### Anthem COVID-19 Explorer

The health care company Anthem and leading data-science companies have launched [C19 Explorer](#), a very impressive suite of tools mapping health data to understand the impact of COVID-19 on our communities and medical centers. C19 Explorer is free and brings together a suite of powerful reporting tools to arm business and government leaders and medical system administrators with real-time insights to make informed decisions. Knowing resource utilization at medical facilities, such as the number of available ICU beds and ventilators, or when we expect to run out of certain medications, or even what communities are at higher comorbidity risk to infection and health complications due to the virus – these questions are all critical to understanding how cities are being impacted by COVID-19. Even more crucial is understanding how changes in our behavior, such as loosening social distancing guidelines or reopening schools, might impact these figures weeks and months to come. The group of scientific leaders that came together as part of the C19 Explorer initiative is helping to answer these questions. Anthem's partnered with XY, and in one week from its inception, through design, they were able to bring together different data sets under in one place. To view the free C19 Explorer, click [here](#).

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### Health Orders

Multiple media outlets have been reporting that the LA County stay at home order will be extended to August. That is not exactly what she said. Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health issued a statement and clarified remarks she made at the Board of Supervisors meeting where she was discussing the extension of Health Officer Orders. Her statement reads:

"LA County is continuing its progress on the road to recovery, with planned reopening of beaches for active recreation and an expansion of permitted retail activities coming tomorrow. While the Safer at Home orders will remain in place over the next few months, restrictions will be gradually relaxed under our 5-stage [Roadmap to Recovery](#), while making sure we are keeping our communities as safe as possible during this pandemic. We are being guided by science and data that will safely move us forward along the road to recovery in a measured way—one that allows us to ensure that effective distancing and infection control measures are in place. We're counting on the

public's continued compliance with the orders to enable us to relax restrictions, and we are committed to making sure that LA County is in the best position to provide its 10 million residents with the highest level of wellness possible as we progressively get back to normal."

The confusion was caused when Dr. Ferrer told the Board that some form of the County's Safer At Home Health order will most likely remain in place "for the next three months" unless there is a major change in the fight against COVID-19. The extent of what those lingering restrictions will entail in a county that has slowly begun loosening its health order and reopening retail stores and recreational amenities wasn't immediately known. She **did not** specify what types of restrictions might remain in place. Speaking to CNN yesterday, Mayor Garcetti said Dr. Ferrer's comments should not be misinterpreted by residents as a sign they will stuck inside their homes through the summer. He said, "I think quite simply she's saying we're not going to fully reopen Los Angeles -- and probably anywhere in America -- without any protections or any health orders in the next three months. I think we know it's going to be even longer than three months. As I've said a million times, we're not moving past COVID-19, we're learning to live with it."

Governor Newsom announced that the state was again loosening its statewide umbrella health order, and give individual counties the authority to allow shopping malls, strip malls and outlet malls to reopen with curbside pickup. The state modification would also allow counties to authorize the reopening of some offices, if workers are unable to work remotely. The Governor said modifications were also being made to accommodate services such as car washes, pet groomers and dog walkers. He noted that changing the statewide order doesn't automatically mean such businesses will be allowed to reopen, with the specific authority delegated to individual counties based on their individual circumstances. Currently, LA County is in stage two of the five-stage [roadmap to recovery](#) which allows florists and some retailers to offer curbside pickup only, car dealership showrooms to reopen with appropriate physical distancing and infection control measures, and trails and golf courses to open with pro shops remaining closed to public entry. As a reminder, retail establishments are closed to all public entry and must ensure compliance with all protocols before reopening. Additional restrictions may be lifted later this week to allow for reopening additional retailers for curbside pickup, select manufacturers, and additional recreational facilities. Until the final stage five is reached, Health Officer Orders and directives will continue to ensure the slow of the spread of COVID-19 to prevent an overwhelming surge of COVID-19 cases at healthcare facilities. An interactive dashboard is available that provides an overview on COVID-19 testing, cases and deaths along with maps and graphs showing testing, cases and death data by community poverty level, age, sex and race/ethnicity. To view Public Health's COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard, click [here](#).

### **Right of Recall**

The Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance giving janitors, maintenance workers, security guards and hospitality industry employees a "right of recall" to jobs from which they were laid off during the coronavirus crisis. Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis championed the "right of recall" and a second ordinance providing worker retention in the event of bankruptcy

filings or sales. The "right of recall" ordinance applies to unincorporated areas of the County and to hotels with 50 or more guestrooms or 2019 gross receipts in excess of \$5 million. Businesses that employ 25 or more janitorial, maintenance or security service workers are subject to the rules. However, any employers with collective bargaining agreements in place will be exempt. Business groups objected to the ordinances, warning that the right of recall would create unnecessary and expensive legal wrangling just when businesses can least afford it. When rehiring, employers will 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. Employers will have five days to respond. Supervisor Kathryn Barger had suggested a two-day window to accept a reoffered job, but failed to gain the support of her colleagues. Workers with health issues will be able to use their remaining sick leave before returning to work. If fewer workers are required, employees with seniority will be given preference. Retaliation against workers seeking to enforce this right is prohibited. Any new owner will 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 ordinances were both introduced and adopted at Tuesday's meeting.

### **LA County Extends Eviction Moratorium for One Month**

The Board of Supervisors extended a moratorium on evictions through June 30 and voted to consider a wide variety of tenant and homeowner protections in reaction to COVID-19. The extension of the [moratorium on evictions](#) of commercial and residential tenants countywide fell two months short of the goal set by Supervisor Kuehl. Kuehl said she chose an August 31 date based on guidance from the Department of Public Health and called on Dr. Ferrer, who leads that department, to explain. *(This is where the confusion about the Stay at Home Order originated)* Supervisor Barger [pushed for an amendment](#) setting the end date on June 30, just one month more than currently mandated, and directing the Board to re-evaluate the moratorium every 30 days after that. Barger said she supports solutions for constituents who are "struggling to put food on the table," but also wants to see support for landlords and "individuals at every single level of the housing chain." Supervisor Solis, who co-authored the Motion with Kuehl, ultimately agreed to Barger's amendment, which passed on a 3-2 vote. Landlords argued against the ban. The eviction ban will be implemented through an executive order by the County's CEO, who leads the emergency response to the coronavirus crisis. In addition to unincorporated areas of the County, it will apply to cities without moratoriums of their own.

Based on a separate Motion by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Mark Ridley-Thomas, commercial tenants that are multi-national, publicly traded, or have more than 100 employees will no longer be protected from eviction under the order. Smaller commercial tenants with 10-100 employees will have just six months to pay back rent, unless they strike a separate deal with their landlords, as compared with a 12-month repayment period for residential tenants. The Board also voted to send a letter to state and federal legislators supporting comprehensive rent and mortgage relief related to the COVID-19. The Board directed various departments to research and analyze other ways to support tenants, homeowners and landlords, calling for

reports within 45 days. Such measures could include:

- Data sharing to identify where residents and businesses are being displaced
- Counseling and referrals to foreclosure prevention services
- Deferring collection of property taxes and clean energy tax assessments for 12 months
- Cracking down on predatory lenders targeting low-income homeowners
- A right-to-purchase program that would allow affordable housing developers or nonprofit organizations to buy foreclosed properties ahead of large-scale corporate purchasers, including county funding for such purchases.

For details on the temporary eviction moratorium and rent freeze, click [here](#).

### **Sale of Properties**

The Board voted to explore a pathway for renters and community groups to buy properties facing default. The Board voted 4-1 on that measure, one of three rental-related motions they passed yesterday. The "right to purchase program" would allow property owners, before defaulting, to sell to existing renters, nonprofits, community land trusts or other mission-driven groups. The goal is to create permanent affordable housing and serve "as a tool to stabilize existing communities and counter speculative or large-scale corporate purchase of residential properties," the Motion says. The County itself could purchase properties and then turn them over to community groups. The measure came under fire from the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles who told the Board that the County is now seeking to compel the sale of these private properties to renters or other entities chosen by the County as property owners go broke. Staff will report back on the effort to the Supervisors in 45 days. To read the Motion by Supervisor Solis, click [here](#). To read the Motion by Supervisor Barger, click [here](#).

### **LA County Sheriff**

The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted yesterday to direct Sheriff Alex Villanueva to immediately cease his plans to close the Altadena and Marina del Rey stations. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the Board called for "a more transparent, collaborative" process of addressing the sheriff's budget deficit, with Supervisor Janice Hahn calling closing stations "an absolute last resort."

### **CalFresh Enrollments**

Nearly triple the number of Los Angeles County residents applied for CalFresh food benefits this April versus last and the County is launching a digital campaign to encourage even more residents to sign up. While the DPSS has closed its office to the public in response to public Health Orders, LA County residents can apply for benefits by clicking [here](#).

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

### **Renters Notification Deadline**

On May 6th the Los Angeles City Council amended and expanded the scope of the City's eviction moratorium ordinance, inclusive of new owner notification requirements. Based on recent City Council action, owners are required to:

- **Provide written Notice of the rights** provided by the ordinance ("Protections Notice"), utilizing the Notice as issued by the Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HCID+LA) without modification, to each residential renter within fifteen (15) days of May 12, 2020, the ordinance's effective date and provide such Notice during the local emergency period and for twelve (12) months after its termination, each time the owner serves a notice to pay or quit, a notice to terminate a residential tenancy, a notice to perform covenant or quit, or any eviction notice; and
- The Protections notice must be provided in English and the language predominantly used by each renter.

Owners must use the HCID+LA Protection Notice and **cannot write their own Notice** that must be sent to renters. Click [here](#) to view the tenant protections document webpage. Click [here](#) to view the English version of the required letter.

### **Coronavirus Telecommuting**

Councilman David Ryu introduced a motion that would create incentives for businesses and government officials to work from home, which could help Los Angeles reduce its greenhouse gasses. The Motion, which cites health and economic costs of air pollution caused by vehicles, seeks ways for the public and private sectors to adopt remote work, telecommuting and staggered work-day programs, which have been practiced widespread since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Motion instructs city departments and agencies to report back on the health and economic costs related to unhealthy levels of smog, carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter

### **Temporary Parking Zones for Pickup Service**

The Department of Transportation will provide retailers with temporary parking spaces to accommodate pickup service requirements during COVID-19. LADOT previously set up similar temporary parking spaces for restaurants to provide pickup service. The sign will designate a single parking spot where a customer may park while picking up items from a nearby store. Motorists will not be allowed to use a spot for longer than 10 minutes. Upon approval of an application, LADOT said it will designate and install one or two parking zones within three business days at no charge to the retailer. Los Angeles retailers can apply for a Temporary Retail Pickup Parking Zone by clicking [here](#).

### **Feuer Files Criminal Charges Against Businesses**

City Attorney Mike Feuer continues his focused enforcement efforts on non-essential businesses, which remained open in violation of the Mayor's Safer At Home Order. His office has filed criminal charges against a total of 60 businesses. The 60 businesses include tobacco stores, gyms, hair salons, beauty supply stores and a car wash. For a complete list of the 60 businesses, click [here](#).

## LONG BEACH

### Long Beach Airport

All people are required to wear face coverings or masks at Long Beach Airport. Long Beach Airport allows people to wear homemade facial coverings, such as bandanas, neck gaiters or cloth masks with ties or straps. Los Angeles International Airport began requiring all people to wear face coverings while visiting its facilities. People with underlying health conditions, such as those that cause someone to have difficulty breathing, as well as small children were exempt from the LAX requirements. All five airlines serving Long Beach Airport, as well as concessions and rental car companies, now require facial coverings for both customers and employees. Transportation Security Administration officers at the airport are also required to wear masks. TSA officers may ask guests to adjust or remove face coverings during the security screening process

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY

### Alternative Reopening Guidelines

The Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to approve a "[Readiness and Reopening Framework](#)" that outlines benchmarks and steps toward reopening the local economy amid the coronavirus pandemic. The framework incorporates certain guidelines Governor Newsom laid out last week when he introduced his phased reopening plan for California, but proposes alternatives to metrics that county public health officials and the supervisors have denounced as unrealistic for large urban counties. The County will send the framework to Governor asking him to approve "regional variances" in the statewide reopening plan.

## SACRAMENTO

### Hair Salons Lawsuit

The organization representing hairstylists and salon owners in the Southland and elsewhere sued Gov. Gavin Newsom and state Attorney General Xavier Becerra, seeking a court order forcing officials to allow personal grooming shops to reopen as quickly as possible. The Professional Beauty Federation of California alleges in the lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles federal court, that lawmakers trampled on their members' civil rights when they "vaguely and arbitrarily classified licensed barbering and cosmetology professionals as 'non-essential,' criminalizing the jobs these 500,000 plus state-licensed professionals perform." The plaintiffs, contend that, with no future date scheduled for a return to work, the defendants "overstep the authority entrusted to them by the California Constitution, and violate plaintiffs' rights to due process," according to the complaint. Click [here](#) to read a copy of the lawsuit.

In a related development, Tesla filed suit against Alameda County. Tesla said the County was wrong to say its rules over closures trumped those of the state. To read the Tesla lawsuit, click [here](#).

## **Dining Out In Restaurants**

The Governor provided reopening guidelines for restaurants. The 12-page document has specific safety guidelines to use when restaurants reopen. To read the full document, click [here](#).

## **Diagnostic Tests for COVID-19**

Governor Newsom said that more than 1 million diagnostic tests for the virus have been conducted statewide. Just over a month ago, the Governor set an ambitious goal to increase testing to 25,000 tests a day by the end of April – and daily testing has averaged more than 35,000 in the past few days. Ensuring the state has sufficient capacity to test for COVID-19 and ability to conduct contact tracing when outbreaks surface are key indicators in the state's gradual efforts to modify the stay at home order, as laid out in the [Resilience Roadmap](#). The Governor also announced that the [California Department of Consumer Affairs and State Board of Pharmacy](#) will allow pharmacists to collect specimens for COVID-19 tests and order tests for consumers. The specimens will be delivered to and processed at public health, university or commercial labs. The state has also created a new "Medi-Nurse" line available for Medi-Cal patients without a health plan (fee for service) and uninsured Californians. The line – 1-877-409-9052 – is available 24/7 for COVID-19 concerns or for general medical issues. Increasing testing is one of [the six critical indicators](#) guiding California's Resilience Roadmap.

## **Job Killer Legislation**

In large part due to COVID-19, the California Chamber of Commerce is branding several worker-friendly bills still moving through the Legislature's pandemic-decimated agenda as "job killers." Top among the [Chamber's targets this year](#) are bills to increase protections for workers who contract Covid-19 or are laid off due to the pandemic. With nearly four million Californians having filed for unemployment benefits and many more are without work-related income; the Chamber believes that the Legislature should focus solely on keeping California employers and workers in business. Below are the current top job killer bills.

- [CA AB196 \(19R\)](#) by Assemblywoman Gonzalez and [CA AB664 \(19R\)](#) by Assemblyman Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) would bolster an executive order by Governor Newsom by counting all cases of Covid-19 in essential workers as a workplace injury. Meanwhile, [CA AB1107 \(19R\)](#) by Assemblyman Chu would increase unemployment payments by \$600 per week through March 2021.
- [CA AB2992 \(19R\)](#) by Assemblywoman Weber which would expand employees' ability to take leaves of absence, and [CA AB2999 \(19R\)](#), by Assemblyman Low that would require employers to grant 10 days of bereavement leave regardless of how long employees have been working.
- On the Senate side, the Chamber identified [CA SB893 \(19R\)](#), by Senator which establishes a presumption that Covid-19 infections in hospital workers are caused in the workplace, and [CA SB950 \(19R\)](#), by Senator Jackson to reform the California Environmental Quality Act.

**NATIONAL**

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC released several new updates. They include:

- [Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), May 2020](#)
- [Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- [Daily Life and Coping](#)
- [Factors to Consider When Planning to Purchase Respirators from Another Country](#)
- [Identify Strategies to Reduce Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [Test for Current Infection](#)
- [Cruise Ship Crew Member Disembarkations](#)

## Loan Forgiveness Under The PPP And SBA EIDL Programs

If you received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan under the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, you have eight weeks to use the funds appropriately to meet the criteria for loan forgiveness or face repayment. Many people have asked EKA about both obtaining the PPP and EIDL loans as well as how the forgiveness works. A good start in answering your questions is to look at the [Treasury guidance](#) issued May 5. EKA also suggests that businesses who received a loan talk to their banker. The following are the most frequently asked questions EKA receives about loan forgiveness

### What is my liability exposure around the loans and forgiveness?

As you likely saw from our previous reports, some major brands applied for and received PPP loans. These brands included the LA Lakers, Shake Shack, Sweetgreen, and even Harvard University. While all the companies and organizations met the criteria for the PPP loan, the Trump Administration and the court of public opinion determined they did not meet the "spirit of the law," and many returned the funds. The CARES Act offered loopholes for borrowers who have more than 500 employees and waived the "Credit Elsewhere" test (with typical SBA 7(a) loans, borrowers must document they can't access capital from other sources). The PPP loans did not require this documentation, but put the onus on the borrower to show "good faith" that they needed the loans despite access to other sources of capital. The answer to Question #31 in the May 5 Treasury guidelines stated the following:

Specifically, before submitting a PPP application, all borrowers should review carefully the required certification that "[c]urrent economic uncertainty makes this loan request necessary to support the ongoing operations of the Applicant." Borrowers must make this certification in good faith, taking into account their current business activity and their ability to access other sources of liquidity sufficient to support their ongoing operations in a manner that is not significantly detrimental to the business.

It is important to remember, it is your lender who will review documentation after 8 weeks to determine forgiveness based on use of funds; 75% for payroll and 25% for rent, utilities, and interest payments. Lenders are working towards an easy mechanism to approve forgiveness of most loans "at the push of button" and forsake lengthy reviews.

### **What documentation is needed?**

EKA suggests that you speak with your banker or accountant. Based on our reading of materials, the easiest solution might end up being that employers use payroll reports that show the funds were used for payroll. We hope that it is as simple as that. In addition, you may want to start gathering bills and canceled checks for your rent, mortgage, utilities, or interest payments if you used the funds for those purposes. If you don't use a payroll company, then follow the outline of a Schedule C form with backup documentation to show how the money was spent. This can include canceled checks, bank transfers, and the payment of acceptable expenses. EKA suggest that you reach out to your payroll provider now and start documenting these expenses. Each lender will inform borrower what information they require. From what EKA has heard, loan recipients will have to have basic documentation in place – lease agreement showing that it was in place on, or before, February 15, 2020. Copy of lease/rent invoices. Copy of utility bills. Copy of payroll info (breaking out salary, benefits, state & local taxes) , etc.

### **When can I apply for forgiveness?**

Most lenders will begin processing forgiveness applications at seven weeks from fund disbursement. It is advisable to reach out to your banker now to confirm this and to double-check on what documentation your particular lender will want to see. Again, the lender will make the decision on forgiveness. While some regulatory clarification and changes to the PPP program are still needed, the overall requirements and structure of the program are straightforward and are unlikely to change. For most businesses, the need for the funds is clear and if the money is used on payroll as intended, it will be forgiven without any liability concerns.

### **Congress May Give PPP Recipients More Relief**

As we noted in previous updates, the IRS recently issued [IRS Notice 2020-32](#). This Notice discusses the tax deductibility status of expenses that are forgiven under the Paycheck Protection Program provided for by the CARES Act. The Notice explains that if an employer received a PPP loan and some or all of it was forgiven, the forgiven amount is not allowable as a deduction. An employer cannot get the forgiveness benefit of covered expenses and then turn around and treat those covered expenses as tax deductible. Apparently some in Congress did not like the IRS Notice because Senator Cornyn introduced [Senate Bill 3612](#) that will explicitly allow a PPP loan receipt to get a tax deduction on business expenses that were paid by the employer with funds received under the PPP without impacting the employer's ability to apply for forgiveness for that same loan. The bill is still in the Senate Finance Committee, but it would provide additional relief to those employers lucky enough to receive a PPP and qualify for forgiveness if it is able to make its way through Congress and to President for signature.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **Church Successfully Challenges SBA's Legislation Of PPP By Regulation; More To Follow?**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) violated federal law by imposing conditions for loans under the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP) that were not enacted in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, (CARES Act), Judge David Thuma has held. [Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe v. United States of America Small Business Administration](#), Does this portend the outcome of future litigation challenging the SBA's post-statutory rulemaking in connection with PPP? To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Alameda County Orders Tesla's Fremont Plant To Stop Production**

Alameda County officials sent a letter to a top Tesla safety employee Monday ordering the company to cease manufacturing at its Fremont plant, the strongest step local government has taken to check the electric car maker's defiance of health orders. The Chronicle [previously reported](#) some production lines began running over the weekend and some employees [returned to the plant as early as last week](#). Alameda County's local shelter-in-place orders, in place since mid-March, do not allow for manufacturing, though Tesla initially defied them, delaying the shutdown of vehicle production. To read the full story, click [here](#)

### **California State University Classes To Continue Mostly Online In Fall**

Most classes across the California State University system will continue to be held online through the fall because of the spread of the coronavirus, Chancellor Tim White said Tuesday. Keeping classes online is necessary because of "evolving data surrounding the progression" of the virus, White said during a CSU trustee meeting, alluding to public health experts forecasting further waves of the virus later this year. He left the door open, however, to resuming some in-person classes "as circumstances might allow." To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Dr. Anthony Fauci Issues Stark Coronavirus Warning At Odds With Trump's Call For A Quick Reopening**

Top public health officials, as well as a few Democratic and Republican senators, painted a much starker picture Tuesday of the [coronavirus](#) challenges still facing the nation than the rosier outlook offered by President Donald Trump. A day after the President declared the nation has "met the moment, and we have prevailed," top members of his coronavirus task force sent a different message at a Senate hearing on how the nation can safely reopen. Dr. [Anthony Fauci](#), the nation's top infectious disease specialist, said that while containment is moving in the right direction, the virus is not under control. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Pelosi Unveils \$3 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Plan Amid Squeeze From Left And Right**

Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) and House Democrats are planning to move ahead with a Friday vote on a [\\$3 trillion package to respond to the coronavirus crisis](#), despite protests from progressives that the bill doesn't go far enough. President Donald Trump and Senate Republicans also object to the Democratic proposal, saying there hasn't been enough time since the \$2 trillion CARES Act

passed to determine whether new legislation is needed or necessary. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **The Profound Impact of COVID-19 on Activism and PR**

COVID-19 has altered public relations forever (or at least for a long time). This global pandemic has escalated crisis communications to the forefront of our skills and placed purpose at the center of our messages. Normal marketing campaigns seem irrelevant when people are focused on life-threatening infections. Celebrities' opinions lack credibility when compared to those of real experts. The incompetence of the government is outweighed by the effectiveness of business. Now and forever, average healthcare workers will be heroes and everyday citizens will be activists for their own survival. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Lawyer Behind \$40M LA COVID-19 Aid Rallies Hollywood Donors**

When Hollywood talent lawyer Matt Johnson moved to Costa Rica in 2018 to enjoy a change of pace with his wife and kids, he never imagined a pandemic would bring him back to LA. But, when he received a call from Mayor Eric Garcetti on March 15, that's exactly what happened. "He asked me to be point person for his office coordinating their COVID-19 response with the philanthropic and business community," says Johnson. "I packed up my family and we came back." Johnson, who reps A-listers including Tyler Perry, LeBron James and the Obamas, isn't quitting his day job by any means. He's now working long hours seven days a week. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **'That Money Was Essentially Burned': Google's Aid Isn't Enough To Save Travel Businesses, CEOs Say**

Stephen Oddo, CEO of the [travel](#) company [Walks](#), got a preview of the daunting financial damage the [coronavirus](#) could wreak, as he saw sales evaporate for his company's daily guided tours of Milan. Earlier this year, Italy shut down its economy to prevent the spread of [COVID-19](#), and Oddo worried that pattern would soon play out in other cities where Walks sells its specialty tours. As global travel slowed to a standstill, the Austin, Texas-based company looked for ways to cut costs. Walks reached out to [Google](#), where the company spends around \$1 million a year on ads, and asked the search giant to work with it on a payment plan that took into account the expected revenue fizzle. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Facebook tackles coronavirus misinformation, hateful memes with AI**

Facebook has been doubling down on artificial intelligence to detect [coronavirus](#) misinformation and hate speech, but the social network is finding machines can have a tough time identifying offensive content online. On Tuesday, the world's largest social network laid out several challenges its AI systems face when trying to find copies of posts that contain coronavirus misinformation or detect hateful memes. Like other social networks, Facebook uses a mix of human reviewers and technology to detect content that violates its rules before users report it. While AI has made progress, misinformation and hate speech keep resurfacing on Facebook and other social networks. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Scores Of LA Businesses Reopened But Failed To Follow Safety Rules, Officials Say**

As California businesses slowly reopen, [public health officials are trying to make](#) sure they follow social distancing rules to prevent the coronavirus [from spreading](#). Over the weekend, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said that it surveyed 410 businesses and found 162 were in violation "because they were allowing customers into stores, not following physical distancing measures and not requiring customers to wear cloth face coverings." Some retailers were allowed to reopen with curbside service beginning Friday, including florists, bookstores and clothing stores. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Fed's Harker Says Opening Economy Too Soon Risks Second Wave Of Coronavirus**

The US economy's recovery from the coronavirus crisis will likely be uneven and could be reversed if businesses open too soon and lead to a second wave of infections, Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank President Patrick Harker said Tuesday. Harker said there are two possible scenarios for how the economy could fare. In the best outcome, the economy reopens in June, and with the technology needed to contain the virus, there is no second wave of infections in the fall. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Uber Approaches Grubhub With Takeover Offer**

Uber Technologies Inc. has made an offer to acquire Grubhub Inc., in a move that would build out its food-delivery platform even as it shuts parts of its own service abroad, according to people familiar with the matter. The companies are in talks about a deal and could reach an agreement as soon as this month, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the matter isn't public. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Plans Aplenty to Boost State & Local Government Revenue. Will Any of Them Fly?**

Proposals to deal with state and local financial woes in California are moving on both the state and federal levels. How doable the proposals are is uncertain, but the more immediate relief will come from Washington if a deal comes together. California Senate Democrats' proposal to confront rental issues and state budget shortfalls came one day after Gov. Gavin Newsom joined other Western state governors in urging the Federal government to help state and local governments with a \$1 trillion aid grant and the same day that House Democrats included the \$1 trillion state and local government funding plan within a larger \$3 trillion subsidy bill. 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.