

COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 18, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 61

Today is day 61 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 69 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. If you have a specific COVID-19 question, click [here](#) and we will attempt to answer it in our update. Feel free to share our COVID-19 updates with friends and colleagues. Our previous COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

New WiFi Locator Tool

Los Angeles County debuted an online map to help people find publicly accessible wireless Internet. The WiFi Locator map can be found [here](#), and county residents can dial 2-1-1 to obtain information from the map. The WiFi Locator has a search feature that connects people, based on their physical address, to various Internet-related services, such as internet access for students and the location of free WiFi spots throughout the County, including free hotspots at or nearby county libraries and parks. It also provides contact information for both residential and commercial broadband Internet service providers and mobile Internet providers serving the address. During the pandemic, Internet access has become vital for schools to conduct online learning programs, but according to American Community Survey Data for the County, about 210,000 children have a computer at home but lack an Internet connection.

L.A. County Recovery Dashboard

We are in stage two of the five-stage [Roadmap to Recovery](#) and until the final stage five is reached, Health Officer Orders and directives will continue to ensure that we slow the spread of COVID-19 to prevent an overwhelming surge of COVID-19 cases at healthcare facilities. Public Health will assess the activities allowed by the Order on an ongoing basis and modify the Order as appropriate. The County Public Health Director described the specific health measures and encouraged residents to track progress on [Public Health's Recovery Dashboard](#).

Santa Clarita's Request To Expedite Reopening

In response to the opposition of the "Safer at Home," Order from cities in the northern region of Supervisor Kathryn Barger has directed the county counsel and the Department of Public Health to analyze whether cities can safely speed up their reopening stages. During the daily news County news conference, she said "I think it's important for cities to be able to meet their own benchmarks and safely reopen, so they are not dependent only on the County. The cities of Santa Clarita, Lancaster and Palmdale, have approached me to discuss how they can meet the benchmark criteria. Her statement comes after the Santa Clarita City Council sent Barger a letter of opposition to any new extensions of the County's Safer at Home order, saying that due

to Santa Clarita's rate of infection remaining "very low" for COVID-19, officials believe the City is ready to safely reopen its economy. The request to reopen Santa Clarita at its own pace follows seven counties in northern California that received a variance from Gov. Gavin Newsom to start opening their economies quicker than the State altogether. To read the letter, click [here](#).

Face Coverings County vs. City

Recreational facilities in the County such as equestrian centers, tennis and pickleball courts and community gardens in the County were allowed to reopen Friday, with restrictions including face coverings, social distancing and limits on numbers of visitors. The County last week also authorized all retail businesses to reopen for curbside or door-side pickups, with the exception of retailers inside enclosed shopping malls. Face coverings and social distancing are required at retail businesses in the County, with no customers permitted inside stores. There are differing orders imposed by Los Angeles City and the County regarding face coverings. The City announced an order last week that **requires** residents to wear face coverings whenever they are outside their homes. The County order, however, is not as strict, requiring only that residents wear face coverings in proximity to others who are not members of their households. According to the City, cloth face coverings that securely cover the mouth and nose are required to be worn when you're around people who don't live in your own household. If you're not around other people, doing a solitary activity, or when you're with only the people from your household, you can take it off, but you should put it on if others approach. Children under two and people with certain disabilities are exempted from wearing face coverings.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

LADOT Extends Relaxed Parking Regulations to June 1

LADOT Parking Enforcement is extending current relaxed parking enforcement regulations until June 1. While certain parking regulations are relaxed, others remain enforced to ensure that emergency services and other city functions continue operation. LADOT has RELAXED enforcement for the following categories:

- Residential street sweeping
- Expired registration on a vehicle
- Peak/rush hour and gridlock zone parking restrictions
- No ticket/tow for abandoned vehicles and overnight parking
- Vehicles displaying recently expired permits within preferential parking districts will have a two-week grace period following the expiration to renew
- No parking fine increases until after June 1
- Extended grace period for people dropping off or picking up
- Immediate extensions on all deadlines for payments until June 1
- LADOT will supply a temporary, print-at-home permit to residents within a preferential parking district who have renewed their permit but will not receive the new hangtag before their current permit expires

Enforcement continues for:

- Metered parking
- Time limits within preferential parking districts for vehicles without a valid or recently-expired permit
- Posted time limit zones in residential and commercial areas
- All posted Temporary No-Parking signs
- No blocking emergency access (alleyways, fire hydrants, etc.)
- Colored curb zones
- Parking restrictions for City-owned lots

Slow Streets L.A.

The Mayor introduced [Slow Streets L.A.](#) an initiative to temporarily calm traffic on some neighborhood streets to create space for people to walk, run, and bike. Slow Streets will start in neighborhoods in the Del Rey and Sawtelle sections of the City. Neighborhood councils and community organizations in all areas of the City of Los Angeles can [apply for Slow Streets L.A.](#) A lead organization in each participating community will monitor day-to-day operations of the program, working closely with LADOT and Streets LA to ensure compliance with all health and safety guidelines. Local traffic and parking for residents is still allowed on the streets of each neighborhood participating in the program. For more information on the program, click [here](#).

All In For LA Campaign

Mayor Garcetti launched the "All In for L.A." campaign to encourage and inspire residents to remain unified, vigilant, and resilient in response to COVID-19. All in for L.A. documents how residents are answering the call to action during the pandemic and urges residents to continue making difficult but necessary choices. The campaign was made possible with the pro-bono collaboration of the creative agency 72andSunny Los Angeles, and the complete PSA can be viewed [here](#). Actor Danny Trejo appears calling on residents to remain indoors while COVID-19 is still a danger to our health.

Legal Liquor Store on Wheels

Starting today, [Sara's Market](#) will start '[Sara's Market On the Go](#) mobile liquor store. Think of the pop-up model for food, but for a liquor store. Their mobile liquor store will be cashless due to COVID-19 and provide the transaction as contact-free as possible. Customers will have to purchase their goods beforehand online on their website.

SACRAMENTO

State Checklist For Restaurant

Local health jurisdictions that meet the criteria set forth by the California Department of Public Health and follow the process in the [county guidance](#) may move further ahead in Stage 2 of the [resilience roadmap](#). In anticipation that restaurants will open up, the State has created a checklist. To review the checklist, click [here](#).

Governor's Revised Budget

As we mentioned last week, facing a landmark budget shortfall amid a historic pandemic that's left millions of Californians jobless and many more sheltering in their homes for weeks, the Governor proposed a fiscal path forward with his annual "May Revise" budget. It attempts to balance a projected \$54 billion deficit, but schools, homelessness and health care will see less money for programs. To read the Department of Finance's revised budget summary, click [here](#) to view the full budget in detail click [here](#).

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control issued new relief to enable licensees with on-sale privileges to reopen their businesses for on-site consumption that is consistent with the Governor's declarations and orders as well as other State and local health and safety guidelines. This regulatory relief applies to ABC licensed on-sale dining establishments in counties where temporary stay at home orders have been lifted. Some level of inside dining and on-site alcohol consumption is now being allowed in some specific locations in the State. Visit the [California COVID-19 Response website](#) to learn which counties have loosened restrictions. For more specific information about guidance for bars and restaurants, click [here](#) to view the COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Dine-In Restaurants document. A COVID-19 Temporary Catering Authorization authorizes the on-sale consumption of those alcoholic beverages for which the licensee has on-sale privileges on the property that is adjacent to the licensed premises that are under the control of the licensee, and where meals are being served. The Department will grant these temporary authorizations only for areas in which real meals may be served for on-site To view all the changes, and the details of the new rules, click [here](#).

NATIONAL

SBA Releases PPP Loan Forgiveness Application

The Small Business Administration and Treasury Department released the application for business owners to fill out to have their Paycheck Protection Program loans forgiven. The borrower is expected to complete the form and submit it to their lender, who will ultimately be responsible for assessing forgiveness. The process can be completed electronically. The application requires that borrowers submit the forgiveness calculation form and a new schedule. Notably, the form asks whether borrowers received a loan in excess of \$2 million. Not only did the government indicate its plans to audit all loans over \$2 million, but also companies receiving those loans will be required to show the money was necessary to keep operations running and they had limited access to other sources of liquidity. The government said more guidance is forthcoming to assist both borrowers and lenders as they begin the process. More guidance will be needed. As EKA reviewed the 11-page application, we noticed that while the application included instruction, the SBA failed to provide a narrative-based guidance, similar to previously issued interim final rules, which ideally would clear up much of the confusion surrounding critical definitions, from what items are included in payroll costs to the treatment of guaranteed payments or self-rental payments. To view the application, click [here](#).

IRS Says PPP Loans May Not Be Tax-Deductible

The government giveth, and now it might take it away. As noted in a previous update, the Internal Revenue Service has released [guidance](#) that said that any expenses paid by loans forgiven by the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) would not be tax-deductible, as that would constitute a "double benefit" under its regulations, since the original PPP loan is already tax-exempt. This means that businesses will not be able to write off any expenses paid with forgiven PPP loans, including for retaining employees. To have all or a portion of a loan forgiven under PPP, 75% of it must be spent on payroll. Otherwise, the business will be charged 1% interest. A bipartisan group of senators recently wrote to U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, asking him to change the policy. "The PPP was designed to provide critical relief to America's small businesses that are experiencing unprecedented economic disruption," said the [letter](#) signed by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley ranking member Ron Wyden (and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal. "Providing assistance to small businesses, only to disallow their business deductions...reverses the benefit that Congress specifically granted by exempting PPP loan forgiveness from income." A Senate [bill](#) has also been introduced to override the IRS guidance on this question. It has received bipartisan support.

PPP Materials Now Available in 17 Languages

The SBA is providing Paycheck Protection Program and related materials in 17 languages other than English to help small business owners recover due to the unprecedented economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Additional information will be translated and posted periodically. To access the information, click [here](#).

HEROES Act Update

As we mentioned in our last update, Speaker Pelosi unveiled a more than \$3 trillion coronavirus aid package (Known as the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, or HEROES Act) with hazard pay for essential workers and a new round of cash payments to individuals. The Democrats' Heroes Act is built around nearly \$1 trillion for states, cities and tribal governments to avert layoffs, focused chiefly on \$375 billion for smaller suburban and rural municipalities largely left out of earlier bills. The main differences between CARES Act and Heroes Act is that the Heroes Act would see Americans who qualify for a stimulus check receive \$1,200 (\$2,400 in the case of joint return) plus another \$1,200 for every other dependent with a maximum of \$3,600 and immigrants would retroactively receive the \$1,200 payment they were denied under the CARES Act. The bill made it through the House of Representatives by 208 votes to 199 on Friday but is expected to face opposition when it reaches the Senate. To read the bill, click [here](#). Don't hit send to your printer; the legislation is 1,800 pages.

Federal Death Benefits To The Families Of First Responders

Legislation to automatically pay federal death benefits to the families of first responders who die of the [coronavirus](#) unanimously passed the U.S. Senate. The measure removes the requirement that families of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians have to prove that the first responder was infected while on the job as long as the person was diagnosed with COVID-45 within 45 days of his or her last shift. The bill's chief Democratic sponsor was Senator Cory Booker. The chief Republican sponsor was Senator Chuck Grassley.

Under the legislation, death benefits would be paid if a first responder is diagnosed with the coronavirus within 45 days of his or her last shift. The benefits would go to public employees and volunteers, though lawmakers said they hoped to expand the program to also include those working for private companies. Similar legislation is being sponsored in the U.S. House by Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr and a benefits provision was included in the \$3 trillion coronavirus stimulus bill expected to pass. Under the [Public Safety Officers Benefits Program](#), the federal government pays death benefits to survivors of first responders who die in the line of duty or due to a work-related event. The Justice Department program also benefits to those permanently disabled due to their work. Full text of the legislation is available [here](#). A section by section is available [here](#).

Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources

As detailed in our updates, the federal government has been very active in recent months enacting a variety of programs to aid small businesses and self-employed individuals—from loans designed to keep employees on the payroll to enhanced unemployment benefits. For small businesses, the SBA has updated their website with new information and guidance for small business. To view the information, click [here](#).

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

The coronavirus was officially declared a pandemic two months ago and already the lawsuits and legal actions are piling up. Below are a few cases the EKA team has been watching:

- **Tesla Wins Battle To Reopen Fremont Electric Car Factory**
Tesla has won its battle to reopen its Fremont electric car factory, putting an end to a week of threats and lawsuits from CEO and co-founder Elon Musk . In a tweet posted by the Alameda County Public Health Department, they confirmed that it had received a site-specific COVID-19 prevention plan from Tesla for the Fremont factory, and that as long as infections stayed within predefined limits, a number of businesses including Tesla would be allowed to reopen. Tesla's lawsuit, which will now presumably be withdrawn, centered around claims that threats of fines and jail by the Alameda County if businesses reopened despite the Governor of the State of California announcing that certain businesses would be allowed to reopen on May 8. Of course, it turned out that Tesla has already begun making the Model 3 and Model Y at Fremont again anyway, with Musk daring the County to arrest him in a bold tweet that drew a wide range of reactions.
- **COVID-19 Price Gouging Alleged in eBay Class Action**
A consumer claims eBay is encouraging its sellers to engage in price gouging on essential items during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the eBay class action lawsuit, Jeanette Mercado of Orange County shopped online March 14 for N95 face masks to protect herself as an Uber and Lyft driver. She says she purchased a two-pack from the online auction site for a total of \$23.98. However, as the retail price listed for the same

product was no more than \$8.99 at national retailers such as Home Depot, the eBay price represented a markup of nearly 300 percent.

- **Amazon Class Action Alleges Massive Price Increases**

Two Amazon customers have launched a price gouging class action lawsuit against the online retailer alleging that the company is taking advantage of consumers during the pandemic. The COVID-19 Amazon class action lawsuit was filed by Victoria Ballinger and Mary McQueen. Both women say that they purchased items from Amazon after a state of emergency was declared in California due to COVID-19. They state that, because of the crisis, their best option was to obtain the items from Amazon as opposed to going to a brick and mortar store in-person and risking exposure to the virus. However, they say that they were met with prices well above the normal level for essential household goods. Ballinger says that she purchased a Mary Kay Time Wise 3-in-1 Facial Cleanser from Amazon which was normally sold for around \$9.60. Ballinger says that, due to Amazon's price gouging, she paid \$14.47 – 51 percent higher than its usual price. In McQueen's case, she also says she paid an exorbitant price for a personal care product. Allegedly, she paid \$6.74 for a Sally Hanson Hair Remover Kit normally priced at \$4.75.

- **Walmart, Costco Class Action Says Egg Prices Tripled During COVID-19**

Costco, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Walmart, and other retailers have been accused of illegally raising egg prices during the coronavirus pandemic. Plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit claim that egg prices have nearly tripled since Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency. Allegedly, these price increases take advantage of consumers during this crisis and violate California law. The egg prices class action lawsuit was filed by several California egg purchasers against Costco, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Walmart, Amazon, Albertsons, Kroger Co., and other stores and farms. Unfortunately, the plaintiffs say that the "secretive process of price-setting" prevents them from gathering information about how each defendant contributed to the issue. Although not all of these defendants are directly accused of price gouging, the plaintiffs argue that they all could be involved.

- **Target Class Action Says Hand Sanitizer May Not Kill COVID-19**

A class action lawsuit claims that Target is misrepresenting its store brand hand sanitizer as being able to kill "99.9% germs" and prevent viruses such as the coronavirus. According to the plaintiff, there isn't scientific evidence to support advertising claims that Target's hand sanitizer has the ability to prevent viruses. The Target class action states that the retail giant is aware of the public's fear of viruses and therefore Target's "implied misrepresentations that it prevents such diseases and illnesses, drives sales and, as a result, earns profits for the company." The plaintiff points to a recent action by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration who sent a warning letter to Purell (competitor of Target's store brand sanitizer) which stated that there is no evidence that proves "killing or decreasing the number of bacteria or viruses on the skin by a certain magnitude produces a corresponding clinical reduction in infection or disease caused by such bacteria or virus."

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

When will offices in Los Angeles be allowed to open?

Confusion arose when Governor Newsom announced that the State would move further into its reopening process, [allowing some offices](#), malls, and outdoor museums to resume operations with modifications. The Governor said that offices in the State that can't telework would be allowed to reopen with health safety modifications and shopping malls, strip malls and outlets will be allowed to offer curbside pickup. However, what most people did not hear was that he also said it's still up to local governments to determine whether they're ready to move further into the next step. Los Angeles County issued an updated [Stay-At-Home Order](#) which extended the Safe-At-Home Order with no definitive timeline on when people would be allowed back into offices. The County said that they will slowly reopen businesses and services as the COVID-19 numbers dictate. We will keep everyone posted on when we believe that the office buildings in L.A. County will be allowed to reopen. I am sorry that I can't provide more clarity.

What is Rebuttable Presumption of Workers' Compensation Eligibility?

On May 6, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order facilitating access to workers' compensation benefits for essential workers who contract COVID-19 on the job. [Executive Order N-62-20](#) creates a rebuttable presumption that an employee's illness arose out of and in the course of employment if the employee tests positive for COVID-19 or was diagnosed with COVID-19 after March 19, 2020, and within 14 days after they performed labor or services at a place of work, and the diagnosis is confirmed with a positive test within 60 days of diagnosis. The employee must have worked outside the home during the relevant time period. The California Chamber of Commerce has expressed concerns that the Order will harm employers, a sentiment that has been shared by other businesses and interest groups. Given the continually changing legal landscape, employers should work with counsel to understand how the newly enacted rebuttable presumption impacts their workplace.

What Was The Outcome Of The Lawsuit Regarding PPP Loans For Ineligible Businesses?

Last week a federal court in Michigan issued a preliminary injunction against the SBA regarding several rejected PPP loan applications. Several companies failed to obtain PPP loans from lenders on the basis that they fell within a long-standing ineligibility rule. They filed a lawsuit contending that the CARES Act did not include the same limitations in the PPP. Rather, the only eligibility restrictions for obtaining a PPP loan concern a company's size. The court agreed with the companies, concluding that the SBA's creation of additional limitations on PPP loan eligibility within its interim final rules was invalid. While the Michigan case involves a fairly specific set of facts, the decision exemplifies that courts may be willing to flexibly interpret the PPP's provisions given the current State of the nation.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Officials Release Edited Coronavirus Reopening Guidance

U.S. health officials on Thursday released some of their long-delayed guidance that schools, businesses and other organizations can use as states reopen from coronavirus shutdowns. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted six one-page "decision tool" documents that use traffic signs and other graphics to tell organizations what they should consider before reopening. The [tools](#) are for schools, workplaces, camps, childcare centers, mass transit systems, and bars and restaurants. The CDC originally also authored a document for churches and other religious facilities, but that wasn't posted Thursday. The agency declined to say why. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Newsom Urges California Tribal Casinos To Reconsider Opening, Citing Coronavirus

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday appealed to a group of Native American tribes to reconsider plans to reopen their casinos in the coming days, warning that the coronavirus pandemic poses a continuing threat to public health. Although many tribal casinos that [closed in March](#) because of the virus remain closed at least through the end of this month, three casinos in San Diego County have notified customers that they are reopening in the next week. The Viejas Casino & Resort is scheduled to open Monday, the Sycuan Casino Resort is set to open its doors on May 20 and Valley View Casino will welcome To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Booze Regulators Seek Swift Sanctions Amid Virus

California's bar and restaurant regulators are seeking emergency powers to immediately crack down on what they call bad actors who are gaming the system by refusing to follow state rules intended to slow To read the full story, click [here](#).

These Disinformation Researchers Saw The Coronavirus 'Infodemic' Coming

For a handful of disinformation researchers, the information crisis that has unfolded around the coronavirus pandemic seemed inevitable. Joan Donovan, Claire Wardle and Kate Starbird have been preparing for this moment for a decade, capturing the data of the Internet, tracking disinformation campaigns and calling for traditional and social media platforms to take responsibility for their spread. Some of those calls resonated. Tech platforms have taken steps to banish hate groups and include context around misleading information. But the efforts also highlight the severity of what the World Health Organization declared "a massive infodemic." To read the full story, click [here](#).

The Search For Early Coronavirus Deaths Is Plagued By Bureaucratic Delays And Roadblocks

It was early February when signs of something alarming turned up in in the heart of Silicon Valley. Santa Clara County emergency rooms had a surge of patients with flu-like symptoms. Yet 30% of them tested negative for influenza, triple the usual rate. Something else was making people sick. That something, some researchers now suspect, was COVID-19, which [lurked in the San Francisco Bay](#) area for weeks before anyone suspected it had arrived in the United States. Efforts to trace the virus backward in time, however, have been frustrated by roadblocks: delays in setting policies for testing the dead, a single national lab able to do that work, and a fractionalized coroner system that creates large blind spots in the hunt for origins of the pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Newsom ties budget cuts to federal aid

In revising California's budget down to \$203 billion, Gov. Gavin Newsom charted a plan to fill a huge deficit by tying many cuts to additional federal aid. If the feds come through with \$1 trillion for state and local governments that Newsom and other Democratic governors have requested, California would not reduce funding to schools, colleges, parks, child care, health care and other programs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California state workers brace for pay cut in Gavin Newsom's budget

Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed cutting state worker pay by 10 percent Thursday, dramatically changing the economic outlook for a workforce that just a few months ago was looking forward to raises from a humming economy. The pay cuts, scheduled to begin with the July pay period, would save \$2.8 billion in the coming fiscal year, according to Newsom's \$203 billion budget proposal. To read the full story, click [here](#).

States Are Letting Stay-At-Home Orders Expire, Regardless Of Virus Metrics

Stay-at-home orders or business restrictions are set to expire between Friday and Monday (May 15 to May 18), in a dozen states, at the same time that other states surpass the two-week point since reopening, marking a critical checkpoint in the nation's recovery. But while just two states, Kentucky and North Dakota, have met the health criteria for reopening society that have been recommended by the White House, the majority of state leaders have now signaled they are ready to begin lifting restrictions. To read the full story, click [here](#).

New Coronavirus Vaccine Czar Says Finding One by January Is a 'Credible' Goal

The president announced the effort, which he called Operation Warp Speed, with the goal of having 300 million doses of a vaccine available by January, a number that would likely be needed to halt the spread of the pathogen, an unheard-of timeline to develop, test and produce a vaccine on such a scale. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump administration to expand strategic stockpile for pandemic needs

Plans unveiled Thursday by President Donald Trump during a visit to a medical supply distribution center in Allentown, Pa., include ensuring there's a 90-day supply of testing supplies and essential drugs, to serve as a backup while the U.S. boosts manufacturing capacity. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Bar Owner Claims Employees Won't Return To Work Because They Get More Money From COVID-19 Aid

A bar owner in Maryland said her employees won't come back to work because they make more money from coronavirus relief aid. In the days leading up the Maryland's reopening, Melony Wagner hoped to unlock the doors to Charles Village Pub and Patio in Baltimore. But she told WBFF he staffers who are collecting unemployment aid aren't eager to come back to work. 'They don't want to because it's less money. I'm not even angry or upset I understand,' said Wagner. 'Why would you want to come back and actually work and make half as much money and you're working as you can get to stay home?' To read the full story, click [here](#).

If Coronavirus Swells In A Second Wave Later This Year, Will The Nation Be Ready?

Paul Romer, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, envisions a day when all Americans are tested regularly for COVID-19, and they present proof when dining out or visiting a dentist. [Michael Osterholm](#), director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said if a "big peak" of coronavirus floods hospitals this winter, "We have the potential here to go through days we have not seen since World War II ... As a nation, we will not be ready." "What we're experiencing is a massive global destabilization of all our systems," adds Brian David Johnson, a futurist and director of the Threatcasting Lab at Arizona State University. "We actually don't know all the damage that has happened. We're on life-support, globally." To read the full story, click [here](#).

As Coronavirus Lockdowns Begin To Lift, Here Is What's Reopening

The [COVID-19 pandemic](#) has altered almost every aspect of our lives, from how we work to how we buy groceries. It's also led to the [delay or cancellation of several big events](#), including the Democratic National Convention and college basketball's March Madness tournament. But as [lockdown orders](#) slowly start to [lift around the world](#), businesses and institutions are beginning to reopen. Here are some of the events and businesses that are once again welcoming members of the public, albeit with restrictions in place to help curb the spread of COVID-19. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Why the next big shoe to drop in the U.S. economy could hit by July

The last time a housing bubble popped in the United States, it took four years to play out. But things are moving fast during this pandemic — just look at the [record-breaking action](#) in the stock market — and if Wolf Richter has it right, pent-up supply could soon ravage home prices. He used this chart to show how the typically red-hot Bay Area housing market, including Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties, has been grinding to a halt. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Comfort Is En Vogue During Coronavirus: P.J. Sales Surge 143%, Pants Sales Fall 13%

Sales of pajamas online surged 143% in April compared with March, according to data from Adobe Analytics. Sales of pants fell 13%, as people turned to video conference calls, where only tops are visible. Many apparel companies have been trying to play up the comfort-cozy trend online during the coronavirus crisis. To read the full story, click [here](#).

U.S. Retail Sales Plunged A Record 16% In April As Coronavirus Hit

The Commerce Department's report Friday on retail purchases showed a sector that has collapsed so quickly that sales over the past 12 months are down a crippling 21.6%. The severity of the decline is unrivaled for retail figures that date back to 1992. The monthly decline in April nearly doubled the previous record drop of 8.3% — set just one month earlier. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Six Things The Legislature Can Do To Help California Recover From Economic devastation

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the California economy, especially public-facing businesses. Entertainment – including motion pictures, television, live shows and theme parks – restaurants, accommodations and retail sectors have been laid waste, evaporating thousands of jobs. Few states depend on this sector as does California. Tourism, hospitality and retail also are the very sectors that employ workers on the lower rungs of the economic ladder. The supply and service chains that feed into and out of those industries are likewise on the brink. Like a boulder crashing into a lake, the longer this crisis persists, its waves will widen their reach and affect more industries and throw more Californians out of their jobs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

CDC Alerts Doctors To COVID-19 Linked Condition In Children

The federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is warning doctors about a serious rare inflammatory condition in children linked with the coronavirus. [In an alert issued Thursday](#), the CDC called the condition multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children. The agency's case definition includes current or recent COVID-19 infection or exposure to the virus, a fever of at least 100.4 for at least 24 hours, severe illness requiring hospitalization, inflammatory markers in blood tests, and evidence of problems affecting at least two organs that could include the heart, kidneys, lungs, skin or other nervous system. The name and definition are similar to those used in Europe, where the condition was first reported several weeks ago. To read the full story, click [here](#).

3 Clues In Coronavirus Patients' Blood Could Help Doctors Predict Their Risk Of Death 10 Days In Advance, With 90% Accuracy

It's challenging for doctors to predict [which people who get the coronavirus](#) will develop severe cases, facing a higher risk of hospitalization and death. In a new study, researchers created a model that uses a trio of biological markers to predict whether a patient was likely to die from COVID-19. The model was able to forecast the death of individual patients more than 10 days in advance with at least 90% accuracy. 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.