

COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 20, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 63

Today is day 63 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 71 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.

Previous EKA COVID-19 updates

Our previous COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#). Feel free to share our updates with friends and colleagues.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Reopening of L.A. County

Supervisor Barger expressed a goal for reopening July 4 during a meeting with the L.A. County Economic Resiliency Task Force. Officials previously announced an August reopening, with the possible July 4 reopening offering a glimmer of hope for an accelerated timeline. At the County's daily COVID-19 briefing, Supervisor Solis and the Health Department tried to stress that the July 4 date is just a goal, but the mission is to reopen the economy sooner than later, recognizing that residents are growing weary of continued stay-at-home restrictions. They said that unless people stick to the restrictions, reopening the County will take longer. A more detailed account of the meeting can be found in the "What We're Reading" section (1st story) below.

Important Information

To help you protect employees and customers, the County created several different printable posters. The signs are ready and designed to be posted on-site to remind everyone how they can protect themselves (and others) from COVID-19. Click [here](#) to view the 12-page COVID-19 social media kit and posters (which are in English and Spanish) and cover a variety of subjects.

Guidance For Retail Business Owners

LA County's Health Inspectors are making rounds to ensure businesses comply with the Health Officer Order. When inspectors visit a retail business, they will cover five areas.

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees and the public
- (5) Measures to ensure equitable access to critical services

Businesses can ensure that they are compliant by following the County's full checklist. Click [here](#) to view the checklist. If you have questions on compliance, call L.A. County's Department of Public Health at (888) 700-9995 or click [here](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Incident Update

L.A. County Emergency Operation Center's COVID-19 issued a new incident update. To view the updated, click [here](#).

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Operating Dining Outdoors with Distancing

Councilman Joe Buscaino introduced a motion that would allow Los Angeles businesses to apply for temporary use of sidewalks, streets, parking lots and outdoor spaces for dining, exercise classes and more while practicing social distancing. As the County moves through its next phases of reopening, Buscaino said the City is in a position to assist with the rebuilding of the restaurant industry by allowing temporary encroachments on the public right of way. This will allow restaurants to use sidewalks and low-traffic streets as outdoor dining spaces and would give them the ability to maintain capacity while adhering to social distancing and other health and safety guidelines. Restaurants are still barred from offering dine-in service due to continuing health restrictions prompted by the coronavirus.

New Businesses Reopening

The Mayor said yesterday that people can take their pets to be groomed and trained and that car washes in the City can reopen. People will have to drop off their pets at the groomers and trainers and follow the same COVID-19 guidelines for small retail shops that were announced last week. Car washes are now disinfecting vehicles with a special process. Click [here](#) to see the Fox 11 news segment about a new vehicle disinfecting process.

Restaurant Delivery App Fee Cap

Numerous restaurants in Los Angeles have told the Council that they oppose a proposal to cap third-party delivery app fees. Under the proposed ordinance introduced by Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, the apps could charge no more than 15% of the purchase price per order in fees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some restaurant owners against the proposal say they're worried that commission caps would actually be detrimental to their businesses. That's because, with reduced revenue from fees, delivery app companies have warned that they might be forced to compensate by cutting services, their drivers' pay or increase the fees paid by diners. In the latter case, diners might then choose not to place orders, which would in turn negatively affect restaurants. To view the Motion, click [here](#). To read some of the letters of opposition, click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Mental Health Assistance During Pandemic

Councilman Paul Koretz introduced a motion to direct city staff and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to report on the possible creation of an educational campaign to help people identify mental or emotional health issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Koretz said the increasing death tolls, massive unemployment rates, economic struggles, uncertainty about the future and forced isolation while constant coverage of the pandemic is streamed worldwide have already had a profoundly negative effect upon the general populace.

Petco to Match \$25K in Donations to L.A. Animal Services Until June 30

The Petco Foundation will match up to \$25,000 in donations it receives through June 30 to help care for animals at the shelters. Brenda Barnette, LAAS general manager, said donations made to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, which is managed by the Animal Services Department, are tax-deductible and will immediately be used to help animals in their care. The funding is part of the Petco Foundation's "Pledge to Save Pet Lives" program taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic. To donate, click [here](#).

City Council Update

Item	Description	Council File	Council Action
May 19 Council Meeting Agenda Items			
14	CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION and COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS (BOAC) relative to amending the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) lease agreement with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, a Professional Corporation.	20-0512	Council adopted item forthwith.
16	ADMINISTRATIVE EXEMPTION and COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS (BOAC) relative to amending the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) contract with SITA Information Networking Computing USA, Inc APPROVE the LAWA contract with SITA Information Networking Computing USA, Inc., for a term of five years with three one-year renewal options, for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of a consolidated common use platform at Los Angeles International Airport.	20-0508	Council adopted item forthwith.
17	CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION (BUSCAINO - RODRIGUEZ) relative to establishing the City's position regarding any legislation or administrative action which would enact or implement the components of the California League of Cities COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts to California Cities Agenda.	20-0002-S65	Council adopted item forthwith.
20	MOTION (O'FARRELL - MARTINEZ) relative to AB1290 funding for small businesses grants. TRANSFER and APPROPRIATE \$1,000,000 in the AB1290 Fund to be utilized for providing grants to small	20-0582	Council adopted item forthwith.

	businesses, with 26 or fewer employees located in the 13th Council District, with the understanding that all grants would be subject to program guidelines to be developed by the EWDD.		
21	MOTION (O'FARRELL - MARTINEZ) relative to funding to support A Bridge Home (ABH) sites.	20-0586	Council adopted item forthwith.
May 20 Council Meeting Agenda Items			
1	PRESENTATION OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED 2020-21 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, related Motions and Resolutions.	20-0600	
19	<p>CONSIDERATION OF MOTION (O'FARRELL - KREKORIAN) relative to funding for the Hollywood Walk of Fame Public Improvements Project (Project) located along Hollywood Boulevard.</p> <p>AUTHORIZE the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to develop a strategic Master Plan and Schematic Design documents for the entire Walk of Fame, and to conduct the initial environmental reviews and any other relevant documentation necessary for a planned Pilot of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$4,082,572 plus all earned interest in Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Excess Non-Housing Bond Proceeds from the Hollywood Redevelopment Project Area already set aside under previous Council action.</p>	14-1174-S40	
20	<p>MOTION (O'FARRELL - KREKORIAN) relative to making it unlawful for a third-party food delivery service to charge a restaurant a fee per online order for the use of its services that totals more than 15 percent of the purchase price of such online order during the local public health emergency related to COVID-19.</p> <p>REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that will make it unlawful for a third-party food delivery service to charge a restaurant a fee per online order for the use of its services that totals more than 15 percent of the purchase price of such online order during the local public health emergency related to COVID-19 as declared by the Mayor.</p>	20-0470	

21	<p>MOTION (KORETZ - RYU) relative to funding for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Subsidy (ERAS) Program.</p> <p>TRANSFER and APPROPRIATE \$50,000 from the Council District 5 General City Purpose Fund No. 100/56, Account No. 0705 (CD 5 Community Services) to the Housing and Community Investment Department COVID-19 ERAS Program Trust Fund to assist eligible renters in Council District 5.</p>	<u>20-0591</u>	
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LONG BEACH

Open Streets Initiative

Long Beach moved forward to repurpose some of its streets to provide more public space. Mayor Garcia proposed legislation to Open Streets Initiative. The proposal calls for increased use of public spaces, including "creative opportunities for outdoor dining for restaurants and bars when state and local health orders permit." According to a city staff report, opening up public spaces while health restrictions are in effect "will make it easier for people to move throughout the city and for businesses to survive, while ensuring the social distancing that will be necessary for the foreseeable future." To read the letter from the Mayor to Council, click [here](#). To view the 21-page PowerPoint on the Open Streets initiative, click [here](#). To read a letter from Bob Foster, click [here](#).

Long Beach Opera

The Long Beach Opera said that the 2021 "Season of Solidarity" will take place in January despite the uncertainty COVID-19. Long Beach Opera plans four productions for its 2021 "Season of Solidarity" with collaborations with organizations and artistic leaders from throughout Los Angeles County and beyond.

ORANGE COUNTY

Supervisors Debate CARES Act Spending

Orange County Supervisors approved distributing \$26 million in funding for coronavirus-related expenses to cities in the County but delayed a proposal to spend \$75 million in federal relief funding on nonprofits and small businesses. Supervisors Andrew Do and Lisa Bartlett teamed up to propose the "HEART Plan," which would provide financial help for small businesses and nonprofits, but Chairwoman Michelle Steel and Supervisor Don Wagner favored a plan that would dole out \$75 million to cities to distribute to small businesses. Wagner's and Steel's proposal failed, with the rest of the board voting no. Instead, the board voted 3-2, with Wagner and Steel in opposition, to direct county CEO Frank Kim to draft a plan with various options on how to distribute \$75 million to small businesses and nonprofits and to use some of the money to "leverage" other funding that could continue to help. Wagner argued that a letter from 31 mayors in Orange County supported his and Steel's plan. The HEART Plan comes from the first

letters of what its authors call the most urgent needs facing Orange County:

- Help for small businesses that remain closed
- Expenditures to support communities affected by the coronavirus outbreak
- Assistance to nonprofit organizations providing direct services to Orange County residents
- Reimbursement to cities for direct COVID-19 expenses
- Temporary food assistance for vulnerable and at-risk populations

Bartlett said the HEART Plan "is a much more comprehensive plan that affects all of the entities within the county." The money comes from the County's share of \$554 million received from the federal government's CARES Act. County officials expect to use the funding to cover \$453 million in expenses such as overtime for staff responding to coronavirus emergencies as well as public health and medical costs. County Supervisors also directed staff to apply for variances from the State to reopen many "phase two" businesses, such as dining at restaurants.

VENTURA COUNTY

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors said that new regulations would be given to dine-in restaurants, shopping malls and swap meets and schools (with limitations) as the County moves into Accelerated Stage 2. However, still not permitted are nail salons, tattoo parlors, gyms, fitness salons, entertainment venues, indoor museums, and community centers. Also not mentioned at the meeting were when churches could open. Ventura County businesses are being asked to register their business with www.vcemergency.com and then go to: www.vcreopening.com to see what is required to reopen as far as compliance to State and health orders. The eight steps for reopening include:

1. Reviewing the [guidance](#) published by the State
2. Complete a detailed risk assessment in accordance with the state guidelines.
3. Complete a written worksite COVID-19 Prevention Plan and post it at your business
4. Implement the prevention measures identified in your worksite-specific COVID-19 Prevention Plan
5. Designate an on-duty employee responsible for monitoring compliance with your plan.
6. Complete the attestation form by going to: www.vcopen.com.
7. Upon completing your attestation, an official may conduct a site visit.
8. The hotline number is 844 VC-OPENS which also needs to be posted.

Businesses wishing to reach the COVID Business Compliance call (805) 202-1805 or email covidcompliance@ventura.org. Ventura County has launched a Question and Answer Compliance & Enforcement Line for citizens to ask questions and report possible violations of the Ventura County's Stay Well at Home Order. The [Economic Development Collaborative COVID-19 Business Resource Guide](#) is updated daily for Employers, Employees, and Self-Employed.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Riverside County Poised To Reopen More Businesses

Shortly after Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Monday he has modified the criteria for allowing most counties to further reopen industry sectors at a faster pace amid coronavirus, Riverside County Board Chair V. Manuel Perez said he believes the County will meet the State's new benchmarks. As detailed elsewhere in our updates, the Governor made modifications to the COVID-19 death and caseload criteria. Instead of focusing on death rates, the Governor is now looking at hospitalizations. The new criteria requires counties to have no greater than a 5% increase in hospitalizations over the last seven days, or no more than 20 people hospitalized over the last 14 days. The Board of Supervisors has maintained it can meet all of the State's remaining criteria for reopening as part of the Governor's phase 2 regional variance program. In a letter to the Governor, Riverside County Supervisors said the County has the ability to "meet, exceed or plan to achieve" all but one of [the criteria required to accelerate through the State's current phase 2 reopening of the economy](#). If the County gets a green light to move deeper into a phase 2 reopening, it could mean dine-in restaurants and shopping centers would be welcoming customers inside their businesses.

SACRAMENTO

Justice Department Warning to California

The U.S. Department of Justice warned the Governor that his COVID-19 restrictions discriminated against places of worship by preventing them from meeting while businesses and film studios are allowed to carry on working. In a three-page letter, the DOJ said the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution required churches and other houses of worship be given equal treatment under the law, even when a health emergency has been declared. To read the letter which the DOJ released on Twitter, click [here](#).

Only Half of the Rooms Leased for California Homeless Occupied

Only about half of the 15,000 hotel and motel rooms that California has leased for mostly homeless people to slow the spread of the coronavirus are now occupied, it was reported today. As of Monday, 7,919 hotel rooms had guests and another 7,700 were vacant, according to figures released by the Governor's office. The actual number of leased rooms in the statewide program known as Project Roomkey could be even lower since Newsom's goal also included rooms reserved for people, homeless or not, who needed to quarantine or isolate themselves because of the coronavirus. Project Roomkey is largely funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has vowed to reimburse the State and individual counties for 75% of the cost of leasing hotel rooms and providing services. Only homeless people who meet certain criteria, including being older than 65 and having health conditions that make them susceptible for dying of COVID-19, qualify.

Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery

Members of the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery sent a letter to congressional leaders asking them to pass \$1 trillion in direct relief for state and local

governments. The letter, signed by 91 California leaders – including business leaders like Bob Iger and Marc Benioff -- outlines the budgetary challenges facing the state, local and tribal governments caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the country, massive and sudden losses in revenue are making it nearly impossible for state and local governments to fund critical health infrastructure like contact tracing and testing, while still providing critical services like public education and public safety. As previously mentioned, the Governor last month [convened](#) the Task Force, co-chaired by Governor Newsom's Chief of Staff Ann O'Leary and philanthropist, environmentalist and businessman, to chart a path forward on recovery in the wake of COVID-19. A copy of the Task Force's letter can be found [here](#). Read the full list of Task Force members [here](#).

Cal/OSHA Guidance for Dine-In Restaurants

Cal/OSHA) issued its [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Dine-In Restaurants](#), which provides detailed guidance to dine-in restaurants, brewpubs, craft distilleries, breweries, bars, pubs, and wineries that provide sit-down meals on how to support safe and clean work environments for employees and customers. Cal/OSHA issued a corresponding checklist. Cal/OSHA's guidance for dine-in restaurants is similar to the guidance for other industries and professions (see previous EKA updates) and echoes many of the same recommendations regarding the creation and implementation of worksite-specific COVID-19 prevention plans, topics for employee training, individual control measures and screening, cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and physical distancing guidelines. The guidance for dine-in restaurants, which includes numerous recommendations related to cleaning and disinfecting protocols, as well as physical distancing guidelines that are specific to dine-in venues. Here are some key takeaways from the guidance.

- **Employee Training:** In addition to providing employees training on the importance of handwashing, physical distancing, and the proper use of face coverings, the guidance recommends that employers train employees on "leave benefits the employee[s] may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home."
- **Individual Control Measures and Screening:** If an employer requires an employee to self-screen at home, it is recommended that employers "ensure that [the] screening was performed prior to the worker leaving the home for [his or her] shift and follows [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)]" The guidance also recommends that employers consider providing disposable gloves to employees that frequently handle items used by customers.
- **Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols:** Employers are encouraged to discontinue the use of shared equipment among employees (e.g., audio headsets, phones, tablets, and pens) unless the equipment can be properly disinfected after each use. To further avoid customers making contact with shared items, the guidance recommends that restaurants provide disposable menus to guests and make menus available digitally so that customers can view on a personal electronic device, discontinue pre-setting tables with napkins, cutlery, glassware, and food ware; suspend use of shared food items such as condiment bottles and close self-service areas where customers may congregate or touch food or food ware items. Under the guidance, dining rooms, bar areas, host stands, and kitchens should be equipped with touchless hand sanitizer dispensers and

sanitizing wipes for staff and customers to use. Additionally, the guidance recommends that employers "increase fresh air circulation" and make "modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in all work areas."

- **Physical Distancing:** To allow customers and employees to distance themselves properly, the guidance recommends the implementation of several measures including allowing dine-in customers to order ahead of time to limit the amount of time spent in the establishment, asking customers to wait in their cars or away from the establishment while waiting to be seated, install physical barriers or partitions at cash registers, bars, host stands, and other areas where maintaining physical distance of six feet is difficult.
- **Other Considerations:** The guidance states that guests and visitors should be screened for symptoms upon arrival. In addition, to ensure employees and customers are aware of the establishment's requirements, the guidance recommends that restaurants display a clear set of "rules for customers and restaurant personnel at the restaurant entrance(s) that are to be a condition of entry," such as instructions to use hand sanitizer, avoid unnecessary touching of restaurant surfaces, wear proper face coverings when not eating or drinking, and practice physical distancing.

While the guidance is detailed and includes numerous recommendations to help prevent the outbreak of COVID-19 and "support a safe, clean environment for workers and customers," it is not exhaustive and does not take into consideration or address any restrictions contained in County Health orders. Accordingly, in conjunction with the guidance, EKA recommends that those who need to implement the guidelines review CDC guidelines and local Health Orders.

Homeowner, Tenant and Consumer Relief Law of 2020

Assembly Member Limón has introduced AB [2501](#) which would require lenders to maintain home and auto loans for an extended length of time with no payments from borrowers. The legislation has received opposition from the California Chamber who believes the strain imposed on financial institutions will limit the availability of credit in the future, which will harm our economic recovery. The bill requires financial institutions to carry homeowner loans for a year or more without payment and without assessing fines or penalties, prohibits repossession of mobile homes or motor vehicles for non-payment and without assessing fines and penalties, and places onerous restrictions on deferred deposit loans. AB 2501 shifts a significant portion of the costs of the pandemic to the private sector.

SB 893 Update

[SB 893](#) was heard in the Senate's Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement committee and failed. It has been granted reconsideration. The bill that would have made nurses and other direct-care hospital workers automatically presumed eligible for workers compensation for infectious and respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, as well as musculoskeletal injuries.

NATIONAL

Small Business Loan Restrictions

President Donald Trump and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the administration would support giving companies more flexibility in how they use emergency small business loans, amid mounting complaints that restrictions on the aid are too onerous. A room full of restaurant industry executives meeting with Trump at the White House urged the President to ease limits on the so-called Paycheck Protection Program, which Congress created to help avert layoffs during the Covid-19 pandemic. The loans have proved immensely popular because they can be forgiven if employers agree to maintain their payrolls. Restaurants and other industries are lobbying lawmakers and the administration to give businesses more time to spend the funds as shutdown orders across the country are lasting longer than expected. The current time frame for borrowers to spend the money and still have it forgiven is eight weeks, and there is growing support on Capitol Hill to extend the window to 24 weeks. To read the full comments from the President, click [here](#).

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

LA County Homeless

Last week U.S. District Judge David Carter issued a ruling compelling local governments to develop a plan for providing emergency shelter or housing for 6,000 to 7,000 homeless individuals currently living near freeway overpasses and underpasses in Los Angeles. Legal briefs on the plan are expected to be filed in Los Angeles federal court before the relocation order is scheduled to go into effect Friday. The Aids Healthcare Foundation is pushing the County and the City to use a Van Nuys hotel for use to temporarily house the homeless and/or suspected coronavirus patients.

McDonald's

Employees at two Los Angeles McDonald's filed notices of intent to sue the company due to its handling of COVID-19 issues that allegedly put staff in "imminent danger." The notices, filed with the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency and Cal/OSHA, give the company 33 days to address alleged violations or workers can sue for civil penalties. McDonald's said in a statement that allegations contained in a Service Employees International Union press release were inaccurate and that safety, including wellness checks and personal protective gear, is of paramount importance. In Chicago, five McDonald's employees filed a class-action lawsuit against the chain on Tuesday, accusing it of failing to adopt government safety guidance on COVID-19 and endangering employees and their families. The employees claim McDonald's failed to provide adequate hand sanitizer, gloves and masks and has not notified its staff when an employee has become infected with the new coronavirus.

New York

In New York an attorney has filed a legal challenge to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's use of executive powers to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, terming his actions a "disturbing and gross abuse" of authority. The attorney contends the Governor exceeded the powers granted under state law to issue executive orders. He contends that the Governor's actions run afoul of both the state and federal constitutions. The lawsuit takes aim at the powers used by Governors across the nation to employ core strategies to address COVID-19, including orders to shelter in place and

close non-essential businesses. To read the cover letter to the lawsuit that also includes a link to the complaint, click [here](#).

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

When can small businesses apply for PPP loan forgiveness?

Small businesses who borrowed from the federal Paycheck Protection Program can now apply for loan forgiveness. Getting the balances erased may be easier said than done. As detailed in previous updates, the amount borrowed is supposed to be forgivable if at least 75% of the proceeds are used to cover payroll, according to the Small Business Administration.

Meanwhile, any amounts that aren't forgiven must be repaid in two years at a rate of 1%. The federal agencies gave some clarity to PPP borrowers on last week in the form of application. To view the PPP loan forgiveness application, click [here](#).

Do I Need A COVID-19 Return To Work Plan?

California has partially entered Stage Two of California's four-stage "[Pandemic Roadmap](#)" for reopening the economy. Governor Newsom [announced](#) that under Stage Two, the following limited business sectors can begin reopening if they meet set [industry guidelines](#). Employers must review their specific industry guidance found on the [resilience roadmap](#) and create a plan based on that guidance. Guidance is available for each sector of the economy and is created along with Cal/OSHA. Before reopening, all facilities must:

1. Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan
2. Train employees on how to limit the spread of COVID-19, including how to [screen themselves for symptoms](#) and stay home if they have them
3. Implement individual control measures and screenings
4. Implement disinfecting protocols
5. Implement physical distancing guidelines

Each industry has a checklist; When complete, you can post the industry-specific checklist (below) in your workplace to show your customers and your employees that you've reduced the risk and are open for business. California's resilience roadmap further emphasizes that it is critical that employees needing to self-isolate because of COVID-19 are encouraged to stay at home, with sick leave policies to support that, to prevent further infection in your workplace. See additional information on [government programs supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID-19](#). As we have discussed in previous updates, California has a mishmash of local and State COVID-19 ordinances and orders that employers must navigate. Under California's resilience roadmap, "some communities may move through Stage Two faster if they are able to show greater progress, and counties that have met the readiness criteria and worked with the California Department of Public Health can open more workplaces as outlined in the [County Variance Guidance](#). Counties and cities have imposed safety requirements such as mandatory face masks, workplace safety postings, social distancing protocols, and scheduling mandates. Some localities have required additional paid sick leave or enacted workplace scheduling mandates. Other rules may apply only to certain industries or wage orders, such as

food industry requirements. Make sure to check local ordinances and any statewide industry-specific information before you make any decisions regarding COVID-19 and your workforce — such as return to work, safety requirements, and leaves.

WHAT WE'RE READING

L.A. County Leaders' Goal: July 4 'Safe' Opening For Businesses

Los Angeles County's political and business leaders have set a goal of July 4 for a "full" and "safe" reopening of retail, restaurants and malls. But it was immediately met with concern and caution over how realistic that date is, given serious public health concerns about the lack of adherence to restrictions still in place across the region and the continued spread of the coronavirus, which as of Tuesday had led to the deaths of 1,913 people. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Nike Joins with Athletes to Thank Frontline Healthcare Workers

In recognition of frontline healthcare workers combating COVID-19 around the world, Nike will partner with nonprofit [Good360](#) in the United States and local organizations across Europe to donate more than 140,000 pieces of footwear, apparel and equipment globally. The effort is led by messages of gratitude to healthcare professionals. From one athlete to another, Nike athletes recognize the physical and mental resilience of healthcare athletes. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti explains how City not under total COVID-19 lockdown

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti sounded an optimistic note for the thousands of out-of-work members of the movie and T.V. industry who are running out of any unemployment benefits. On Eyewitness Newsmakers, the mayor said he hoped to announce new plans in coming weeks. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Virus Kills Landlords

Like tenants unable to pay rent, these landlords are having a hard time. Even in the best of times, RSO landlords are capped at collecting an annual rent increase, currently at 4%. The pandemic is a black swan for many investors, and that would include those that have stakes in rent stabilized property. RSO landlords are not allowed to raise rents at all from now until one year after the pandemic is over. No definition of "over " has been given by the politicians on the L.A. City Council who unanimously passed the [rent freeze](#) which was then signed by the Mayor. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The Economic Toll Of COVID-19 On Small Business

Fifty-six percent of California small businesses experienced "large negative" effects from the pandemic, according to a recent Census survey—a survey that includes businesses with up to 500 employees. [Sectors hit hardest by initial job loss](#) face the most severe setbacks. As small businesses weather closures brought on by COVID-19, policy efforts to support them will be important for the State's economic recovery. Ninety-five percent of businesses are very small

businesses with less than 50 employees, and these businesses employ one-third of California's workers. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Substitute Pharmacists Warn Their Co-Workers: We'll Probably Bring the Virus to You

With regular employees out sick, CVS and Walgreens rely on traveling workers to fill in at short notice. But when these floaters show up at a store, they often aren't told if anyone there has tested positive. To read the full story, click [here](#).

"Immune to Evidence": How Dangerous Coronavirus Conspiracies Spread

Conspiratorial videos and websites about COVID-19 are going viral. Here's how one of the authors of "The Conspiracy Theory Handbook" says you can fight back. One big takeaway: Focus your efforts on people who can hear evidence and think rationally. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Bootleg Barbershops And Hair Salons Thrive As Coronavirus Stay At Home Orders Persist In Some States

Carmelle Harris saw the man standing at the open front door of her house. "Are you here for the haircut?" she asked. He was, and so Harris, wearing an N95 face mask, handed sanitary wipes to the man, and led him to the makeshift barber's chair in the living room. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California's Undocumented Immigrants Can Now Apply For Financial Help

California's undocumented immigrants can begin applying today, for disaster relief payments of up to \$1,000 per household under Gov. Gavin Newsom's coronavirus emergency assistance plan. In April, Newsom announced a one-time, \$75-million fund for undocumented adults who are not eligible for other forms of government assistance, such as unemployment benefits and federal stimulus checks. A qualifying undocumented adult can receive \$500, with a maximum of \$1,000 per household. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California leased 15,000 hotel rooms to help homeless people. Half now sit empty

Only about half of the 15,000 hotel and motel rooms that California has leased for mostly homeless people to slow the spread of the coronavirus are now occupied, a review of state records by The Times shows. More than a month into Gov. Gavin Newsom's program to get homeless people off the streets, the occupied rooms account for — at most — less than 5% of the 151,000 people who sleep on street corners, under bridges and in emergency shelters across California. As of Monday, 7,919 hotel rooms had guests and another 7,700 were vacant, according to figures released by Newsom's office. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Card Rooms Prepare Reopening Safeguards, Tensions Mount Between Casinos and Governor

California card room executives are eager to see the venues reopen soon after months of closures from the coronavirus pandemic, and are working on developing appropriate precautions. All 66 operational card rooms in the State voluntarily closed in mid-March. Now, the gaming properties and the California Gaming Association (CGA) industry group are trying to

get card rooms reopened "as quickly as possible without jeopardizing the health and safety of ... guests and employees. To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Has Shown U.S., U.K. Are Vulnerable To Biological Terrorism, Experts Say

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a structural vulnerability to biological attacks in the U.S. and Europe that requires urgent government action, multiple current and former national security and public health officials told NBC News. Former officials in the U.S. and the U.K. warn that the devastating impact of the coronavirus on health care infrastructures and economies may act as a "neon light" for terrorist groups looking to unleash pathogens on Western nations. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Grand Central Market Merch to Help a Tenant Relief Fund

What was the last thing you ate at Grand Central Market? If you count yourself as a regular of the booth-lined, history-amazing public market, which can trace its story back to 1917, that might prove to be a rather tricky question. It could have been a perfect fried egg sandwich, or pizza covered in spicy tomato slices, or a brisket sandwich, or all of the above (if you made a day of it, as fans often do). To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Deepens Toll of Opioid Crisis, Webinar Told

In addition to deaths from COVID-19, addiction experts estimate 85,000 people will die in the coming years from a fatal cross-over between the virus and substance abuse disorders, leading to "deaths of despair" from suicide and overdose, an expert panel heard Monday. The COVID-caused isolation and lack of access to health care and treatment could lead to tragic loss of life, Gary Mendell, founder and CEO of Shatterproof and national expert on the opioid crisis, told a webinar organized by the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation. To read the full story, click [here](#).

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