

COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 22, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 64

Today is day 64 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 72 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.

H.R. Roadmap to Reopening

Now, as the U.S. economy slowly starts to reopen, business owners are faced with the challenge of adapting their operations to provide employees a safe, healthy, and compliant workplace when employees return. [Trent Bryson](#), CEO of Bryson, and Kristi Pastore, CEO of Culture Works, recently hosted a webinar that provides an H.R. Roadmap to Reopening. They discussed topics such as implementing new practices and procedures, reducing liabilities, easing back into the workplace, transforming your workspace, creating transparency, and evaluating changes to your insurance plans. To view the webinar, click [here](#).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Calls For Loosening Of Curbside-Only Mandate

Supervisor Hahn asked the Governor to allow all retailers in the State to open their doors to customers with limited capacity, mandatory face coverings and social distancing. In a [letter](#) to Newsom, Hahn said current requirements that "non-essential" retailers offer curbside pickup service only during the coronavirus pandemic are unfair to small businesses while allowing big-box stores such as Target, Costco and Walmart to welcome customers inside. Hahn said "many of these small businesses are not set up for online orders and curbside pickup has not been a good fit for them. They want to reopen for in-store shopping in a way that protects the health of their employees and customers, and I have heard from nearly all of the 27 cities that I represent about ways to support them in doing this." Hahn asked Newsom to amend the State's current health restriction to allow all retailers to offer in-store shopping while limiting the number of people inside, mandating face coverings for customers and employees and requiring physical distancing. To view her plan and see her letter, click [here](#).

L.A. County Beach Bike Path Back in Business

People planning to visit Los Angeles County beaches this weekend will finally be able to ride on the County's extensive bike path, which reopened yesterday. Supervisor Janice Hahn Hahn broke the news on her [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages posting a photo of a lone bicyclist and the caption, "L.A. County's beach bike paths are now open! Welcome back." The County's beaches

reopened May 13, but only for active uses such as running, jogging, swimming and surfing. Sunbathing is still barred. The reopening, however, did not include the County's 22-mile beach bike path that stretches from Pacific Palisades to Torrance.

USC Study Looks At Pandemic's Toll On Job Market

According to research from USC, Los Angeles residents are worse off financially than the national average, particularly as it relates to labor-related policies and unemployment insurance. USC Dornsife's Understanding Coronavirus in America Study shows that levels of economic insecurity across the country have increased as a result of the pandemic but are substantially higher in Los Angeles than the rest of the Nation. To read the entire study, click [here](#). To view graphic data from the survey, click [here](#).

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Budget Hearing

The budget process in Los Angeles flipped this year. The full Council (less Huizar) heard what amounted to very brief revenue and COVID-19 expenditure reports from [the Mayor's office, the CAO and CLA](#). The City may find itself in a worse financial situation than envisioned in the Mayor's proposed budget for the next fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Los Angeles' entire budget is proposed to be about \$10.5 billion for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, with a general operating fund of about \$6.6 billion. The City has already spent \$155 million in special fund loans on personal protective equipment and other COVID-19 preventions, much which could be reimbursed through Federal Emergency Management Agency funds. The City estimates it will receive about \$694 million in federal COVID-19 relief, but those funds can be used only for responding to the virus and have to be spent by the end of 2020. The funds cannot be used to replenish revenues the City anticipated it would have received before the pandemic.

A few inescapable issues are facing the City in the 2020-21 budget: (1) revenues have fallen \$230 million dollars since COVID-19 struck, (2) the City has front-loaded nearly \$83 million in general fund loans for COVID-19 expenditures; (3) the City spent \$159 million on direct costs for supplies and housing-related to COVID-19; (4) the Mayor's budget proposed significant civilian furloughs – 26 days for civilian/non-revenue generating; and (5) the City received Federal CARES Act funding of \$694 million. The Office of Finance is anticipating 2021 tax revenues will be a minimum of \$45 million short of Mayor Eric Garcetti's proposed budget and could fall short by as much as \$400 million. The Council decided to refer the entire budget back to the committee along with motions related to the budget, which will be taken up throughout June and ongoing throughout the fiscal year. There will be additional, regular revisions on the budget throughout the year as the City gets more information on potential COVID-19 reimbursements from the State, Federal government and County. The Budget and Finance Committee is planning to meet June 8, 15, 22 and 29 to examine the budget, but Councilmember Krekorian said it's not possible to examine each department's finances at great length this year. The budget by charter must take effect on July 1, but the budget is a blueprint and is a roadmap for how the City will get through the year and will be revised many times in the coming year. To view the 33 Motions introduced, click [here](#).

LONG BEACH

Kiva Long Beach Loan Program

The City's Kiva Loan Program is a creative online crowd-lending program that is designed to support Long Beach small businesses. Loans up to \$15,000 are available at a zero percent interest rate. Approved borrowers may access a grace period of up to 6-months and loan proceeds may go toward business expenses, such as personnel, rent, supplies/materials, utilities, and professional services. All loan applications are reviewed by Kiva, a nonprofit organization. Approved loans on Kiva's online crowd-lending platform have 30 days to successfully raise the entire loan, and so far, 25 Long Beach businesses have benefited from this program. To get started, potential borrowers click [here](#).

VENTURA COUNTY

Ventura County Restaurants Begin Welcoming Back Dine-In Customers

After more than two months of limited sales through take-out and delivery, Ventura County restaurants began welcoming dine-in customers once again. County officials said Ventura County is the first in Southern California to be approved by the State for accelerated reopening, including allowing restaurants to hold modified dine-in services. To view the Ventura County Safely Reopening documents, click [here](#).

SACRAMENTO

Free State of California Industry Guidance

The State is making available guidance for businesses to follow if they're permitted to open per County and City health rules. Industry guidance to reduce risk has been made available online for several industries. To learn more and access industry guidance to minimize risk, click [here](#).

First Responders

Attorney General Becerra joined a bipartisan coalition of 52 attorneys general in a letter urging Congress to pass the [Safeguarding America's First Responders Act of 2020](#). The bill aims to support families of first responders who pass away after contracting COVID-19 during the current public health crisis by ensuring they do not face unnecessary barriers to obtaining benefits. The U.S. Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program provides death benefits to survivors of police officers and first responders who perish in the line of duty or as the result of a work-related event. The program requires evidence linking deaths caused by an infectious disease to work-related activity. Determining where and when someone contracts COVID-19 amidst a global pandemic presents a unique challenge. The Safeguarding America's First Responders Act of 2020 seeks to address this issue by establishing a temporary presumption that COVID-19 infections will be considered to be contracted while on duty if diagnosed within 45 days of an officer's last shift. If passed, the legislation will help ensure families of officers and first responders who have lost their lives while fighting the pandemic do not face unnecessary barriers to benefits they have already been promised under existing

federal law. When public safety officers are called to respond, they do not know whether they are coming into contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19. They risk their lives every day to keep us safe and the current public health crisis has made their sacrifice clearer than ever. To read a copy of the letter, click [here](#).

Helping Californians in Crisis Keep Roofs Over Their Heads

Sen. Lena Gonzalez introduced [SB 1410](#) that would provide temporary financial assistance to California renters. The State will step in and make direct payments to landlords for as much as 80% of unpaid rent for tenants across the State — that's if their nonpayment is "attributable to the pandemic." If passed, SB 1410 would charge the California Department of Housing and Community Development with administering the program, and it will cover up to seven months of unpaid rental payments. Under the proposal, landlords allowed to participate would have to agree to a few conditions. They would have to not make any rent increases for a specified period; not tack any fees to money due for past rents; not pursue any remaining rent owed for the months the program covers. The California Apartment Association, which represents rental property owners all across the State, is sponsoring the legislation. For now, the group has asked its affiliates to work out payment arrangements with tenants who fall behind on their rents. SB 1410 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Housing. Hearings are scheduled for May 26 and May 27.

Rent and Eviction Bill

[Senate Bill 939](#) is a COVID-19 commercial rent moratorium eviction bill sponsored by California state senator Scott Wiener. Because SB-939 is an urgency statute, it would go into immediate effect once passed by the legislature and approved by the Governor. SB 939 Section 1, section 1951.9 as added to the civil code reads: It shall be unlawful for a person, business or other entity to terminate a tenancy, serve notice to terminate a tenancy, use lockout or utility shutoff actions to terminate a tenancy or otherwise endeavor to evict a tenant of commercial real property, including a business or nonprofit organization, during the pendency of the State of emergency proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, related to COVID-19, unless the tenant has been found to pose a threat to the property, other tenants or a person, business or other entity. But, in getting into the meat of the bill, many are crying overreach saying that if enacted SB 939 would upend existing real estate leases throughout the State. The legislation requires all lessors in California to defer lessee rent obligations for more than one year. It would also allow a certain business type to negate the existing lease contract, removes existing legal remedies and rights from, and gives one party to a contract the right to walk away from a valid lease. To read more about this legislation in a bulletin issued by the California Business Properties Association, click [here](#).

DFEH Launches Free Anti-Sexual Harassment Training

While not COVID-19 related, while scouring state websites, the EKA team noticed that the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) is offering a **free** anti-sexual harassment training for non-supervisory employees. The online training can be used to meet a legal requirement that, by January 1, 2021, employers having five or more employees must provide at least one hour of classroom or other effective interactive training and education

regarding sexual harassment prevention to all non-supervisory employees in California. This legal requirement is contained in [Government Code section 12950.1](#) DFEH's new training is interactive and optimized for mobile devices and is accessible for persons with disabilities. The training is currently available in English and will be available in five additional languages in the coming months (Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean). In addition, in the coming months DFEH is planning to launch a similar online training for supervisors in California, who are required under the Government Code to complete two hours of training by January 1, 2021. For more information, click [here](#) to go to the DFEH's website.

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has begun a five-day notice period for Proposed Emergency Regulations for Minor Decoy Requirements for Delivery Enforcement. To read the text of the Proposed Emergency Regulations on the [Regulations & Rulemaking](#) page. If you have questions regarding the Proposed Emergency Regulation, click [here](#) to email them to the ABC. The public has five working days to prepare comments and seek more information from ABC before ABC submits the regulatory package. The public will have five days to present formal comments to the Office of Administrative Law.

COVID-19 Reopening Readiness Guide for Employers

As Governor Newsom and local government officials begin relaxing Stay-At-Home orders, employers should be planning for employees' potential return to work. Governor Newsom's recent announcement that "Stage 2" of his proposed 4-Stage reopening plan could allow for a gradual opening of lower-risk workplaces, with some retail, manufacturing and logistics sectors opening first, followed later by sectors such as offices and dine-in restaurants. Based on EKA's review of various Health Orders, we recommend that employers may wish to appoint and announce a COVID-19 coordinator or a team for centralized and consistent handling of all COVID-19-related questions. Some Health Orders may contain a requirement that employers communicate with employees regarding any new policies applicable to employees when they return. While each employer's circumstances may differ, click [here](#) to view Cal/OSHA suggestions regarding worksite specific plans.

As a reminder, be mindful that your business may be covered by different Orders set by federal, State and/or local governments. In other words, even though Governor Newsom may decide to move California as a whole into Stage 2, counties and cities may choose to move slower (or faster if localities meet certain requirements set by Governor Newsom) in easing restrictions. Also, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and others provides rapidly changing and updated information that should be checked as appropriate as information about COVID-19 develops. Please do not forget that under Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-62-20, [available here](#), any COVID-19-related illness of an employee is "presumed" to arise in the course of employment for purposes of workers' compensation if, among other conditions, the employee tested positive for or was diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days after a day that employee performed labor or services for the employer. (Note, this presumption does NOT apply to work performed remotely at an employee's residence).

NATIONAL

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC issued new guidance regarding how schools can help protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff and slow the spread of COVID-19 when reopening. Schools, working with [state and local health officials](#), can determine whether and how to implement these considerations while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community. To view the new guidance, click [here](#). Other new guidance includes:

- [What Construction Workers Need to Know about COVID-19](#)
- [For Parents: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\) associated with COVID-19](#)
- [Evaluation and Management Considerations for Neonates At Risk for COVID-19](#)
- [Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#)

Executive Order On Deregulation

In a new Executive Order on "Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery," the President said the virus has attacked our Nation's economy as well as its health. He said, "it was the state lockdowns that directly did that, of course. Many businesses and nonprofits have been forced to close or lay off workers, and in the last eight weeks, the Nation has seen more than 36 million new unemployment insurance claims." To read the entire statement from the President and Executive Order, click [here](#).

HEROES Act

As previously mentioned, the House narrowly passed, by a 208 to 199 vote, [H.R. 6800](#), the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act). House Democratic leadership introduced the HEROES Act as their "phase four" 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) stimulus and relief package. The HEROES Act would provide \$3 trillion in tax cuts and spending to address the negative health and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including financial relief to state, local and tribal governments; extensions to enhanced unemployment benefits; debt collection relief; and direct cash payments to households. The legislation is unlikely to pass in the Republican-controlled Senate, however, and the White House [issued a statement](#) opposing the legislation. Although the HEROES Act probably will not become law in its current form, certain provisions from the HEROES Act will likely reappear in future legislation, potentially as part of a bipartisan stimulus and relief bill late this summer. House Democratic leadership probably will reference these provisions as its priorities in such negotiations.

The Senate's Republican leadership has stated that the Senate will not vote on the HEROES Act in its current form and has questioned the timing of additional legislation related to COVID-19, preferring to "wait and see" how the U.S. economy reacts to previous stimulus packages. At the same time, the White House has indicated that President Trump would veto the legislation.

Consequently and as noted above, the HEROES Act likely represents a starting point for negotiations with the House's Democratic leadership using the bill to indicate its members' priorities. Past COVID-19-related legislation has passed with bipartisan support after negotiations between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, among others.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Tesla Drops Lawsuit

Tesla dropped the lawsuit it filed in early May against California's Alameda County. In the lawsuit, Tesla asserted that the County's rules on mandated Covid-19 shutdowns contradicted California state policy. Tesla stopped production March 23 but resumed operations earlier this month.

Terminal Island, Lompoc Federal Prisons

Weeks of criticism over the handling of California prison inmates during the coronavirus crisis has now led to a lawsuit. The lawsuit by the ACLU comes after hundreds of prisoners at both Terminal Island and Lompoc federal prisons tested positive for COVID-19, sparking fears for their safety and the health of people beyond the prison walls. Among the allegations listed in the lawsuit are unsanitary conditions, failure to provide basic prevention measures such as masks, failure to test for COVID-19 and not providing adequate medical care. To read the ACLU press release, click [here](#). Read the Lompoc lawsuit [here](#): Read the Terminal Island lawsuit [here](#):

Illinois Attorney General Has Lawsuit Challenging Stay-At-Home Order Moved To Federal Court

After losing an initial ruling in state court, the Illinois attorney general's office moved to federal court a lawsuit challenging the validity of the State's Stay-At-Home Order. The AG stated in its court filing that it was moving the case from state court because it involves U.S. constitutional rights of free religion and due process.

Nearly 800 COVID-19 Lawsuits Have Been Filed

Wondering what kind of lawsuits are being filed in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic? A lawsuit tracker has the answer. Nearly 800 lawsuits have been filed over the novel coronavirus, and more than 230 of them dealt with prison conditions, according to [tracker data](#). Hunton Andrews Kurth developed the tracker with the help of a data services provider. After prison lawsuits, the next most popular were lawsuits involving insurance disputes, contracts and civil rights (excluding the prison claims).

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

Did the California Insurance Commissioner order refunds beyond what we have read about auto insurance refunds?

California's Insurance Commissioner did order insurers in the State to return partial premium refunds to consumers and businesses. This is the second such order issued by California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. Lara's latest order requires that insurers adjust

consumers' premiums. Carriers can do that by offering a credit, reducing rates, or returning a portion of payments. Companies will have to take action by August 11 with each carriers' plan to be vetted by the California Department of Insurance to ensure that refunds are adequate and reflect the reduced risk. Click [here](#) to read the Bulletin extending his previous [order](#) requiring insurance companies to return partial insurance premiums to consumers and businesses. The [Bulletin](#) now includes the month of May, having already included the months of March and April. The Commissioner's [Bulletin 2020-4](#) requires insurance companies to provide an adjustment to the premium in the form of a premium credit, reduction, return of premium, or other appropriate adjustments. As we previously reported, in March the Commissioner issued a [Notice](#), calling on all admitted and non-admitted insurance companies to provide their policyholders with a 60-day grace period to pay their premiums.

We have read about OSHA-compliant Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Planning. Can you help us understand what we need to do when we reopen?

In our various updates, the EKA team has passed along information regarding the importance of creating plans and policies upon reopening. EEOC began issuing what it calls [Technical Assistance Questions and Answers](#) about COVID-19 in mid-March. The primary focus of the agency's Q&A guidance format has been in the area of disabilities as they may relate to, or be impacted by, COVID-19. EEOC has consistently maintained that the general principles applicable to the accommodation of disabilities, including medical inquiries, apply as before. EEOC has been helpful in expressly stating that employee screening, temperature taking, and even COVID-19 testing are permissible medical inquiries, because the risk of infecting coworkers constitutes a "direct threat" to the health of other employees (meaning there is a "significant risk of substantial harm" to other employees), making the inquiries job-related and consistent with business necessity. Again, please look at previous EKA updates regarding issues about privacy. A few useful documents to review include:

- [EEOC's Coronavirus and COVID-19](#)
- [What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

The Fed's April Meeting Minutes Detailed A Potential 2nd-Wave Virus Scenario That Could Drag On The Economy Into 2021

[Minutes](#) from the Federal Reserve's April meeting detailed key risks facing the economy as coronavirus lockdowns dragged on. Members of the Federal Open Market Committee found that a "more pessimistic projection was no less plausible" than a base case that featured economic growth re-emerging in the second half of the year. Such a scenario would arrive on the back of a second wave of COVID-19 cases and feature a decrease in GDP, surging unemployment, and weak inflation lasting into 2021, the participants warned. Members also noted the FOMC might need to provide greater detail around its asset purchases, as the unwinding of such relief programs could fuel market turmoil.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

Southern California Faces Dire Economic Outlook Over Next Two Years

Two new reports find that Southern California faces a dire economic outlook over the next two years, with high unemployment rates expected to linger through 2021 and many more jobs at risk than unemployment data may suggest, it was reported today. Consultants at McKinsey & Co., who have been exploring the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on jobs and economies globally, conducted an analysis this week focused on Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties. To read the full story, click [here](#).

80 Percent Of Restaurant Industry Jobs Are Gone

Supervisor Kathryn Barger reviewed some of the key figures from the L.A County Economic resilience Task Force. She called the meeting "sobering". Some of the statistics that came from that meeting include 80 percent of jobs in the restaurant industry are gone, 890,000 film and entertainment employees are out of work, more than 1 million unemployment claims have been filed in the County, over 75 percent of people who lost jobs were earning less than \$50 thousand per year on average. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Newsom Raises Record \$26M In Donations For Covid-19, Some From Companies Lobbying State

Prominent social media, broadcasting and other major interests have poured nearly \$26 million into Covid-19 efforts at the Governor's request, a record amount that came as some of the companies lobbied the Governor's office on data privacy and other thorny regulatory matters, state disclosures show. The amount of donated ad space to the State's public health messaging effort has tripled [since Newsom first touted it](#) in late March, applauding the California-based companies who stepped up to "join the fight against COVID-19." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Editorial: Time To Cut Off Gov. Newsom's Blank Check

In mid-March, the California Legislature took the extraordinary step of going into recess at a key point in the session and heading home indefinitely to stop the spread of the coronavirus among lawmakers and staff. Before they left the Capitol, however, legislators agreed to give Gov. Gavin Newsom unrestricted access to \$1.1 billion from the State's budget to use as he saw fit to respond to the crisis that was just beginning to unfold. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Schools Bracing for COVID-Fueled Budget Ax

Facing a possible \$54 billion deficit caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and California's response to it, Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed a 19% cut to K-12 education that school districts up and down the State are already warning will be impossible to shoulder. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus In California By The Numbers

California's public health department announced the first two cases of this new coronavirus in the State on January 26. More than three months later, the State had reported close to 70,000 positive cases and close to 3,000 deaths from the disease the virus causes, COVID-19. The

number of infected people, however, is assumed to be much larger because access to testing has been an ongoing challenge. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Riverside County Plans To Hire Up To 200 COVID-19 Contact Tracers. Here's How You Can Apply

Riverside County is in the process of hiring up to 200 contact tracers to expand the public health department's resources for controlling the spread of COVID-19. The County now has more than 100 contact tracers, with the most recent hires working remotely, said Brooke Federico, Riverside County spokeswoman. The County posted the job application online early in May and already has received more than 500 applications, but is still accepting additional submissions. The job listings are for Temporary Health Services Assistant (Contact Tracers) and Temporary Health Education Assistant. The most recent listing was posted on LinkedIn on May 19. To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Exposes Hypocrisy Over Lack Of Disability Accommodations

People with disabilities have long been asking for -- and denied -- accommodations that quickly rolled out to the masses once lockdown began. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Federal Money for State and Local Governments Could Stop Tax Increases

Governor Gavin Newsom is hoping for federal funds to avoid about \$14 billion in budget cuts. Political tensions over a federal subsidy to state and local governments—some Republicans label it a bailout—have held up Washington assistance to the states, but the odds are some form of federal help eventually will come. The federal funds could thwart efforts by state and local governments to raise taxes, especially on businesses. Raising taxes would quash the economic recovery. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Newsom Wise To End One-Man Rule On Coronavirus, Giving Local Leaders More Discretion

Gov. Gavin Newsom has entered his own Phase 2 of the virus war: relinquishing one-man control over the State's battle against the bug. In truth, he has barely been staying one step ahead of rural rebels who have been challenging his control and testing him — in some burgs seizing authority from the Governor. Newsom has wisely relented. There's no need to get into the equivalent of a shooting war with these rural communities — especially those in the far north, where many people resent being part of California anyway. For decades, there have been failed attempts to secede and form their own State of Jefferson with southern Oregon. To read the full story, click [here](#).

What We Know — And Don't — About The New Child Inflammatory Syndrome Linked To Coronavirus

"Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children" is described by the CDC as "a troubling new syndrome that may be associated with COVID-19." In its alert, the CDC noted that there is limited information available about MIS-C. Here is what we know today: Most children with MIS-C have persistent high fevers for three or more days, but then exhibit a range of symptoms in various combinations reflecting inflammation in multiple organs of the body. Because the

illness is so new, symptoms are still being documented, and they can vary from child to child. To read the full story, click [here](#).

PPP Loan Forgiveness Timeline May Be Extended—Bipartisan Support Growing To Give Small Business Owners More Time

The Paycheck Protection Program was hailed for its promise to help small businesses survive the COVID-19 crisis. The [PPP Loan program](#) provides eligible small business owners with a loan worth up to 2.5 times its average monthly salary obligations. The goal of the program is to help small business owners continue paying their employees in the face of social distancing requirements and forced closures. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Will Lawsuits Do What COVID Can't?

Small-business owners across California answered the call by remaining open during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide groceries, medicine, medical and hardware supplies, transportation and other essential services so Californians could have what they needed during the stay-at-home directive. Other businesses took the initiative and completely retooled their manufacturing or assembly processes to create masks, disinfectants and gowns so Californians had personal protection equipment and products to protect their health. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Most California Counties Get State OK For Faster Reopening

Tulare County, in the middle of the State's vast Central Valley agricultural region, was the latest. Its Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to move into phase three of reopening, giving barbershops, movie theaters and churches the go-ahead even before the County had been approved by the State to go deeper into phase two. The State called the County's actions "hasty and careless" and warned in a letter it could lose state and federal disaster relief money. State officials made the same threat to three other counties that defied Gov. Gavin Newsom's stay-at-home order earlier this month. See all counties' Local Variance Attestations [here](#). To read the full story, click [here](#).

Gov. Newsom To Issue Guidelines For Film, T.V. Production To Resume

California Gov. Gavin Newsom told a panel of filmmakers on Wednesday that the State hopes to roll out by next Monday some sectoral guidelines aimed at eventually getting cameras rolling again. "We're in real-time drafting guidelines related to productions, T.V., commercials ... that would allow (certain) counties to begin to move forward and allow some modification, allow some work to be done, allow some movement in your industry," Newsom said during his latest digital roundtable discussion on economic recovery. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Big Cuts Could Hit Little Californians: \$1 Billion In Preschool And Child Care Dollars At Risk

Gov. Gavin Newsom's plans to expand free preschool and increase support for child care may be axed in the new coronavirus economy. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Restaurants Rebel Against Delivery Apps As Cities Crack Down On Fees

When Pitas and Sticks, a Greek restaurant in Brooklyn, New York, gets an order from Grubhub, owner John Stamos gives each bag a personal touch, printing out a small note with a simple message: Grubhub orders are killing his business. "Small businesses like us need your support in this time of crisis," Stamos writes in each note. "Online apps such as GRUBHUB ARE CHARGING US 30% of each order and \$9 or more on orders made using phone numbers on their app or website ... please help save the restaurant industry by ordering directly with us." Restaurateurs like Stamos are mounting guerrilla campaigns to persuade customers to skip the delivery platforms they say are squeezing their businesses at a particularly difficult time. Some are looking to use social media to get the word out or coming up with special offers. Others are ditching the apps altogether. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Existing-Home Sales Plummet 18% In April As The Coronavirus Pandemic Stymies Real-Estate Activity

Sales of previously-owned homes slid nearly 18% in April as the coronavirus pandemic upended the U.S. real estate market. Existing-home sales occurred at a seasonally-adjusted annual pace of 4.33 million, the National Association of Realtors reported Tuesday. Economists polled by MarketWatch had forecast existing-home sales to take place at an annual pace of 4.2 million. The inventory of unsold homes, meanwhile, increased to a 4.1-month supply. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Memorial Day – Next EKA Update

In observance of Memorial Day, our office will be closed on Monday, May 25. The EKA family sends our deepest respect and appreciation for everyone who served our great country. Our next update will be on May 26.

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