

## COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 27, 2020

**NOTE:** Beginning today the EKA COVID-19 updates will be sent Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### Stay At Home Order Day 69

Today is day 69 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 77 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.

### Previous EKA COVID-19 updates

Our previous COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#). Feel free to share our updates with friends and colleagues. We hope you find the information in the EKA updates and the questions they raise to be informative. 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.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### New Health Order

Los Angeles County issued a new [Health Order](#) which aligns with California's latest guidelines. In aligning its Health Officer orders with the state's [California Pandemic Resilience Roadmap](#), the County is moving toward a phased progression toward the resumption of normal activities. The change also sets the stage for the County to request a variance from the state to permit swifter reopening of some sectors. Examples of activities now permitted under the changes enacted:

- Faith-based organizations may resume services, with the number of congregants limited to less than 25% of the building's capacity, or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is lower.
- All retail, including those located in indoor and outdoor retail shopping centers may now open for business at 50% capacity.
- Flea markets, swap meets and drive-in movie theaters may resume operations.
- Pools, hot tubs and saunas that are in a multi-unit residence or part of a homeowners association may now open.

The Health Officer Order also provides guidelines for public protests. In-person protests are permitted as long as attendance is limited to 25% of the area's maximum occupancy, or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower. The Order emphasizes that physical distancing requirements, cloth face coverings and other safety protocols must be observed as the recovery progresses. Los Angeles County, however, has **not** yet been granted a variance from the state that would allow it to open businesses such as dine-in restaurants. The updated Health Order allows people to take part in all permitted activities while continuing to practice physical distancing and wearing a cloth face covering when in contact with others. The County asked residents to remain in their residences as much as practical and limit close contact with others

outside their household both indoor and outdoor. Gatherings of people not from the same household are still prohibited, except for faith-based services and in-person protests. The County said people 65 years old or older and all people of any age with underlying health conditions should remain in their residences as much as possible. The County Public Health Department will continue to monitor COVID-19 data indicators closely and may, after consultation with the Board of Supervisors, adjust orders to reflect specific County needs. To read the new L.A. County Order, click [here](#).

### **COVID-19 Testing By Coroner**

The Board of Supervisors approved a plan for more COVID-19 testing by the coroner's office. Supervisor Solis recommended ramping up testing and suggested the possibility of a website or phone line where families could seek guidance on whether a recently deceased person could be tested. Solis said more testing might help uncover important clues about the spread of the virus and help with contact tracing. A report is expected back in two weeks.

### **COVID-19 Testing at Dodger Stadium**

A new COVID-19 testing site opened at Dodger Stadium, which will accommodate three times more people than any other testing site in Los Angeles County. Health officials will be testing as many as 6,000 people a day. Any Los Angeles County resident can get tested for free but must make an appointment online ahead of time. Priority will be given to those with symptoms and for front-line workers. Click [here](#) if you want to sign up for a free COVID-19 test.

### **Inspector General**

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint an inspector general to oversee skilled nursing facilities, which account for more than half of the County's deaths from COVID-19. Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Barger co-authored a motion asking the county auditor-controller to ensure closer monitoring of the facilities immediately. The inspector general will be tasked with developing recommendations on how to strengthen oversight for skilled nursing facilities and how to improve their operations long-term. Ridley-Thomas implied that criminal charges could be brought against operators, saying he wouldn't stop short of involving the District Attorney's office in the inspector general's review. He highlighted the disproportionate number of deaths in facilities caring for black and Latino rather than white patients, citing a recent New York Times article on the issue. The Board directed the County Auditor-Controller to take the lead in designing a publicly accessible dashboard with information about COVID-19 case totals at skilled nursing facilities, along with testing frequency, mitigation plan status and other information related to these centers. The Board's Executive Officer was charged with helping select an Inspector General before July 1 and mapping out the scope of work by August.

### **Vernon**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to have the County's Health Department work with city officials in Vernon and union officials to investigate nine industrial facilities that have experienced outbreaks of the coronavirus. The largest outbreak occurred at the Farmer John slaughterhouse, where 153 workers have tested positive for COVID-19, health officials said last weekend. At Supervisor Solis' recommendation, the Board voted to have health officials

report back within a week on all nine facilities' compliance with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Cal/OSHA COVID-19 guidelines. The group will also look at support by operators for workers and surrounding communities. On Monday, the union that represents some 1,300 Farmer John employees called for the immediate closure of the plant.

### **Shopping Malls**

Simon Properties reopened nine of its Southern California retail centers. Southern California reopenings include Orange County's Brea Mall, The Outlets at Orange and The Shops at Mission Viejo; Desert Hills Premium Outlets and Ontario Mills in the Inland Empire; San Diego County's Carlsbad Premium Outlets, Fashion Valley and Las Americas Premium Outlets; and Ventura County's Camarillo Premium Outlets.

## **LOS ANGELES**

### **Reopening**

Mayor Garcetti said in-store retail shopping in the City could begin again, effective today. The Mayor said churches and other houses of worship are allowed to reopen, but they can only allow 25% of their normal capacity, or 100 people, whichever figure is smaller. Restaurants will still not be allowed to offer dine-in services and beauty salons will still not be allowed to reopen. Retail stores can now allow customers to enter the premises as long as they adopt the County's safety protocols. To read the new L.A. County Order, which the City is following, click [here](#).

### **Discarding PPE Penalties**

The City Council requested the City Attorney to draft language to increase the penalty to the maximum extent for discarding, littering, or disposing of PPE in the public right of way. This law would take effect during the COVID-19 pandemic, and sunset after the state of emergency concludes. Councilmember O'Farrell introduced a motion pending in committee directing L.A. Sanitation + Environment to report on the disposal process of medical waste citywide, and to recommend an augmented public education plan in coordination with hospitals, clinics, and other medical providers.

## **ORANGE COUNTY**

### **Federal Funding**

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to dole out \$75 million in federal funding to help cities, small businesses and nonprofits with COVID-19-related expenses. The supervisors also encouraged Orange County's health care officer to modify her weekend order requiring residents to wear masks in many social settings. Nearly 100 residents protested the Order at the Board meeting. Last week, the supervisors approved sending \$26 million of the County's share of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding to cities for direct expenses related to battling COVID-19. The County received \$554 million from the federal government's CARES Act bill, but expects to use \$453 million of it on expenses such as overtime for staff responding to coronavirus emergencies as well as public health and medical costs.

## LONG BEACH

### Safer at Home Order Amended

Last Friday, the City issued an updated [Safer at Home Order](#). All Lower-Risk Businesses are required to implement and post a Physical Distance Protocol prior to operating. To review the entire Order, [click here](#). The City also made amendments to the [Self-Isolation](#) and [Quarantine](#) orders requiring individuals with COVID-19 to self-isolate, and those at risk to self-quarantine. The City also has a [health order](#) to protect older adults.

## SACRAMENTO

### Newsom Clears Way For Hair Salons To Reopen, But Not In L.A. Yet

Governor Newsom [cleared the way](#) for barbershops and hair salons to open in counties that have been cleared to move deeper into California's reopening roadmap. As of yesterday, 47 of the state's 58 counties have been [granted variances](#), which are based on criteria such as the rate coronavirus infections and deaths and availability of testing and contact-tracing. The variances allow counties to move deeper into Stage 2 of the state's reopening roadmap, most notably allowing the resumption of limited dine-in service at restaurants and in-person shopping at retail establishments. The reopening of hair salons and barbershops marks continued movement into Stage 3 of the state's reopening plan. Other types of businesses in Stage 3, such as nail salons and fitness gyms, still have not been cleared to reopen. The Governor acknowledged the demand for hair salons to reopen, with many residents sporting long hair due to the unavailability of the services. The Governor noted that his children cut his hair and he posted a photo on [Twitter](#) of himself getting the cut. The Governor said guidance will be released today for businesses such as summer camps and childcare facilities. To view Counties that have received variances, click [here](#).

### Sacramento Legislation

There are several pieces of legislation that will threaten small employers with costly litigation, increased financial burdens, and new or extended leaves of absence that are advancing in the Assembly.

- [AB 2999](#) imposes a significant new burden on employers of every size by mandating that they provide employees up to 10 days of bereavement leave and opens up new avenues for litigation against California employers by establishing a new private right of action (in addition to liability under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) as well as administrative enforcement through the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement). Many groups oppose AB 2999, not because it promotes the right to bereavement leave, but rather because of the manner in which it does so.
- [AB 3216](#) provides for unlimited job protected leave for all employees of employers of any size for family and medical leave due to COVID-19. This new mandate is in addition to numerous COVID-19 leave requirements recently enacted at the federal, state and local levels. Many of the concerns expressed above could be reduced if the provisions of

this bill were added to the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), rather than creating an entirely new leave entitlement in the Labor Code. The mandate would be made more reasonable as it could be included within the 12 weeks of unpaid leave already mandated by CFRA and would be subject to the CFRA

### **Cal/OSHA's New COVID-19 Office Workspace Guidance Offers Cleaning and Distancing Protocols**

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health issued its [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Office Workspaces](#), which provides detailed guidance for operating in office workspaces to "support a safe, clean environment for employees" in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Cal/OSHA issued a corresponding [checklist](#). Similar to other industry guidelines recently issued by Cal/OSHA, the guidance for businesses operating in office workspaces recommends that businesses create and implement worksite-specific COVID-19 prevention plans and regularly evaluate offices to confirm compliance with the plans. Additionally, the guidance suggests that employees be trained on worksite plans and on the importance of handwashing, physical distancing, and the proper use of face coverings. The guidance further recommends that employees and any personnel entering an office workspace receive temperature and/or symptom screenings—as Cal/OSHA has suggested for several industry types. The guidance for office workspaces, however, diverges from Cal/OSHA's other industry guidelines in its recommendations regarding cleaning and disinfecting protocols and in its physical distancing guidelines.

- **Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols**

The guidance recommends that businesses thoroughly and regularly clean and disinfect high-traffic areas, commonly used surfaces, and items that must be shared, such as copiers, fax machines, printers, keyboards, and telephones. The guidance advises that employees, to the extent possible, avoid sharing work supplies and equipment. Additionally, the guidance states that employers should require employees to clean and disinfect their personal work areas and provide employees with the necessary cleaning products to do so. The guidance recommends that employers use cleaning products that are approved for use against COVID-19. Finally, per the guidance, employers should consider installing portable air cleaners, upgrading air filters, and "making other modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in offices and other spaces."

- **Physical Distancing**

To ensure physical distancing of at least six feet, the guidance offers businesses the following recommendations, Utilize telework options and modified work schedules, establish directional hallways and passageways for foot traffic" to eliminate or, at least, minimize the frequency of employees passing by one another, limit the number of individuals riding in an elevator and ensure the use of face coverings, utilize work practices ... to limit the number of employees at the office at one time" by, for example, "establishing alternate days for onsite reporting, returning to the office workspace in phases, or continuing use of telework when feasible."

The guidance suggests that when visitors arrive, businesses "dedicate staff to direct guests . . . upon entry to [the] office" so that guests do not congregate in lobbies or common areas. Finally, the guidance recommends that businesses evaluate the necessity of redesigning office spaces (e.g., cubicle areas), decreasing the capacity of persons permitted in conference rooms, and installing "production transfer-aiding materials ... to reduce person-to-person production hand-offs" and ensure workspaces allow for six feet between employees. To ensure a safe and clean workspace for employees, employers may want to review the guidance in its entirety and, as suggested by the guidance, implement additional measures for vulnerable populations.

## NATIONAL

### **New Small-Business Loan Rules**

The SBA has updated guidelines for forgiving federally backed loans to help small businesses survive the coronavirus outbreak. The new rules warn businesses and lenders that it may review Paycheck Protection Program loans "of any size at any time in SBA's discretion." The SBA also said the borrowers must retain their PPP documentation for six years after the loan is forgiven or paid in full. The revised guidelines also require companies seeking loan forgiveness to alert state unemployment offices if workers refuse their requests to return to work—a common problem because of the generous terms of the current unemployment benefits. The guidance says that businesses won't be subject to a reduction in the amount of loan forgiveness in situations where employees refuse to return to work. The latest regulation largely confirms the information provided with the forgiveness application form the SBA unveiled on April 16, but provides further clarification on how to calculate payroll and non-payroll costs to fill out forgiveness documents. The guidance didn't change a requirement that 75% of loan funds be spent on payroll to receive loan forgiveness, which was never mandated by Congress. The latest guidance is the 14th "interim final rule" issued. To view the latest update, click [here](#). The SBA says they have provided information on forgiveness through [previous guidance](#).

### **Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said data informing antibody testing is rapidly evolving. Recommendations on the use of antibody tests to determine immunity and infectiousness among persons recently infected with SAR-CoV-2 will be updated as new information becomes available. To read the interim guidance, click [here](#). Other CDC updates include:

- [When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#)
- [If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith](#)

## LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

### **Suing China**

Dozens of U.S. citizens and U.S. businesses are attempting to sue China over the spread of the virus. So far, at least nine lawsuits have been filed in the U.S. against China claiming authorities there did not do enough to corral the virus initially, tried to hide what was happening in the

outbreak center of Wuhan and sought to conceal their actions and what they knew. Eight of the lawsuits are potential class actions that would represent thousands of people and businesses. One was filed by the attorney general of Missouri, which is so far the only state to take legal action against China. The cases face several hurdles under the [Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act](#), which states that foreign governments cannot be sued in the U.S. unless certain exceptions are met.

### **Inmates Lawsuit**

Inmates at the Federal Correctional Complex at Butner are the latest federal inmates to file a class-action lawsuit. The lawsuit claims the facilities need to release more inmates to protect them from the coronavirus and limit its spread behind bars. Attorneys for 11 inmates [filed the suit](#) in the U.S. Eastern District Court of North Carolina and have asked a judge to name an expert to identify all vulnerable inmates who then can be released within 24 hours. Butner has had one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks among federal prisons. Nearly 375 inmates and 44 staff have tested positive for the virus.

### **Republicans Challenge House's Pandemic-Era Proxy Voting Rules**

House Republicans have filed a lawsuit challenging the U.S. House of Representatives' new rules on proxy voting, alleging the system is unconstitutional and dilutes the votes of members who are physically present in the chamber. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia alleges House members must be physically present in order to reach a quorum and then vote. Four constituents are also behind the complaint. The complaint cites other examples where the House has not invoked proxy voting, including after the 9/11 terror attacks and the influenza pandemic of 1918.

## **QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED**

**A frequent question we are asked is what liability employers might face from claims that employees contracted COVID-19 at work. Governor Newsom provided clarity on that question.**

As we mentioned in previous updates, the Governor issued [Executive Order N-62-20](#), creating a rebuttable presumption that an employee's COVID-19-related illness arose out of the course of employment for workers' compensation purposes if the employee tests positive or is diagnosed "within 14 days after a day that the employee performed labor or services at the employee's place of employment at the employer's direction." The presumption does not apply if the employee worked from home. To qualify, the employee must either (1) test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days after performing work; or (2) be diagnosed with COVID-19 by a licensed physician within 14 days after performing work and have that diagnosis confirmed by further testing within 30 days of the diagnosis. Additionally, the date of injury must occur between March 19, 2020, and July 5, 2020. For current employees, the practical reality of this Executive Order is that any test-confirmed COVID-19 illness will be presumptively compensable by workers' compensation. The Executive Order provides that the presumption "is disputable and may be controverted by other evidence." However, if a claim is not rejected within 30 days of filing, the presumption can only be rebutted by evidence discovered subsequent to the 30-day

period. Employees claiming COVID-19-related illness are eligible for all workers' compensation benefits, including "full hospital, surgical, medical treatment, disability indemnity, and death benefits." There is no waiting period for temporary disability benefits, but an employee entitled to COVID-19 paid sick leave must exhaust that paid leave first.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **Should The California Minimum Wage Continue To Rise In This Pandemic?**

Under existing state law, California's minimum wage will rise to \$15 per hour by January 1, 2022 (or 2023 depending on the size of the employer). Each year since 2017, the amount of the minimum wage rises by \$1 pursuant to the provisions of S.B. 3 (Chapter 4, Statutes of 2016), which was authored by former Senator Mark Leno. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **L.A. Schools May Reopen With Stark Rules: One-Way Halls, Lunch At Desk, Playing Alone**

Sixteen students to a class. One-way hallways. Students lunch at their desks. Children could get one ball to play with — alone. Masks are required. A staggered school day brings on new schedules to juggle. These campus scenarios could play out based on new Los Angeles County school reopening guidelines released Wednesday. This planning document will affect 2 million students and their families as educators undertake a challenge forced on them by the coronavirus crisis: fundamentally redesigning the traditional school day. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **For Hollywood Bowl And Pasadena Pops, The Show Can't Go On Due To COVID-19 Outbreak**

The cancellation of the Hollywood Bowl summer season for COVID-19 along with cutting the Los Angeles Philharmonic's winter season leaves the organization with an \$80 million shortfall. The Hollywood Bowl's president and L.A. Philharmonic Association COO was a guest on Eyewitness Newsmakers explaining the situation. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **No-Eviction Rules Prompt Squatting In Posh Summer Enclaves**

As no-eviction orders went into place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some landlords are finding tenants taking advantage of the situation by squatting in short-term rental properties, which they say is costing them thousands of dollars in missed returns they've come to rely on during this time of year. Some short-term renters who moved into homes prior to the coronavirus outbreak are refusing to leave. Landlords are finding they don't have any powers to get them to, either. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **State Prisons To Resume Accepting New Inmates As Coronavirus Outbreaks Continue**

Here's another sign that coronavirus-related restrictions are easing: Starting tomorrow, state prisons will once again accept new inmates transferred from some county jails. At first, new inmates will only be accepted from four counties: Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Fresno. "It is anticipated that no more than 200 inmates will be accepted from those counties through June 19," the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) said in a statement. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Reopening U.S. Economy Will Mean Creating All Kinds of New Jobs**

Thermal scanners in Utah and Maryland. Contact tracers in San Francisco. Decontamination technicians in Miami. Meet the people needed to keep the post-COVID-19 economy running. In the wake of a pandemic that's put millions of Americans out of work, a new crop of jobs is emerging. Companies racing to get back to business are creating roles to keep employees and customers safe from a highly contagious virus, positions that may become even more in demand the longer time passes without a vaccine or a treatment. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **World Health Organization Warns Of 'Second Peak' In Areas Where Coronavirus Is Declining**

Countries where coronavirus infections are declining could still face an "immediate second peak" if they let up too soon on measures to halt the outbreak, the World Health Organization said on Monday. The world is still in the middle of the first wave of the coronavirus outbreak, WHO emergencies head Dr Mike Ryan told an online briefing, noting that while cases are declining in many countries they are still increasing in Central and South America, South Asia and Africa. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California's Proposition 13 Ballot Fight Intensifies With Coronavirus Pandemic**

A proposed change to California's sacrosanct Proposition 13 that seeks to raise \$12 billion annually for schools and local government was already primed to be one of the hottest battles on the November ballot before the coronavirus pandemic hit. But the financial damage brought on by the disease is transforming the fight over a measure that would raise property taxes for many businesses into a struggle over the future of California. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Tax hikes in the midst of recession?**

It's the multi-billion-dollar question of the moment: In the midst of a sudden recession that has erased, at least temporarily, millions of jobs, would Californians support a batch of new taxes to prop up state and local government services? Gov. Gavin Newsom implicitly posed the question in his much-revised 2020-21 budget. It assumes a \$41.2 billion drop in revenues from the initial budget he unveiled in January, pegs the total deficit at \$54.3 billion and makes wholesale reductions in K-12 schools, higher education and other popular services to close the gap. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **COVID-19 Contact Tracing Apps Are Coming To A Phone Near You. How Will We Know Whether They Work?**

Last month, when the Australian government launched a smartphone app called COVIDSafe to find and alert the contacts of people infected with the coronavirus, Prime Minister Scott Morrison made a hard sell to the public. "The more people who download this important public health app ... the sooner we can safely lift restrictions and get back to business and do the things we love," he said in a April 26 press release. Two million people downloaded it in the first 24 hours it was available. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **CDC, States' Reporting Of Virus Test Data Causes Confusion**

Elected officials, businesses and others are depending on coronavirus testing and infection-rate data as states reopen so that they will know if a second wave of contagion is coming – and whether another round of stay-at-home orders or closings might be needed. But states are reporting those figures in different ways, and that can lead to frustration and confusion about what the numbers mean. In some places, there have been data gaps that leave local leaders wondering whether they should loosen or tighten restrictions. In others, officials are accused of spinning the numbers to make their states look better and justify reopening. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Bill To Pause Foreclosures, Repos Draws Fire From Lenders**

California has emerged as an early battleground in a burgeoning dispute over how far the government should go to protect borrowers from the economic fallout of the coronavirus crisis. This week in Sacramento, a state legislative panel voted 7-3 to advance legislation that would temporarily halt foreclosures and auto repossessions, expand consumers' eligibility for loan forbearance and limit lenders' options once payment deferral periods end. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **With Higher Ed In Limbo, Students Are Switching To Community Colleges**

Even before the pandemic, a small but growing number of university students looking for a cheap way to knock off a few general education requirements took the classes at their local community colleges in the summer. The strategy even has a name: "summer swirl." To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Community Colleges Sue Federal Government Over Aid**

About 800,000 community college students in California were left without access to emergency aid from the federal government, which was designed to help those hurt by COVID-19. In a teleconference with student media from across the state, California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley made it clear state officials aren't going to accept that without a fight. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Are You Expecting PPP Loan Forgiveness? Don't Forget This Step**

Did you know that if you applied for and received a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan, there is another application you'll have to submit to meet requirements for having the loan forgiven? Certification requirements are more stringent than those you needed to qualify for the loan, and if you just observe how the landscape is evolving, more uncertainty is on its way. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Doctors Warn Consumers COVID-19 Can Spread Through Meat Products**

More than 12,000 nationwide in The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine are imploring the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to alert consumers that COVID-19 can be spread rapidly through the distribution of meat products. The PCRMR filed a petition with the USDA to require slaughterhouses to test meat for the virus before distributing to grocery stores and add a warning label to products. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **More harm than good? Twitter struggles to label misleading COVID-19 tweets**

Automated technology that Twitter began using this month to label tweets containing coronavirus misinformation is making mistakes, raising concerns about the company's reliance on artificial intelligence to review content. On May 11, Twitter started labeling tweets that spread a conspiracy theory about 5G causing the coronavirus. Authorities believe the false theory prompted some people to set fires to cell towers. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Face Masks In Stores, Cars, Outside: Here's Where You're Expected To Wear A Covering**

Now that many U.S. states have reopened retail stores and restaurants, many cities, counties and states are taking the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation to wear a face mask or face covering out in public one step further. Some are making it mandatory to cover up, enforceable in many places by a fine or arrest if you're not wearing your face mask where you should be. Even if there is no local ordinance to wear masks, some stores won't let you in unless you do. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **What Lies Ahead For Post-Shutdown Cities? It Depends On Whom You Ask**

Our nation only now is beginning to emerge from the first stifling phase of its efforts to contain the harrowing threat of a global pandemic. The pronouncements concerning "what comes next" for American cities, however, are already in high gear. Depending on which supposedly omniscient source you prefer, the specter of a lethal virus that can be transmitted by air or a simple handshake signals the end to dense cities once and for all — or a chance to return to the creative, inclusive urban ideal. It proves the value of the private automobile — or the essential importance of public transit. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Sonoma County's Wineries, Restaurants Can Begin Serving Outdoor Meals**

Sonoma County wineries, breweries, restaurants and bars can provide outdoor dining after state officials approved the County's petition to move forward with the next phase of California's reopening plan. The expanded opening, which takes effect on Saturday, was approved by the California Department of Public Health, making Sonoma County the third Bay Area county to get the special approval, joining Napa and Solano counties. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **The Price of a Virus Lockdown: Economic 'Free Fall' in California**

Locked down in their homes, the four former California governors clicked into a Zoom call and one after another described how they dealt with the crises that had defined their time in office. For Pete Wilson, it was the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Gray Davis evoked the electricity disaster that drove him out in a recall election, and Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown lamented the Great Recession. But the former governors agreed that nothing they confronted was as dire or will be more consequential than what the current occupant of the office, Gov. Gavin Newsom, now faces. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Californians Trust Public Health Officials To Keep Them Safe; Business Leaders Should Too**

It has been more than two months since California's elected leaders and public health officials made the incredibly difficult decision to issue statewide shelter-in-place orders that have kept

millions of us in our homes – safe and largely healthy in the midst of a global pandemic that has killed more than 90,000 Americans. Now, laid-off workers are eager to get back to their jobs. Business owners want their employees back. Parents are ready for their kids to go back to school. We could all use a haircut and a night out at our favorite restaurant. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Half Of The Counties In The U.S. Have Zero COVID-19 Test Sites**

54% of U.S. counties have no COVID-19 test site, [according to Castlight's special report](#) on local virus testing. An analysis of county-level data shows that 38% of metro counties (those with populations at or greater than 50,000) and 68% of rural counties (with populations under 10,000) have no testing sites at all. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Red Cross Calls For Governments To Help Stop Health Care Hacks During Pandemic**

Hackers are making the coronavirus pandemic worse by endangering lives with cyberattacks, the Red Cross and several prominent tech companies and former world leaders warned in a letter published on Tuesday. The COVID-19 outbreak has caused an uptick in cyberattacks, including hacks against hospitals and groups like the World Health Organization. In April, the WHO reported a fivefold increase in cyberattacks since the start of the pandemic. Criminals have been targeting hospitals with ransomware in hacks that lock up computers unless victims pay to get them released. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **States Are Reopening From Coronavirus Shutdowns. What Happens To Frozen Utility Payments?**

As states begin to reopen from coronavirus-related shutdowns, a wave of unpaid utility bills coming due will not only saddle Americans still out of work with new debt, it could also drive up rates for everyone. And the \$900 million that Congress provided in the CARES Act to help low-income households pay their utility bills won't be nearly enough to ease the problem, advocates and experts say. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **'Draconian'? 'House Arrest'? Coronavirus Lockdowns Prompt Raft Of Lawsuits Against States**

Camping in Scarborough, Maine. Gathering for church in Chincoteague, Virginia. Or just grabbing a burger at Poopy's Pub and Grub in Savanna, Illinois. Each of these activities became the subject of a federal lawsuit, as residents, businesses and even lawmakers challenged state shutdown orders designed to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Car Washes Reopen With Additional Vehicle Disinfecting Processes in Place**

As businesses reopen, changes are being made to protect people from the coronavirus. For the first time, some car washes in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties are adding an interior sanitizing treatment that kills viruses including the coronavirus. To view the T.V. story, click [here](#).

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