

COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 29, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 71

Today is day 71 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 79 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.

COVID-19 Products, Testing, Cleaning & Solutions

We are facing unprecedented times and companies and cities across Southern California are continually learning and adjusting to this new way of life. Several of EKA's clients offer a variety of solutions that can help governments and businesses through this new normal. EKA's clients offer the following:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
 - Includes Masks, Gloves, Gowns, Hand Sanitizer, & More
- **Testing Kits and Materials**
 - Testing kits available for both the Rapid Antibody Test and the Viral Nasal Swab Test
- **COVID-19 Testing Services**
 - Provides on-site testing through mobile testing sites
 - Offers Rapid Antibody Test and Viral Nasal Swab Test
- **Decontamination and Sanitation Services**
 - Disinfection and decontamination hazmat services
- **Grants Management and New Workforce Management Consulting Services**
 - Key resources to provide guidance for remote workforce management, as well as identifying available grants and funds
- **Temporary Shelter Pods**
 - Pods for temporary housing for the homeless community
- **Sanitizer Station**
 - Automatic sanitizer station that can be located anywhere and everywhere

If you are interested in more information, please review our detailed PowerPoint [here](#). Feel free to reach out to any EKA team member identified in the PowerPoint who will be able to connect you to the right people.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

L.A. County reopens

All businesses currently being allowed by the state to be open, such as drive-in movies, in-store retail up to 50% capacity, flea markets, complex-owned pools, and houses of worship services up to 100 people or 25% of capacity can reopen now due to loosened coronavirus restrictions by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Businesses that need additional approval due to increased health and Phase 3 restrictions, such as dine-in restaurants, barbershops, and salons, will need the state to give its "okay" to make sure all criteria to reopen have been met. To read the current Health Order, click [here](#).

Metro Passes

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors voted to take steps in reducing the cost of its ridership passes by half -- once normal boarding practices resume -- to give people financial relief after the COVID-19 pandemic. The passes would cost \$3.50 for a daily pass, \$12.50 for a seven-day pass and \$50 for a 30-day pass for no less than six months after normal boarding resumes. According to the Metro Board report, reducing the cost of full-price passes would have a marginal impact on Metro's fare revenue.

Rail Service

Beginning Monday, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train service sidelined by the COVID-19 crisis will be partially restored to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County. Next week's adjustments will be the first step to restoring full service to the line, bringing back service along 100 miles of the 351-mile Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo coastal rail corridor, known as LOSSAN. Travelers on the LOSSAN line are advised to check and adhere to local public health orders in effect for the areas in which they start and end their trips. For additional details, click [here](#).

LOS ANGELES

Business Toolkit

The City has created toolkits for businesses. As detailed on the City portal, throughout the response to the COVID-19 crisis, City, County and State governments have worked together. After the State of California set minimum standards for local jurisdictions, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued safety protocols that are required for all businesses operating within the City of Los Angeles. The County's required protocols are available for download below. Businesses should follow these protocols and directives. Additionally, the City of Los Angeles developed toolkits to support businesses operating safely. To access the City website, click [here](#).

The City has created sample signage for businesses to print and post at their respective establishments or model their own signage after.

- [General signs for businesses](#) including 6-foot social distancing reminders, symptoms to watch for, hygiene reminders, and reminders to utilize face coverings;

- [Signage for office buildings](#) including elevator limitations, reminders to utilize web conferencing where possible, and other social distancing and hygiene reminders;
- [Signage for retail, grocers, and restaurants](#) that include social distancing and washing of high-touch areas;
- [Signage for taxis and rideshares.](#)

The City created a document to provide guidance for Los Angeles retail businesses to prepare for and effectively manage the safety of employees and customers as they resume or expand operations in the context of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Social Distancing Protocols](#)
- [Retail Establishments Protocols](#)
- [A full list of Protocols can be found here under "Reopening Protocols."](#)

Council Items

All items the EKA team was tracking at this week's council meetings have passed. You can also find the motions linked from [May 26](#) and [May 27](#). Issues we have previously tracked are being discussed at the [Economic Development Committee Meeting](#). If you would like us to track an item on the [agenda](#), please let a member of the EKA team know.

- [Item 12](#): City Attorney Report and Ordinance relative to establishing a temporary limit on the charges imposed by third-party delivery services on retail food establishments during the COVID-19 epidemic and for 90 days after the City's Order prohibiting on-premises dining is lifted.
- [Item 13](#): CLA report relative to COVID-19 Assistance for Small Business and Preliminary Industry Gap Analysis.
- [Item 14](#): EWDD Report relative to the feasibility of implementing a zero-interest loan program for local businesses, and initiating a grant program to support small businesses experiencing difficulties paying their employees due to lost revenue from COVID-19.

Rent Relief

Council President Martinez filed a Motion to use \$100 million in federal funding to support the City's COVID-19 Emergency Renters Relief Program. The City is slated to receive about \$694 million in total aid from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The Motion would direct \$100 million to assist residential tenants, landlords, and commercial leaseholders. The program is intended to begin July 1. A website for the program has not yet been established, as the City is trying to create a site that can withstand the tens of thousands of people expected to use it without crashing. Martinez was joined by Garcetti and Councilmembers Wesson, O'Farrell and Lee who have earmarked nearly \$3 million of their Council District discretionary funds for the Renters Relief Program. The Mayor said the program should assist more than 50,000 households or about 150,000 residents, but the program is also intended to be expanded. To qualify, tenants would have to prove that they earn 80% or less of the area's median income and that they've faced economic or health effects due to the pandemic. The rent subsidy would go directly to landlords. The CARES Act funding

the City is expected to receive must be spent by Dec. 31 and the City can only use the money for responding to COVID-19. It cannot be used to replenish city revenues that may have been lost due to the pandemic. Click [here](#) and see page 28 to view the entire Motion.

ORANGE COUNTY

ACLU Coronavirus Lawsuit

Sheriff Don Barnes said he would appeal a federal judge's ruling requiring more efforts to combat COVID-19 in the County's jails. U.S. District Judge Jesus Bernal granted certification in a class-action lawsuit filed by inmates and their attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union that demanded more efforts to clean up the jails and provide more cleaning supplies to inmates but denied a restraining order that would have granted the release of hundreds of inmates. Barnes reported that 370 inmates have been infected with COVID-19, but 324 have recovered. Twelve inmates are sick and in medical isolation. Sheriff's officials are awaiting the results of 160 tests. The Judge found fault with the Sheriff's Department's efforts to stem the tide of the coronavirus in the jails. Sheriff's officials explained that the rising level of inmates infected with the coronavirus was due to an increased rate of testing inmates. The Judge denied a request to release medically vulnerable and disabled' inmates and said some also represent a flight risk and that a haphazard release of inmates could present a threat to public safety.

Health Officer's Mask Order

Dissension has developed in the Orange County Board of Supervisors, with Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do blaming Supervisor Don Wagner's rhetoric for fueling threats against the County's Health Officer, who has required facial masks as part of the strategy to combat COVID-19. Dozens of opponents of the face mask order railed against it, with a group later going to Dr. Nichole Quick's home to continue objecting to her Order, which was issued last weekend.

CULVER CITY

New Order

The City Manager issued the [15th Supplement to the Public Order](#) which mirrors the [Los Angeles County Public Health order issued on May 26](#) and allows 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. [Los Angeles County Public Health Protocols for Places of Worship](#) must be followed. All [lower-risk businesses](#) and indoor and outdoor retail shopping centers may now open for business at 50% capacity. [Los Angeles County Public Health Protocols for Retail Establishments](#) must be followed. Non-essential office-based businesses may reopen, although teleworking is strongly recommended and encouraged. [Los Angeles County Public Health Protocols for Office Worksites](#) must be followed. Outdoor dining license fees and valet parking license fees will continue to be waived, through August 31, 2020, or the termination of the Local Emergency, whichever occurs earlier.

LONG BEACH

Safer At Home Order

Mayor Garcia announced that the City of Long Beach will start allowing non-essential retail businesses to open for in-store shopping. Offices will also be allowed to open, though telecommuting is still encouraged. The City is in the process of amending the local Safer at Home Order, which will clearly describe these changes, along with the protocols that businesses will need to follow. The City has already made available to help businesses prepare, such as [Physical Distancing Protocols](#), [Retail Physical Distancing Protocols](#), and Print-Yourself Posters. The documents, including translated versions of the Protocols, may be found [here](#). The Mayor said that the City made a formal request to the State of California to allow additional businesses to open, such as seated dining restaurants, barber shops, and beauty salons. While these business activities are not currently allowed, it is recommended that business owners/operators start preparing by reviewing the State's Industry Guidance, which can be found [here](#). To review the City's press release that summarizes this information, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Relief Proposals

The City released a memo that summarizes financial relief proposals from multiple City departments

The Development Services, Financial Management, Fire, and Public Works Departments have each assessed their services, fees, and approval processes to identify relevant relief for working families and small businesses. The City Attorney has determined that implementation of these measures will require City Council adoption of a Resolution for most of the benefits, and a Zoning Code amendment for two of the benefits. Below are a few examples of relief that may be approved by the City Council:

- Waive penalty fees for all late payments on all business license taxes, including commercial property licensees and residential property licensees from March 16, 2020 through August 31, 2020. Penalties will be assessed on bills that are late as of September 1, 2020.
- Extend the expiration period of existing entitlement approvals by 24 months, all approvals not expired on January 1, 2020, will now expire 24 months beyond their original expiration date.
- Allow deferral of 50 percent of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP), or other entitlement application fees greater than \$1,000, for projects submitted from June 2, 2020 through December 31, 2020. 50 percent of the fee would be required to be paid at the time of application, and the remaining 50 percent of the fee would be required to be paid prior to the scheduled public hearing date, or prior to a final project determination. This deferral is not applicable to environmental fees or noticing fees.
- For all building plan checks submitted on or after June 2, 2020 through December 31, 2020, allow projects with a valuation of less than \$100,000, to defer payment of building plan check fees until building permit issuance.

To review the memo in its entirety, click [here](#). To review the June 2nd City Council item, click [here](#).

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Returning to Offices

Riverside County is in "Accelerated Stage Two" where Office re-openings are allowed. As noted by the County, facilities should indicate they have posted signage at each public entrance of the facility regarding the safety measures required for entrance. This component is expected of all businesses. The board of supervisors has adopted language strongly recommending the use of face coverings and six-foot social distancing, which businesses may require those entering the facility. Businesses may also consider signage advising individuals not to enter with a cough, fever or other illness. If the business plans to display the safe reopening plan publicly, it should be posted or offered at the entrance(s) of that particular facility. To view the County guidelines, click [here](#).

Malls

Riverside County is one of 47 counties in the state that have been granted "regional variances" needed to open more types of businesses. Restrictions on in-person dining and shopping were lifted last week. The Gardens on El Paseo, an outdoor shopping center in Palm Desert and the Desert Hills Premium Outlets in Cabazon reopened on Tuesday. The Westfield Mall in Palm Desert is scheduled to reopen today.

Testing

CVS Health expanded its COVID-19 no-cost testing program by announcing 91 additional test sites at select CVS Pharmacy drive-thru locations across California, including 10 in Riverside County and one in San Bernardino County. Patients must register in advance at [CVS.com](https://www.cvs.com) to schedule an appointment. Patients will be required to stay in their cars and will be directed to the pharmacy drive-thru window or a location in the parking lot at a few stores, where they will be provided with a test kit and given instructions. Tests will be sent to an independent, third-party lab for processing and the results will be available in about three days.

SACRAMENTO

Ban On Live Animal Markets

The Bay Area has several live animal markets and coronavirus is believed to have come from a live animal market in China. Senator Henry Stern sponsored [SB 1175](#) that would prohibit stores selling live poultry to go or killed on the spot. The legislation passed a committee vote this week in Sacramento.

Employee Tax Proposed

Chris Micheli authored an article worth reading. The article asks, Should California Enact an Employee 'Headcount' Tax On Employers? Below is an expert from the article:

On May 27, Assemblyman Kansen Chu (D-San Jose) gutted-and-amended his bill, [AB 398](#), to provide for the "[COVID-19 Local Government and School Recovery Relief Act](#)." The bill would impose a \$275 per employee tax (aka a "headcount tax") on businesses with more than 500 employees that operate in this state. This tax would be in effect for five years. The bill would add Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 16555) to Division 7 of the Business and Professions

Code and add and repeal Part 25.5 (commencing with Section 47100) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code. As a tax increase under Article XIII A, Section 3 of the California Constitution, the bill would require a 2/3 majority vote of both houses of the Legislature, and signature by the Governor, in order to take effect.

In terms of timing, this measure passed the Assembly in an entirely different form and the new tax increase bill now in print has not been heard by a single committee in either house. Because AB 398 is currently sitting in a Senate policy committee, it is not likely to be heard and voted upon until after the June 26 deadline for the Senate to deal with measures in their house of origin. The bill provides that, on and after January 1, 2021, but before January 1, 2026, there would be a tax on a large business, defined as an entity that has more than 500 employees that perform any part of their duties within the state, at the rate of \$275 per employee. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) would administer the tax and the revenues collected would be put into a COVID-19 Local Government and School Recovery and Relief Fund, which the bill would establish. The bill would continuously appropriate the monies in this Relief Fund for distribution to counties, cities, and K-12 school districts. To read the full article, click [here](#).

RETURNING TO WORK

Preparing Employees for the 'New Not-Normal'

With the COVID-19 curve flattening, employers around the country are preparing to resume business operations and bring employees back to the workplace. Of the many unique challenges employers face in the wake of COVID-19, few are as important to EKA clients as maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. As detailed in many of our updates, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and state agencies such as the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) have released helpful guidance on COVID-19 training that employers should consider using for training employees upon their return to work. Adding to an ever-expanding library of guidance for businesses amid pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [has now published reopening guidance](#) applicable to all employers with respect to employees at higher risk from COVID-19. The guidance also outlines practices specific to a few selected industries, including child care programs, schools and day camps, restaurants and bars, and mass transit operators. To complicate matters, OSHA's guidance suggests that the following topics be covered when training employees on COVID-19:

- Ways that COVID-19 is spread (even by asymptomatic individuals)
- Symptoms and signs associated with COVID-19 exposure
- How to isolate individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infections
- How to report possible cases of COVID-19, including avenues of reporting
- How to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including how to discard used PPE
- OSHA offers a variety of online resources for employee training, including [training videos](#) for respiratory protection equipment and OSHA's [Training and Reference Materials Library](#).

Cal/OSHA released training guidance to employers. In addition to training issues suggested by OSHA, Cal/OSHA lists the following areas for COVID-19 training:

- General description of COVID-19 symptoms, when to seek medical attention, how to prevent its spread, and employer procedures for preventing its spread at the workplace
- How an infected person can spread COVID-19 to others even if they are not sick
- How to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by using cloth face covers, including:
- [CDC guidelines](#) that everyone should use cloth face covers when around other persons
- Employers must comply with requirements to provide safe work environments and OSHA has issued a COVID-19 [Control and Prevention document](#)
- [Cal-OSHA guidance](#) on requirements to protect workers from coronavirus: OSHA provided revised guidelines setting forth the following requirements for recording of COVID-19 workplace cases

OSHA is revising its previous enforcement policy for recording cases of coronavirus. Under OSHA's recordkeeping requirements, coronavirus is a recordable illness, and employers are responsible for recording cases of the coronavirus. If the case confirmed as a coronavirus illness is [work-related](#) as defined by [29 CFR 1904.5](#); and involves one or more of the [general recording criteria](#) in [29 CFR 1904.7](#), such as medical treatment beyond first aid or days away from work. Also, remember to have your Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) in place.

NATIONAL

Symptoms For COVID-19

In the last two weeks, the [CDC](#) has updated the list of symptoms for COVID-19 on several occasions, eliminating the "two or more" list and adding "less common" symptoms and emergency warning signs. The CDC has cautioned that individuals with COVID-19 can be asymptomatic, have mild symptoms, or have severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The CDC has also cautioned there are other possible symptoms that are not included on the current list. The CDC has been regularly updating and modifying the list. EKA encourages everyone to closely track CDC guidance and updating your screening tools to minimize the number of symptomatic individuals in the workplace.

National Guidelines for Restaurants

As dining rooms across the country continue to reopen, the Centers for Disease Control released a sweeping set of [national guidelines](#) for restaurants and bars to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Less detailed than plans released by California and other states, the guidelines call for enhanced hygiene and sanitation practices, distancing within physical spaces, the elimination of self-service stations and an increased focus on outdoor dining. "High-risk" workers, per the CDC guidance, include individuals over 65 years old and those with underlying medical conditions. As a non-exhaustive list, "underlying medical conditions" include lung disease, asthma, hypertension, severe heart conditions, weakened immunity, severe obesity, diabetes, liver disease, and chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis. Such workers are "encouraged to self-identify," while employers are cautioned to refrain from improper medical inquiries that could violate federal law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or

the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA). Employers in New York should also ensure their practices are consistent with the N.Y. Human Rights Law (HRL), the state law analogue to the ADA

June 3 Deadline For Provider Relief Fund And HHS Guidance For Acquisitions

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) that eligible providers have until June 3, 2020, to accept the [Terms and Conditions](#) and submit their tax documents and financial loss estimates to the [General Distribution Portal](#) to be eligible to receive an additional payment from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund's (Provider Relief Fund) \$50 billion (the General Distribution). HHS also provided guidance clarifying how providers can access payments from the General Distribution for acquired entities and other entities that have been involved in recent transactions, as described further below.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Companies In Bankruptcy Sue SBA For Denying Loans

Three Maine companies in bankruptcy are suing the U.S. Small Business Administration for denying them federal Paycheck Protection Program loans, saying the SBA's policy against issuing the forgivable loans to companies in bankruptcy unfairly discriminates against them. The companies include the owner of a hotel and restaurant and two related companies. All three are in Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The plaintiffs say there is nothing in the federal CARES Act, that prohibits companies in bankruptcy from receiving the loans, and that SBA simply adopted a discriminatory policy.

GOP Sues California

The Republican Party launched a legal battle to block California from sending all voters in his state mail-in ballots for the general election, arguing the move is unconstitutional and invites voter fraud. The Republican National Committee, National Republican Congressional Committee and California Republican Party filed a lawsuit against the Governor and Secretary of State. In their complaint, the groups called the Democratic Governor's action an illegal "usurpation of the legislature's authority" to set the "time, place and manner" of the election, which they said constitutionally rests with the state Legislature. To read a copy of the lawsuit, click [here](#).

Supreme Court Refuses To Block Order Demanding Action At Prison

The Supreme Court refused the Trump administration's request Tuesday to block a lower court order requiring stepped-up efforts against the spread of the coronavirus at a low-security federal prison in Ohio. The high court's action represented its most significant intervention to date related to the deadly impact of COVID-19 inside federal prisons.

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

Many readers of our updates have asked questions regarding PPP loans and forgiveness. Below are some of the answers to the various questions we have received.

Will the SBA review individual PPP loans? Yes. Any loan may be reviewed as the Administrator deems appropriate. This includes loans with principal amounts of less than \$2 million. The safe harbor provided for in the Treasury's FAQs is only applied to certifying the loan need based on economic uncertainty.

When will the SBA undertake a loan review? The SBA at any time may, at its discretion, undertake a loan review. For example, the SBA may review a loan if the loan documentation submitted to SBA by the lender, or any other information, indicates that the borrower may be ineligible for a PPL, or may be ineligible to receive the loan amount or loan forgiveness amount claimed. A borrower must retain PPP documentation in its files for six years after the date the loan is forgiven or repaid in full, and permit authorized representatives of the SBA, including representatives of its Office of Inspector General, to access such files upon request.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Orange County Sheriff Says He Won't Enforce Public Mask Order

The Orange County sheriff on Tuesday made it clear he will not enforce an order issued over the weekend requiring people to wear cloth face coverings in public in the County. Sheriff Don Barnes addressed the County Board of Supervisors, saying he would not ask his deputies to enforce the county health officer's Order. "We are not the mask police, nor do I intend to be the mask police," Barnes said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Congress Shifts Attention To Overhauling Small-Business Aid

Deadlocked over the next big coronavirus relief bill, Congress is shifting its attention to a more modest overhaul of small-business aid in hopes of helping employers reopen shops and survive the pandemic. Bipartisan legislation that would give small employers more time to take advantage of federal subsidies for payroll and other costs is expected to pass the House this week, as lawmakers return to Washington for an abbreviated two-day session. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump Plays Fast and Loose With Facts

When President Trump doesn't like the message, he shoots the messenger. So it was last week when he took personally a scientific study that should give pause to anyone thinking of following Trump's lead and ingesting the risky drug hydrochloroquine for the coronavirus. He branded the study's researchers, financed in part by his own administration, his "enemy." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Men tried to hawk millions of masks at inflated rates amid pandemic: feds

A California attorney and an Arizona businessman tried to broker the sale of millions of masks at a massive mark-up to exploit the shortage of personal protective equipment during the coronavirus pandemic, Brooklyn prosecutors alleged Tuesday. What's more, their supposed

supplier then tried to pass off empty packages as boxes of PPE for sale, the feds allege. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Can L.A.'S Scooter Craze Survive The Pandemic?

A year ago Los Angeles embarked upon the nation's largest experiment in micromobility. Hoping to ease traffic and reduce emissions, the City's Department of Transportation granted permits to Bird, Lime, Spin, and five other companies to operate 37,000 scooters on L.A.'s streets. Until early March, the program seemed to be working and was on track to log 10 million rides in the project's first year. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Google To Begin Reopening Offices July 6, Will Let Workers Expense \$1,000 For Equipment While Telecommuting

Google CEO Sundar Pichai told employees Tuesday that the search giant is targeting July 6 to reopen offices for workers who want to come back. The return will be gradual, starting at about 10% building capacity, he said. The company aims to ramp up to 30% capacity by September. For people who want to continue working from home, Pichai said the company will allow employees to expense up to \$1,000 for equipment and furniture, such as standing desks and ergonomic chairs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Disney World Plans Reopening Date For July 11

Walt Disney World has announced its plan to reopen the Orlando, Florida, theme parks in July after closing them March 15 due to the spread of the coronavirus. Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom would reopen July 11, followed by Epcot and Hollywood Studios on July 15 under Disney's plan. The parks will have COVID-19 social distancing and wellness measures when they reopen, including temperature screenings, wearing masks, keeping guests six feet apart while lining up for attractions and a guest reservation system to limit capacity. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Cal/OSHA Sees 30% Increase In Complaints About Workplace Safety Due To Pandemic

State workplace safety regulators have received about 30% more complaints against California employers at this time of the year compared to the same period last year, according to data obtained by The Chronicle through a public records request. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Santa Clara Health Officer Suggests California Is Reopening Too Soon

The local public health officer who led the nation's first regional shelter-in-place Order early in the Covid-19 pandemic sounded the alarm Tuesday on Gov. Gavin Newsom's swift reopening plans, which now allow haircuts and church services. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Democratic Unity Starts To Crack In Coronavirus Liability Reform Fight

A group of moderate Senate Democrats say they are open to considering liability protection for businesses in the next round of coronavirus relief legislation, a crack in Democratic unity that gives Republicans and the White House some leverage. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer (N.Y.) and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) have rejected Republican demands for

liability protection, but some rank-and-file Democrats say it could be appropriate in certain circumstances. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Fed Finds New Challenge For The Economy: Workers Who Don't Want To Come Back To Their Jobs

The Fed's Beige Book said economic activity "declined" across much of the country, "falling sharply" in most regions. Amid mass unemployment, workers were reluctant to go back to their jobs. They cited safety concerns, child care issues and the generous unemployment benefits the government has been providing. Business leaders "were pessimistic about the potential pace of recovery," the report said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

A 15-Minute Cap On Meetings, And Lunches Delivered To Your Desk: Perhaps A Return To The Office Isn't So Bad?

Working from home may have its fans, but employees returning to the office are wondering how it will all work. It turns out that getting people back to the office is going to be a whole lot harder than shipping them off home. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Questions About COVID-19 Test Accuracy Raised Across The Testing Spectrum

Since the pandemic started spreading across the United States in March, nearly 70 tests have received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. Many of these tests were developed at a breakneck pace in an effort to get tests out to the American people. But while no test is perfect, experts told NBC News that these particular tests — used to diagnose COVID-19 — may be missing up to 20 percent of positive cases. One key reason behind these so-called false negatives may be how the testing samples are collected. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Fauci: No Evidence Showing Hydroxychloroquine Is Effective In Treating Virus

Anthony Fauci on Wednesday said there's no evidence that shows the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine is effective at treating COVID-19. "Clearly the scientific data is really quite evident now about the lack of efficacy for it," Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease doctor, said during a CNN interview. Fauci said evidence also shows the likelihood that the drug can cause severe irregular heart rhythms. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Only Half Of Americans Say They Would Get A Covid-19 Vaccine, Ap-Norc Poll Shows

Only about half of Americans say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine if the scientists working furiously to create one succeed, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's surprisingly low considering the effort going into the global race for a vaccine against the coronavirus that has sparked a pandemic since first emerging from China late last year. But more people might eventually roll up their sleeves: The poll, released Wednesday, found 31% simply weren't sure if they'd get vaccinated. Another 1 in 5 said they'd refuse. To read the full story, click [here](#).

A Closer Look at Federal COVID Contractors Reveals Inexperience, Fraud Accusations and a Weapons Dealer Operating Out of Someone's House

A firm set up by a former telemarketer who once settled federal fraud charges for \$2.7 million. A vodka distributor accused in a pending lawsuit of overstating its projected sales. An aspiring weapons dealer operating out of a single-family home. These three privately held companies are part of the new medical supply chain, offered a total of almost \$74 million by the federal government to find and rapidly deliver vital protective equipment and COVID-19 testing supplies across the U.S. While there's no evidence that they obtained their deals through political connections, none of the three had to bid against competing firms. One has already lost its contract for lack of performance; it's unclear if the other two can fulfill their orders on time, or at all. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Tracking Federal Purchases to Fight the Pandemic

The federal government is spending billions of dollars to combat the coronavirus, and spending shows no sign of slowing down. Explore who the U.S. is buying from, what it's buying and how much it's paying. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trust Barriers Pose Challenge For Coronavirus Testing, Tracing Among Black And Latino Californians

Public health leaders try to tailor their response in California's communities of color, where the pandemic been devastating. As California and the rest of the nation grapple with the pandemic, one lesson has become painfully clear. While the virus can attack anyone at any time, some populations have been harder hit than others — and testing and contact tracing in these communities will likely take more effort, according to public health experts. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Nursing Home Deaths Near 1,700, Calls For More Testing Continue

New statewide data released Wednesday show nearly 1,700 staff and patients in nursing homes across California have died of the coronavirus, including almost 350 in a recent ten-day period. Overall, at least 1,693 people have died from cases that originated in nursing homes, including 342 between May 15 and May 25, according to the data, released by the state Department of Health Services. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Your COVID-19-Related Business Losses Might Be Covered by Insurance

Business interruption insurance is generally intended to cover losses from direct interruption to the insured's operation, such as fire or natural disaster. Coverage can include lost revenues, rent, or utilities. Contingent business interruption generally provides coverage for lost income related to third-party issues, such as a problem with a supplier, vendor, or major partner. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How Covid-19 Pushed Twitter To Fact-Check Trump's Tweets

It was the pandemic, Twitter says, that freed the company to attach fact-check warnings to a pair of Present Donald Trump's tweets this week. Critics have complained for years that Twitter lets Trump run wild on the platform. But the company had generally taken a hands-off approach to the president, partly because of a company policy that considers it in the public's interest to know what world leaders are thinking, and partly because Twitter judged many of

Trump's tweets to fall into a gray area not covered by its rules banning specific behaviors like abuse or posting hateful content. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Owners Work On Rent Issues: Tenants Seek Out Abatements And Deferrals

As the Covid-19 pandemic rages on, forcing some businesses to close and leaving others with financial challenges, many companies have sought some kind of rent relief.

In many cases, building owners and tenants are working out rent deferrals rather than rent abatements, or suspensions. These deferrals can take a few different forms, but generally tenants are given a few months where they do not have to pay rent before beginning to pay down the back rent over time. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Two Federal COVID-19 Privacy Bills: A Good Start And A Misstep

COVID-19, and containment efforts that rely on personal data, are shining a spotlight on a longstanding problem: our nation's lack of sufficient laws to protect data privacy. Two bills before Congress attempt to solve this problem as to COVID-19 data. One is a good start that needs improvements. The other is a misstep that EFF strongly opposes. To read the full story, click [here](#).

U.S. Businesses Hammered By Pandemic But See Some Green Shoots, Fed Says

U.S. businesses continued to be slammed by the effects of the novel coronavirus epidemic into the middle of May, a Federal Reserve report showed on Wednesday, and few expected a swift recovery despite some signs of hope. The sharp plunge in economic activity recounted in the U.S. central bank's latest temperature check of business activity across its 12 districts shed light on the depth of the economic pain generated by the virus, which has led to an unprecedented downturn and a U.S. death toll approaching 100,000. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How Private Jet Owners Got A Subsidy From Coronavirus Relief Funds

A California aviation management company to the elite is sharing the benefits of a taxpayer-financed loan with its private jet-owning clients after it won the loan through the federal Paycheck Protection Program, according to three clients and a copy of a letter announcing the plan. The company, Clay Lacy Aviation of Van Nuys, near Los Angeles, will be able to keep pilots and flight attendants employed with the money it received. But the company also decided to provide a benefit for clients who own the jets it manages, a rich set who weren't the target of federal coronavirus relief funds. To read the full story, click [here](#).

This Is the Biggest Mistake You're Making in Your Car, the CDC Says

Many of the questions you might have about protecting yourself from COVID-19 when you leave your home probably boil down to one place: your car. Should you open your car door with gloves? Should you put on your face mask before you get inside? And can you put your grocery bags directly in your trunk? There are lots of questions about car safety amid the pandemic. But if you're not doing this one simple thing, everything else is pretty much moot. In their guidelines for protecting yourself when driving or riding in a car, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises you to always do this one thing: crack the windows. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Note: While EKA monitors governmental announcements, guidelines and recommendations, our updates are prepared for informational purposes and are compiled from publicly available sources. Our updates are not legal or tax advice. We recommend that you consult with your legal counsel, H.R. advisor, or CPA to answer specific questions. All hyperlinks are live and will bring you to the information mentioned. If you are not interested in receiving future emails from us, then please reply with a "Remove" in the subject line and mention all the email addresses to be removed.