

## COVID-19 Update From EKA – June 1, 2020

### Stay At Home Order Day 74

Today is day 74 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 82 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

### Reopening

Hair salons and barbershops can reopen and in-person dining in restaurants can resume immediately with safeguards as Los Angeles County moves forward on the [Roadmap to Recovery](#). The State of California approved the County's request for a variance to state guidelines because the County has met the necessary public health thresholds to safely allow critical sectors of the economy and community to begin serving residents. Los Angeles County is now in the advanced stages of Phase 2 of the [State's Resilience Roadmap](#). This new phase of Los Angeles County's reopening better aligns the County with neighboring counties. If at any time, the County's rate of infection and other key metrics return to unsafe numbers, the Department of Public Health can limit or close reopened sectors. For the detailed protocols, click [here](#). Los Angeles County is under a Safer At Work And In The Community order and public and private gatherings of people outside of a single household unit are not permitted except for public protests and faith-based services, which are permitted to operate with limits on the number of participants. Everyone must continue to follow physical distancing and infection control protocols and wear a cloth face covering when in contact with others not in your household. Click [here](#) for a detailed list of what's open and closed in L.A. County. Click [here](#) to read the protocol for restaurants Opening for onsite dining. Key, specific guidelines for customers at hair salons, barbershops and in-person restaurant dining are below:

### Barbershops and hair salons

- Physical distancing measures will be in place.
- Employees and customers will be screened for symptoms, including cough and fever. Clients feeling unwell should reschedule their appointment.
- Everyone, including clients, must wear cloth face coverings while in the salon or barbershop and clients are encouraged to wear face coverings with earloops to ensure the face-covering does not interfere with the hair service.

- Magazines, coffee and other amenities will not be available.
- Clients are encouraged to use credit cards and contactless payment systems. If electronic or card payment is not possible, customers should come with an exact cash payment or check, if available.
- Stylists may only serve one client at a time.

#### **Personal grooming that is still closed, or prohibited, at this time**

- Nail salons
- Spa services, including massage, facials and waxing

#### **In-person dining in restaurants**

- Physical distancing measures will be in place.
- Employees and customers will be screened for symptoms, including cough and fever. Patrons feeling unwell should not eat at a restaurant.
- Outdoor seating and curbside pickup are prioritized.
- Reservations will be encouraged.
- Customers will be asked to wait for their table in their cars or outside the restaurant to prevent crowds from gathering.
- Diners must wear cloth face coverings when not eating.
- Bar areas will be closed.
- Occupancy capacity will be limited to 60% for the next three weeks.

#### **Economic Development**

The Los Angeles County Development Authority released a draft plan for promoting local and regional economic development, starting a 30-day period for public comment. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the County sets goals and identifies ways to leverage local strengths to overcome barriers. The stated objective is inclusive economic prosperity and a better quality of life for all Los Angeles County residents. Much of the plan was developed before or during the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, it includes a commitment to expand various recovery and relief programs to provide loans, grants and rent subsidies to small and struggling businesses. The County's Economic Resiliency Task Force is also directly addressing the impact of COVID-19. To view details about the plan, click [here](#).

## **LOS ANGELES**

#### **Relaxed Parking Restrictions Extended**

LADOT Parking Enforcement will be extending current relaxed parking enforcement regulations until July 6 to support Los Angeles residents as they stay safer at home. LADOT has also extended the deadline for payment on existing parking fines to July 6. While residents are encouraged to pay any existing fines if they are able, there will be no increase in fines for failure to pay until July 6. While certain parking regulations are relaxed, others remain enforced to ensure that emergency services and other city functions continue operation. To view all the relaxed restrictions, click [here](#).

### **Los Angeles Business Reopening Survey**

The Mayor's Office of Economic Development is working to assess better regional PPE needs of small businesses across Los Angeles as they begin to open up. They have put together a survey [linked here](#) for small businesses and community at large. The Mayor's Office is asking for business owners or representatives to respond

## **LONG BEACH**

### **Free Home Meal Delivery Service**

The City launched a free home meal delivery service for older adults, with meals supplied by Long Beach food providers and restaurants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Great Plates Delivered Program will deliver up to three free, nutritious meals daily to up to 600 qualified older adults. Food providers will be required to ensure proper food safety guidelines and delivery services and individuals will be subject to background checks. Meals will be transported safely to participants each day and can be easily stored or frozen for a few days and reheated.

### **City of Long Beach Safer at Home Order**

The City is amending the [Safer at Home Order](#) (Order) to allow dine-in options at restaurants and allow barbershops and beauty salons to open with modifications. The City has already made available to help businesses prepare, such as [Physical Distancing Protocols](#) and Print-Yourself Posters. The documents, including translated versions of the Protocols, may be found [here](#)

### **City to Provide 1,000 Free Face Shields to Long Beach Restaurants**

The City of Long Beach is announced a free program to supply up to 1,000 face shields to Long Beach-based restaurants. The Health Order that went into effect last night, May 29, requires servers in restaurants to wear both cloth face coverings and face shields, in order to maximize protection for both the employee and patrons. In recognition that restaurants may not have easy, immediate access to face shields this weekend, the City quickly developed this free program. Restaurant representatives can pick up face shields in the parking lot of Long Beach Fire Department Headquarters located at 3205 Lakewood Boulevard. Shields are limited to five per location and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Representatives will need to provide their name and the restaurant name. Shields will be available for pickup today, Saturday, May 30, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and tomorrow, Sunday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, read the [City's press release](#).

### **Long Beach Health Order**

The City of Long Beach issued a new health order that allows hair salons and barbers as well as restaurants for in-person dining to reopen provided these businesses follow guidelines designed to protect employees and patrons and control the spread of COVID-19. For more information, read the [City's press release](#)

### **Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness Information**

The Small Business Development Center is hosting a free workshop that will provide participants with a detailed understanding of how to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness. The workshop is taking place Friday, June 5, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. To learn more and register for this workshop, click [here](#)

## **VENTURA COUNTY**

### **Stay Well Order Extended**

A revised Ventura County public health order extends quarantine and social distancing requirements to June 14 but also eliminates special restrictions on people 70 and older and returns electric carts to golf courses. In a separate change, county officials also announced some private swimming pools can reopen with restrictions. The County's previous "Stay Well V.C." order was set to expire May 31. Ventura County Public Health Officer Dr. Robert Levin said he did not know how long stay-at-home restrictions that have been repeatedly extended would last. For additional details, click [here](#).

## **SACRAMENTO**

### **Governor's New Executive Orders**

Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order extending authorization for local governments to halt evictions for renters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through July 28. The Order also addresses a variety of issues in response to the pandemic, by extending the waiver permitting the Department of Motor Vehicles to allow for mail-in renewals of driver's licenses and identification cards, and waiving certain programmatic and administrative requirements that restrict childcare and afterschool programs from serving children of essential infrastructure workers. The Order allows individuals enrolled in teacher preparation programs during the 2019-20 school year to obtain their preliminary credential without a teaching performance assessment if the individual was unable to complete that requirement due to a COVID-19 school closure. Under the Order, individuals otherwise eligible to obtain certain teaching or education specialist credentials or enroll in teacher preparation programs are permitted to do so without passing certain assessments, for which testing was suspended due to the statewide stay-at-home Order.

The Order includes provisions requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to waive certain regulations governing administration of Emergency Services Grant funding received under the CARES Act, develop alternative streamlined procedures, and implement reasonable accommodations for HCD-funded projects that have been negatively affected by the pandemic, to help ensure project feasibility. The Order also suspends statutory set-asides for economic development and housing for Community Development Block Grant program funding received under the CARES Act. The text of the Governor's Executive Order can be found [here](#) and a copy can be found [here](#).

### **ABC Relief Extension**

ABC Director Jacob Appelsmith has announced a 30-day extension on annual license renewal fees and late renewal penalty fees. The announcement encompasses ABC licensees whose annual renewal payment is due June 1st. For additional details, click [here](#).

## **RETURNING TO WORK**

### **Resource Guide**

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has put together a COVID-19 Response and Resource Guide. To view the various documents, click [here](#).

### **CDC Updated Recommendations**

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [updated reopening recommendations](#) on its that could lead to changes to modern office life. The guidelines include wearing face coverings at all times, temperature and symptom checks for employees upon arrival and separating workspaces by 6 feet inside the office. If desk separation isn't possible, the CDC recommends installing plastic shields around workspaces. The recommendations also extend to common areas such as break rooms and cafeterias. The CDC urges employers to block off these shared spaces and replace communal office perks like coffee makers and snack bins.

"Replace high-touch communal items, such as coffee pots, water coolers, and bulk snacks, with alternatives such as prepackaged, single-serving items," the guidelines say. Some recommendations would likely be difficult to put into practice, such as limit use and occupancy of elevators to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. The CDC's office reopening guidelines also extend to the ways people commute. The agency encourages people to drive to work alone, instead of taking mass transportation in order to avoid potential exposure to the virus.

## **NATIONAL**

### **New Guidance on Face Masks, Respirators, and Face Shields**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued new and revised [Guidance](#) on its enforcement policy for face masks, surgical masks, respirators, and face shields during the COVID-19 emergency in response to concerns regarding certain respirators and to separately address decontamination methods. The latest Guidance supersedes FDA's April 2020 guidance. The FDA's position relating to face masks, surgical masks, and face shields is mostly unchanged. There are two key changes:

- **CDC Alternatives to FDA/NIOSH N95 Respirators**

The FDA no longer recommends using a respirator unless it is FDA-approved, NIOSH-approved or FDA authorized pursuant to an FDA emergency use authorization. Under

the April 2020 guidance, FDA permitted distribution and use of certain non-FDA approved or NIOSH-approved N95 respirators that CDC identified as alternatives to such respirators. The CDC-identified alternatives were approved for use in other countries and may have met standards similar to those imposed by NIOSH. FDA did not require a 510(k) premarket submission for such CDC-alternative respirators. Based on "concerns regarding the performance of certain respirators based on [testing conducted by the CDC](#)," FDA is discontinuing this non-enforcement policy. Going forward, FDA will require compliance with standard FDA rules and regulations for respirators that are not FDA-approved, authorized under a EUA, or NIOSH-approved. FDA notes, however, that the previously permitted respirators could still be used as a face mask (with relabeling) if they comply with [FDA's EUA](#) for face masks.

- **Assisting with Decontamination EUAs**

The second major change in the May 2020 guidance is the removal of language relating to decontamination methods for otherwise disposable face masks and filtering facepiece respirators. In the April 2020 guidance, FDA requested that manufacturers of decontamination products and methods contact the agency to start the EUA process. FDA also asked potential manufacturers to provide certain information relating to the proposed product or method. The new Guidance eliminates this discussion in light of FDA's new guidance document focusing on [decontamination EUA requests](#), also issued this week.

### **House passes New PPP Bill**

Thousands of restaurants, nail salons and other small businesses unable to take full advantage of the financial lifeline provided through the federal Paycheck Protection Program would get some needed flexibility [under a bipartisan bill](#) the House overwhelmingly passed last week. The bill, now headed to the Senate, loosens some key rules regarding loan repayment and spending restrictions of [the PPP](#). The \$660 billion program, enacted as part of Congress' response to the coronavirus crisis, provides businesses employing up to 500 workers forgivable loans of as much as \$10 million. But many businesses said the program's structure is too rigid to accommodate different types of small businesses, especially restaurants whose rent-heavy expenses do not fit well in a program that prioritizes rehiring of employees. Republicans who control the Senate could take up the bill this week. They have shown an openness to addressing some changes to PPP. Florida GOP Sen. Marco Rubio, who chairs the Senate Small Business Committee, has said he expects most of those proposed changes from the House to be acceptable to the Senate. One possible disagreement could emerge over the House provision extending the loan amount to 24 weeks; Senators have discussed a short period, such as 16 weeks. The new changes would:

- Lower to 60% from 75% the minimum portion of the PPP loan that must be spent on payroll. The rest must be spent on rent, utilities and other business-related expenses.
- Extend from eight to 24 weeks the amount of time the loan can cover.
- Extend from two to five years the time new PPP loans must be paid back if the amount provided doesn't convert into a grant.

## **Repaying PPP Loans**

Believe it or not, it has already been 8 weeks since the first of the CARES Act Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans were made, which means they are forgivable if they meet the 75% staff expenditure guidelines provided by the SBA and the Treasury Department. The remaining 25% of the funding can be spent on rent, utilities, and mortgage interest, but may not be used for mortgage principal or pre-payments. If any of the funding is spent on non-qualifying expenses, the money must be paid back within two years at an annual rate of 1%.

While the PPP lending initiative has helped thousands of small business owners all across the country, many have expressed uncertainty about how the forgiveness process works. As a reminder, to have their loans forgiven, small business owners must complete an [11-page application](#), either by hand or through an online platform their lender provides. Small business borrowers must submit the forms to the bank or other [SBA-approved lender](#) that gave them their loan no sooner than 8 weeks after they received the money.

The borrower must then submit a Forgiveness Amount Calculation along with the application. The small business owner must enter total eligible payroll costs paid during the Covered Period. Additionally, he or she must enter the amount of eligible mortgage or rent payments made during the Covered Period, specifically any business mortgage interest (not to include principal), and/or the amount of business rent payments for real or personal property during the Covered Period. The amount of utility payments made during the Covered Period must also be submitted. Borrowers must certify that the dollar amount for which forgiveness is requested was indeed used to pay costs that are eligible for forgiveness (payroll costs to retain employees; business mortgage interest payments; business rent or lease payments; or business utility payments). Businesses must report any decreases in the number of full-time equivalent employees and salary/hourly wage reductions that exceeded 25% of an employee's normal wages. Both conditions will reduce the amount of loan forgiveness the borrower is eligible to receive. Borrowers also have to abide by the PPP's unique salary capping formulas for highly compensated employees making more than \$100,000 annually. The request cannot exceed eight weeks' worth of 2019 compensation for any owner-employee or self-employed individual/partner (capped at \$15,385 per individual). Since the forgiveness application is a government form, a substantial amount of supporting documentation must be provided.

## **LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **OSHA Issues Updated Interim Enforcement Response Plan**

Federal OSHA has faced recent lawsuits from traditional labor relating its regulatory response to the pandemic, including its decision not to issue new regulations to address COVID-19. OSHA issued a [new enforcement guidance](#) acknowledging that many non-critical businesses have begun to reopen in areas of lower community spread, and then numerous other businesses will be reopening in coming weeks. According to OSHA, it will "continue to prioritize COVID-19 inspections, and will utilize all enforcement tools as OSHA has historically done." In the areas of lower risk, OSHA will return to doing more onsite inspections, which have largely been limited to fatality inspections during the pandemic. Enforcement against employers will be largely through the General Duty Clause. The ERP provides a sample citation ([Attachment 4](#)) focused

on healthcare employment and precautions during the treatment of COVID-19 patients. Attached to the Updated Interim Enforcement Response Plan are specific enforcement procedures ([Attachment 1](#)), a sample employer letter for COVID-19 activities ([Attachment 2](#)); a sample hazard alert letter ([Attachment 3](#)); and additional references, including OSHA's prior COVID-19-related enforcement memoranda ([Attachment 5](#)).

### **Caymus Vineyards**

Why can wineries reopen for wine-enhanced meals but not wine tastings? That question is the basis of a federal lawsuit filed by Caymus Vineyards against California, in which the Napa County winery accuses the Governor and the state's health officer, Sonia Y. Angell, of applying a double standard to businesses during the COVID-19 Phase 2 reopening period. In the filing, Caymus has vowed to follow all health and safety protocols as required under the reopening regulations, and the Napa County health officer, Dr. Karen Relucio, attested in May 18 documentation submitted to the state that the County's businesses have "met the readiness criteria." The winery further argues that adding food service — particularly from an outside vendor — would actually increase the public health risk. To read a copy of the lawsuit, click [here](#). To read a copy of the winery press release, click [here](#).

### **Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to California's COVID-19 Restrictions on Religious Services**

In 5-4 split, the U.S. Supreme Court [upheld](#) California's limits on attendance at houses of worship during the pandemic, rejecting a First Amendment challenge by a San Diego County church. Chief Justice John Roberts, joining the more liberal bloc of the high court, wrote that the temporary attendance caps "appear consistent" with the free exercise clause of the First Amendment. "Similar or more severe restrictions apply to comparable secular gatherings, including lectures, concerts, movie showings, spectator sports, and theatrical performances, where large groups of people gather in close proximity for extended periods of time." Roberts wrote.

State officials have broad latitude to protect the public's health and safety, and that authority generally "should not be subjected to second-guessing" by unelected federal judges, Roberts continued.

## **QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED**

### **Can you help us understand the COVID-19 and Workers' Compensation liability for employers?**

The Governor [issued an executive order](#) that presumes an employee who works onsite and then tests positive with COVID-19 was most likely infected at work and is entitled to workers' compensation benefits. This is a very surprising and concerning executive order. The Order basically states that an employee will be presumed to have contracted the virus at work if all of the below are met:

1. The employee tested positive for or was diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days after the employee worked at his or her place of employment at the employer's direction.

2. The date the employee worked is between March 19, 2020 and July 5, 2020.
3. The workplace was not in the employee's home or residence.
4. If the employee was diagnosed with COVID-19, but not tested, the diagnosis was given by a California licensed physician licensed and is confirmed by further testing within 30 days of the diagnosis.

Employees claiming COVID-19-related illnesses 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. Although this executive Order has a July expiration date, there are several bills pending in the California State Legislature to extend this presumption.

**I recall reading in an update that FEMA created a starter kit to help businesses reopen. Can you republish the information?**

FEMA released an [Exercise Starter Kit](#) to help companies discuss and work through how to safely reopen after weeks of coronavirus-related closures. FEMA's Exercise Starter Kit has sample documents your organization can use to conduct your own planning workshop to navigate the complexities of returning to full operations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The kit includes a sample facilitator guide and conduct slides that are designed to be adapted and customized for your own needs. Suggested discussion questions for the workshop build upon reconstitution planning principles and relevant White House guidance for employers included in the [Guidelines for Opening Up America Again](#). EKA encourages you to browse through this free kit to help you think through all of the different considerations — for both your employees and your customers — before or even if you have already opened for business.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **Elon Musk Vs Bay Area Officials These Emails Show What Happened Behind The Scenes In The Tesla Factory Fight**

Kimberly Petersen, chief of police for Fremont, Calif., suspected Elon Musk would not stand by quietly as public health officials idled his Tesla factory. "We know where this will go," Petersen wrote in a March 21 email to other local officials, seen by MarketWatch, that detailed her "ongoing conflict with a large and prominent auto manufacturer" in the City, more than a month before Musk decried the COVID-19 closures as "fascist." The email is part of a batch of communications that detail what took place as Musk took public his fight with Bay Area officials and threatened first to reopen the factory without permission and then to move California's only large auto manufacturer out of the state entirely. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Los Angeles County Task Force Will Present Guidelines On Tuesday For 'Immediate Reopening' Of Film And T.V. Production, Theme Parks**

On Friday, Chair of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors Katheryn Barger announced progress in the Economic Resiliency Task Force's work on restarting film and T.V. production. She said the task force had "gone above and beyond" to try and get key sectors of the County's economy restarted, singling out NBCUniversal CEO Jeff Shell and Casey Wasserman for their contributions. Barger said that, on Tuesday of next week, the task force will release guidelines for immediately reopening sectors such as film and digital media and theme parks. Earlier Friday, the same task force's Sports and Large Venue Entertainment sector, led by Wasserman, sent its plans for the phased reopening of sports and concert venues in the County, laying out guidelines for pro sports and concerts to possibly return as early as July. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **House Passes Bill To Give Small Businesses More Flexibility In Spending PPP Loans**

The House of Representatives on Thursday passed new legislation that would make it easier for businesses to have their Paycheck Protection Program loans forgiven by relaxing restrictions on how the loan money can be used and extending the period that businesses have to use the funds. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Gov. Newsom's Speedy Reopening Plan Leaves Bay Area Counties Perplexed As Coronavirus Cases Grow**

Faced with a ruined economy and mounting political pressure, Gov. Gavin Newsom has opted for a speedy reopening of the state after two months of sheltering in place. The decision has not been universally embraced, leading to a patchwork of policies among counties as life resumes in the shadow of the coronavirus. Most of the Bay Area is refusing to go along with the Governor's accelerated pace, and a handful of local health officers have criticized his plan as overly risky, especially with COVID-19 case counts still climbing across the state. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Colleges Ask For Liability Protections**

Colleges and universities are making their own push for liability protections as much of corporate America lobbies Congress to make it harder for workers and customers sickened by coronavirus to sue businesses over it. The American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities and dozens of other higher education groups sent a letter to lawmakers on Thursday expressing "fears of huge transactional costs associated with defending against COVID-19 spread lawsuits" without more legal protections. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Gavin Newsom Wants To Close Prisons As Coronavirus Shreds California's Budget**

The coronavirus pandemic and state budget woes are pushing California toward its first prison closures in nearly two decades. In a revised budget plan unveiled this month, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed shuttering two state prisons within the next three years, ultimately saving the state about \$400 million annually. That's a much faster timeline than the Governor envisioned just a few months ago. His original budget in January proposed closing one prison in the next five years, if the inmate population continued its decade-long decline. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **The Pandemic's Great Divide: Twelve Hours In An L.A. Restaurant**

Restaurants are a microcosm of American inequality. The pandemic has deepened the economic divisions between owners, managers and minimum-wage employees. But no one is unscathed. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **"We Are Walking Into The Unknown"**

As most California counties accelerate their reopening pace, some of the first to do so are now hitting the brakes or backpedaling as coronavirus cases mount — a potentially cautionary tale for the rest of the state as restrictions loosen. Sonoma County said Wednesday it would not reopen in-store retail, hair salons or places of worship, even though the state had given it permission to do so. The County's coronavirus cases doubled from 20 to 41 per 100,000 residents over the past 14 days. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Legal Sports Betting Pitched As California Budget Salve**

Two California lawmakers on Thursday pitched legalized sports betting as a way to help prop up a state budget devastated by the economic shutdown designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus, though their revised proposal immediately reignited a turf battle between powerful gambling interests. State Sen. Bill Dodd of Napa and Assemblyman Adam Gray of Merced are lobbying to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would allow horse racetracks and the Las Vegas-style casinos run by American Indian tribes to also offer sports wagering, both at their locations and through mobile devices. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Google Reportedly Retracts Offers To Thousands Of Contract And Temp Workers**

Google has rescinded offers to more than 2,000 people who had agreed to work for the search giant as temporary or contract employees, according to a report Friday from The New York Times. Google reportedly told contracting agencies about its decision in an email last week that said it wouldn't "be moving forward to onboard" new starters. Last month, Google CEO Sundar Pichai told employees that it will slow down its pace of hiring for the remainder of 2020, as the company deals with the economic downturn spurred by the coronavirus pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Is There A Rent Freeze In June? Can Landlords Evict Tenants? Late Fees, Laws And What We Know**

What happens if you can't make rent in June? What about July or August for that matter -- will you get evicted? What kinds of resources and protections are available to help you stay in your home as you weather the financial crisis? To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Twitter Fact-Checks China Official's Post Claiming Coronavirus Originated In U.S.**

After fact-checking U.S. President Donald Trump, Twitter flags a tweet by a spokesman from China's Foreign Ministry claiming the U.S. military brought the coronavirus to Wuhan, China. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **'Zero Bail Fail': Calif. Suspect Jailed 4 Times For Attacking Officers, Robbery, Released Each Time**

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is publicizing the latest arrest of a man who has been arrested multiple times and released on zero bail, only to be arrested again. In social media posts on Facebook and Twitter, the sheriff's office posted four booking photo images of Aubrey Crowder with the hashtag #ZeroBailFail. The posts said Crowder has been arrested four times since March 27 for alleged robbery, assaults on officers, trespassing, drug and court Order violations. Crowder was released again after trying to assault deputies, the sheriff's office said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Nearly 300 Federal Suits Stem From Pandemic; 101 'Business Interruption' Cases Filed; What's Next?**

Nearly 300 federal lawsuits filed in the months of March and April stem from the COVID-19 pandemic, a number that is likely to continue to expand. Lex Machina found 395 new lawsuits using COVID-19 related terms over the two-month period. Among those suits, 287 stemmed from the COVID-19 crisis, the company reported. Contracts, insurance and employment were the practice areas with the largest number of cases stemming from the pandemic. The results were based on a keyword search for the terms "COVID" or "coronavirus" or "pandemic" in the litigation areas monitored by Lex Machina. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Travel Advisors Face Increasing Uncertainty and Complexity with Travel Insurance**

During the last three months, as the COVID-19 pandemic has swept across the globe, travelers and their travel advisors have had to cancel, rebook, and often rebook again, travel plans that five months ago felt like rock solid vacation dreams. Now, as destinations and travel suppliers announce plans to slowly "reopen," consumers and their travel advisors are examining their options, and how their travel protection plans can best serve them. Travel insurance comparison website Squaremouth.com reported a 90% decrease in travel insurance policies purchased for summer trips and stated that "the coronavirus pandemic is the top concern for travelers planning summer trips." To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Coronavirus Pandemic Prompts Wave Of 'Business Interruption' Lawsuits By Restaurants**

Erik Baylis loves the bar and restaurant life. He started as an hourly employee working in a bar and now owns Big Onion Hospitality, a Chicago company with seven local restaurants and bars and one in Nashville. It's thrilling to create your own business, Baylis says, and it's satisfying to see customers walk away happy, whether they've eaten a burger or celebrated at a wedding reception. "We do it because we love people," he says. "All the smiles you've created. That's why we do it." To ensure he'd keep making that magic happen no matter what, Baylis invested in substantial insurance coverage for his businesses, including purchasing "business interruption" coverage in case something beyond his control forced a shutdown of his operations. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Workers Without College Degrees Face Unprecedented Job Losses**

The COVID-19 recession has already led to much larger declines in employment than occurred throughout the Great Recession, and jobs have been lost much more quickly. As with past

recessions, less-educated workers are bearing the brunt of these declines. Nationwide, almost 20 million workers lost jobs between February and April this year (among adults age 25 and over). Employment declined by about 7 million over a much longer period during the Great Recession. So far, less-educated workers—those without bachelor's or graduate degrees—have accounted for 80% of all employment declines in the pandemic recession. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Overview of Recent Updates for Employers in the Commercial Trucking Industry**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the central role local and long-haul trucking companies and drivers play in the overall U.S. economy and specifically our public health infrastructure. Now, as states and businesses around the country gradually reopen and truck deliveries begin to ramp up, employers in the commercial trucking industry should be aware of recent changes to Hours of Service regulations as well as COVID-19-related Guidance on keeping employees and the general public healthy and safe. By updating their policies and procedures and enacting responsible safety measures, motor carriers will be in the best position to weather the storm of this pandemic and avoid the risks associated with employment litigation and compliance pitfalls. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Trump Announces Unprecedented Action Against China**

President Donald Trump launched a blistering attack on Beijing Friday, naming misdeeds that range from espionage to the violation of Hong Kong's freedoms, and announced a slew of retaliatory measures that will plunge US-China relations deeper into crisis. "They've ripped off the United States like no one has ever done before," Trump said of China, as he decried the way Beijing has "raided our factories" and "gutted" American industry, casting Beijing as a central foil he will run against in the remaining months of his re-election campaign. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **How Will Hertz's Bankruptcy Affect The Car Industry?**

Like a lot of the companies that have gone bankrupt during the coronavirus crisis, rental-car giant Hertz had preexisting conditions. The company had gone through four CEOs since 2014, made questionable decisions about which cars to buy, and taken on too much debt. The interaction of a collapse in rental-car demand and a fragile debt structure is what finally did the company in. Hertz financed itself mostly by taking out loans secured by its fleet of cars, and if the cars fell in value, Hertz's lenders had the right to demand an immediate payment reducing the amount of the loan, so it was still comfortably covered by the cars' now-lower value. Because of the crisis, used-car values and sales volumes fell right as Hertz lost most of its customers, and Hertz had no good way to come up with the payment its lenders were entitled to. Thus, Hertz filed for bankruptcy. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Schools Issue Warning: Coronavirus Testing And Tracing Are Needed Before Campuses Reopen**

Raising the possibility that campuses won't reopen in the fall, leaders of the state's two largest K-12 school systems on Friday demanded that public health authorities, not school districts, take the lead on setting up coronavirus testing and contact tracing of students and employees.

Los Angeles Supt. Austin Beutner and San Diego Supt. Cindy Marten — whose combined districts represent 915,000 children and workers — issued a public warning: Either their school districts get more funding and assertive health department intervention or they can't consider reopening campuses in the fall. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Newsom's Executive Order On Workers' Comp For COVID Does More Harm Than Good**

California is projecting the largest budget deficit in state history. This is due partially to increased expenses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also from substantially reduced economic activity. As reported by Bloomberg, personal income-tax collections will drop by 26%, sales and use taxes by 27% and corporation taxes by 23%. Meanwhile, unemployment is expected to reach 18 percent this year. In April, it was estimated that the state lost about a third of its economic output, according to a U.S. News & World Report. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **U.S. Department Of Justice Joins Businesses Fighting Whitmer Orders**

The U.S. Justice Department put the weight of its office Friday behind a business lawsuit seeking to overturn some of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders related to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Governor said the development was a White House move that "seeks to undermine the health and safety of Michigan residents." The Justice Department filed a "statement of interest" in a lawsuit filed April 28 in federal court in Grand Rapids by seven small businesses who allege Whitmer's orders are unconstitutionally arbitrary and discriminatory, allowing some businesses to operate while other businesses in similar situations are forced to close. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Massive Protests Raise Fears Of New Virus Outbreaks**

The mayor of Atlanta, one of dozens of U.S. cities hit by massive protests in recent days, has a message for demonstrators: "If you were out protesting last night, you probably need to go get a COVID test this week." As more beaches, churches, schools and businesses reopened worldwide, civil unrest in the United States over repeated racial injustice is raising fears of new coronavirus outbreaks in a country that has seen more infections and deaths than anywhere else in the world. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Protesting In A Pandemic: For Many In L.A., The Cause Outweighs The Health Risks**

The collision of long-standing anger over such killings and the newer threat of the COVID-19 pandemic have become a joint crisis in Los Angeles and across the country. The coronavirus has been especially devastating to black communities, with black people making up a [disproportionate share](#) of COVID-19 deaths. Now people outraged by deaths at the hands of police have been faced with a dilemma: How to weigh the risks of protesting during the pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Conservatives Turn Orders To San Francisco Lawyer To Fight Coronavirus**

Conservatives from Washington to the West Coast have anointed attorney Harmeet Dhillon as their go-to legal warrior in the culture wars of the Covid-19 pandemic. And they don't even

seem to mind that she's from San Francisco. During the pandemic, Dhillon has emerged as a conservative thorn in the side of Gov. Gavin Newsom, suing on behalf of pastors, gun shop owners, protesters, cosmetologists and beachgoers. And now on behalf of her fellow Republicans, who last weekend challenged the Democratic Governor for switching California to a mail-ballot election in November. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Cities Push Back As Airlines Seek Dozens Of New Service Cuts. Is Your Airport On The List?**

As cities reopen and air travel gradually picks up, the government is on the cusp of giving final approval to a lengthy list of cities that could lose some of their airline service. Airports on the list that could temporarily lose an airline or certain flights range from those in large cities like Albuquerque, New Mexico, and New Orleans, to towns like Platinum, Alaska, and Ogdensburg, New York. Most, however, fall somewhere in the middle when it comes to size, whether its Columbus, Ohio, or Sacramento, California. 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 should not be considered health, medical, legal or tax advice. Always consult a qualified professional regarding any specific questions you may have. 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.