

COVID-19 Update From EKA – June 10, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 83

Today is day 83 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 91 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.

FedEx Grants

FedEx is giving \$1 million in grants to small businesses that have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 crisis in the U.S. Each grant recipient will receive a check for \$5,000. Additionally, each recipient will receive a \$500 credit at FedEx Office to use toward printing services. There will be a total of 200 grants awarded. Applications are being accepted through June 12, 2020. To learn more and to apply for this grant, click [here](#).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Movie Theaters

Los Angeles County could decide to reopen movie theaters as early as Friday. Each local health officer has the authority to decide whether to move forward with relaxing restrictions on reopening theaters. While the state provides guidance on how businesses can reopen, counties decide when. The new rules would limit the number of guests in a movie theater to 25 percent of theater capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower. Also, theaters would need to implement a reservation system to limit the number of attendees entering the theater at a time when possible. To keep movie fans six feet away from others, theaters are to close or otherwise remove seats from use, which may require seating every other row or blocking off seats in a checkerboard style, in which no one is sitting directly behind other patrons. The rules would ask patrons to wear face coverings when not eating or drinking. Staff would need to be available to help usher people before the show begins and at its conclusion to reduce crowding when entering or exiting. The guidelines also suggest using disposable or washable seat covers in theaters. Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura are among 51 California counties that will be given the option by the state to allow movie theaters to reopen.

Public Health Guidelines For Protests

As law enforcement agencies across L.A. County have responded to recent protests, they have not always used appropriate and consistent public health practices to prevent the spread of

COVID-19. Yesterday, the Board of Supervisors voted on a motion that directs the Department of Public Health to develop health guidelines for public protests immediately. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, the author of the Motion, said, "Peaceful assembly is a cherished American right and we need policies and procedures that protect both protesters and law enforcement personnel. During the protests in Los Angeles over the last few days, not all law enforcement personnel were equipped with personal protective equipment. Protestors were detained without face masks and were not always able to maintain physical distancing. We must develop health policies and practices that reduce the risk of infection when people are exercising their First Amendment rights." The Motion directs the Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Sheriff, and all other local law enforcement agencies in the County, to immediately issue guidance that includes health and safety measures for issuing citations, transporting protestors, and detaining demonstrators; recommendations regarding the use of cloth and/or other face masks; identify circumstances under which law enforcement should implement and allow for physical distancing; and advice on measures, such as the use of tear gas, that could negatively impact the spread of COVID-19. The County Department of Public Health was also directed to consult with the Departments of Public Health in Pasadena and Long Beach to ensure consistent guidelines.

Businesses Reopening

As restaurants welcome diners back and other retail businesses open their doors to customers under Los Angeles County's revised public health guidelines, the Board of Supervisors is considering ways to support those businesses. Supervisors Hilda Solis and Janice Hahn co-authored a motion calling for grants of up to \$3,000 for companies with less than 100 employees to help them pay for masks, hand sanitizer, and other safety-related supplies. The supervisors asked that \$60 million be identified, including through outreach to private partners, to help businesses succeed under new regulations, which would allow the County to offer grants to as many as 20,000 business owners. However, the Motion also notes that an estimated 434,645 businesses in Los Angeles employ less than 100 workers, highlighting the fact that grants would be available to less than 5% of the total. The Motion would give priority to businesses in historically underserved communities and businesses impacted by recent protests. To view the Motion, click [here](#). Supervisor Hahn and Barger submitted a separate motion seeking ways to help restaurants expand space for outdoor dining, which many think will be a first step to convincing many diners to return. They acknowledged that it might be late for some owners. The Hahn/Barger motion aims to set guidelines for using sidewalks, alleys and parking areas for dining, as well as expediting permits. To view the Motion, click [here](#).

Financial Worries

Los Angeles County has financial concerns, and the CEO is working on revising the County's \$35.5 billion budget for the fiscal year 2020-21. The County expects revenues to drop by roughly \$1.5 billion over the next 12 months. Federal coronavirus relief dollars could offset some of that, but a slower economic reset could also cause those numbers to jump. County departments have submitted proposals to cut up to 20% in annual spending, and the County has already instituted a hiring freeze and suspended matching contributions for many non-union employees' 401(k) plans. The CEO is considering negotiating new contracts with labor

unions, drawing down reserves and trust funds, and specifically cutting programs that rely on state sales tax dollars as other ways to make ends meet.

Letters to Vendors

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas recommended that the County send letters to its contractors asking them to voluntarily cut rates through next June, a move he said generated \$5.9 million in cost savings during the recession in 2009. In his Motion, Ridley-Thomas anticipated the County would sustain a \$2 billion revenue loss in the year ahead and implied that ``rainy day'' funds built up over the years might be exhausted. The Motion doesn't include a suggested level of cuts, but Supervisor Hahn indicated that the County would ask for reductions of up to 15%. Supervisor Hahn stated, "We will see who wants to be our partner during our time of need... We'll be making a note of it."

LOS ANGELES

June 10 Council Meeting Agenda Items		
4	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the transfer of the Los Angeles County Summer Youth Employment Grant Funding to Managed Career Solutions, Inc. (MCS), for payroll services.	20-0324
5	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the Requests for Interest (RFI) regarding Workforce Development Services for the second increment of the 2018-20 California Megafires Dislocated Worker Grant from the State of California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) fund.	16-0475-S6
13	HEALTH, EDUCATION, NEIGHBORHOODS, PARKS, ARTS, AND RIVER (HENPAR) COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a six-month contract extension with FilmL.A., Inc. (FilmL.A.) to coordinate the film permit process in a centralized manner.	07-1586-S2
16	COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER relative to the Year-End (Fourth) Financial Status Report for Fiscal Year 2019-20.	19-0600-S180
17	AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COMPREHENSIVE JOB CREATION PLAN REPORT relative to the Compete4LA's Proposed Regional Procurement Portal. AUTHORIZE the Information Technology Agency (ITA) to procure software licensing with Salesforce through the City's Insight contract to re-platform the City's solicitation and regional procurement portal as described the ITA, Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation (MOBI), and the Bureau of Contract Administration (BCA) report dated May 27, 2020, replacing what is currently known as the Los Angeles Business Assistance Virtual Network (LABAVN). INSTRUCT the CAO, with the assistance of the ITA and the Chief	19-0078

<p>Procurement Officer (CPO) to conduct a fee study to obtain cost recovery, full or in part, for the re-platforming, continuous development, and annual maintenance costs of the City's solicitation and regional procurement portal as described in the ITA-MOBI-BCA report replacing LABAVN.</p> <p>INSTRUCT the CAO and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to work with the CPO to identify funding for a contract with an external organization to do business outreach and engagement.</p>	
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ORANGE COUNTY

OC Chief Health Officer Resigns

Orange County's chief health officer, Dr. Nichole Quick, resigned after drawing criticism from residents for her Order last month to require face coverings as the County allowed some businesses to reopen. Dr. Quick was receiving heightened security due to threats stemming from her the mask order. Protesters brought a poster with Quick's photo on it with a Hitler mustache on her face and swastikas to a Board of Supervisors meeting. Supervisor Doug Chaffee said Quick resigned apparently because it was too much for her. She has three young children and she's been severely criticized by people who came out demanding her resignation, demonstrations in front of her home. The plan is to have the Health Care Agency Director Dr. Clayton Chau also serve as the chief health officer as well so the County can issue health orders required by the state to reopen businesses and activities such as bars, day camps, community pools, hotels and youth sports.

Nail Salon Owners Organize Protest

Nail salon owners and workers staged a protest in Westminster angered that the state continues to bar them from reopening their businesses during the pandemic. They urged state officials to include them in plans to reopen other businesses this week that have been shut down since March due to health orders protecting against the spread of coronavirus. Governor Newsom commented last month that the origin of community transmission of the virus in California began at a nail salon, but state public health officials said last week they could not prove that. Some nail salon owners felt the Governor's comment would fan flames of bigotry against Asians because the coronavirus originated in China and because most of the businesses are owned by people of Vietnamese descent

SACRAMENTO

Governor Newsom New Executive Order

Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order that will help increase the availability of over-the-counter drugs, such as hand sanitizer and medical devices, such as respirators, ventilators and masks, which are in demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Order allows the temporary

manufacture of over-the-counter drugs and medical devices by firms not currently licensed by the California Department of Public Health. The firms must apply for temporary registration and self-certify they are compliant with guidance by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Order defers renewal fees to address COVID-19 related economic hardship for manufacturers of drugs, medical devices, food and cosmetics that currently have California Department of Public Health licenses, registrations, and certificates.

The Order also addresses a variety of other issues in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by extending several waivers to allow for flexibility in the emergency placement of foster youth and ensure that foster youth have access to critical programs and technology by verifying foster care status for foster youth and wards of the juvenile court whose cases are pending; permit In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program caseworkers to continue their work caring for older adults and individuals with disabilities; and allow the California Department of Justice to develop procedures to perform name-based background checks to ensure there is no delay processing employment for critical sectors, such as health care services and care and support for vulnerable populations, including developmentally disabled persons. The Order extends statutory deadlines related to the timeframe of when a petition for reconsideration is deemed to have been denied by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, and for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board to act on decisions by Workers' Compensation judges. The text of the Governor's Executive Order can be found [here](#) and a copy can be found [here](#).

Alcohol License Extension for June Renewals

The ABC said that certain ABC licensees paying annual renewal fees have been given a 30-day grace period. The director's announcement comes after Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order (see above) that will provide tax, regulatory, and licensing extensions for businesses. ABC's decision encompasses ABC licensees whose annual renewal payment is due by June 30. For additional information, click [here](#).

Stage 3 opening set for June 12

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has released new industry guidance documents providing information for businesses to reopen following the statewide Stay-at-Home Order safely. The newly released guidance documents apply to schools, day camps, casinos, bars, gyms, professional sports, and more. CDPH released updated guidance documents for campgrounds, hotels, fitness facilities, family entertainment centers, and others. Click [here](#) to view the full list of updated guidance documents. The intent of this new guidance is for industries to review and thoughtfully prepare to implement safety modifications for reopening. The guidance documents released today are not effective until June 12. Click [here](#) to access the full list of permitted statewide industry guidance.

Certification of Lifesaving N95 Masks

With the certification now in hand, as outlined in the contract, BYD will produce and ship 150 million N95 masks to the state for distribution to health care workers and those identified by health officials as requiring respirator-style masks. The first shipment of N95 masks produced as part of this contract are expected to arrive in the coming days. The agreement will ensure that

the state has a sufficient supply of masks going forward should there be a need for them in the future. To read the Governor's press release, click [here](#).

DMV To Reopen

The California Department of Motor Vehicles will open all 169 of its field offices on Thursday, June 11. DMV officials are encouraging people to use the Department's online services and other non-contact methods to process transactions, especially those who wish to renew their license or registration. When the DMV reopens, not all services will be immediately available at the DMV offices once they open, including behind-the-wheel driving tests. Physical distancing protocols and face masks will be required inside the offices. The Department will offer limited services such as:

- Paying registration for a vehicle impounded because of registration-related issues
- Reinstating a suspended or revoked driver license
- Applying for a reduced-fee or no-fee identification card
- Processing commercial driver license transactions
- Applying for a disabled person parking placards
- Adding an ambulance certificate or firefighter endorsement to a driver license
- Verifying a transit training document to drive a transit bus
- Processing DMV Express customers for REAL ID transactions, if time and space allow
- Vehicle verification

California Schools Chief Details Plan For Reopening

The new guidelines in a 55-page how-to manual released Monday by California's Department of Education made clear that everything about school will be different, from start to finish, when the fall term starts. California's 6.2 million students can expect temperature checks upon entering schools and buses, extensive hand washing throughout the day, physical distancing requirements — in classes, in hallways, at recess, on school buses — and face coverings for students and staff at all times except when eating and drinking. Read the guidebook [here](#).

Consumer Alert Warning

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra issued a consumer alert warning to consumers about a new fraud scheme involving phony COVID-19 contact tracers. Contact tracing is a valuable tool to slow the spread of coronavirus. This tool helps local public health departments identify people who may have been in contact with a COVID-19 infected individual. Once informed, people can quickly take proper precautions. In this new fraud scheme, scam artists pretend to be contact tracers to trick Californians into divulging their private personal information such as Social Security numbers, financial information, or health insurance information.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Class Action Against All Farmers Insurance Companies

A Modesto hotel has filed a class-action lawsuit against all Farmers Insurance companies – Farmers Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company, and Fire Insurance Exchange – accusing them of denying coverage under their business protection policy amid the outbreak of COVID-19 and mandated business closures, according to attorneys at Hagens Berman. Unlike other COVID-19 suits, this lawsuit goes after all Farmers Insurance Group companies based in California because they all use similar forms and procedures, which allows the cost of litigation to be spread over a wider net, reducing costs for all involved. This novel approach pursues an underlying claim that, despite paying thousands of dollars for business interruption coverage for "all risks" coverage, insureds were denied coverage following orders that required physical alterations and restricted or limited business operations, use of or access to facilities, and in-person social interactions. To read the full press release from the law firm, click [here](#).

RETURNING TO WORK

Employment Training Panel

California created the [Employment Training Panel](#) cash grant program in 1982 to provide funds to California businesses for job-related vocational skills training for businesses creating new jobs or retraining current workers. The program is funded by the [Employment Training Tax](#) (a payroll tax) paid by California employers. Since its inception in 1982, the ETP has provided over \$1 billion to California employers. Businesses wishing to receive ETP funds generally need to apply for a contract with the ETP. The program provides cash grants up to \$650,000 to qualifying employers (\$26 per hour of training per employee). Employers train the employees, must meet certain requirements, must retain the employee for a fixed amount of time, and are typically reimbursed by the ETP upon completion of the training. The ETP is also expediting the process for companies in industries that Governor Newsom has declared as essential, and is working to expedite cash payments through its accelerated payment request and reimbursement request system.

NATIONAL

CDC Communication Toolkit

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created this communication toolkit to help public health professionals, health departments, community organizations, and healthcare systems and providers reach populations who may need COVID-19 prevention messaging in their native languages.

- [COVID-19 Contact Tracing Communications Toolkit for Health Departments](#): This toolkit provides messages for health departments about contact tracing. The messages in this toolkit include talking points, public service announcements, and social media posts
- [Spanish Communication Resources](#): This website provides communication resources for Spanish-speaking audiences. The resources include videos, print documents, and public service announcements

- [When You Can be Around Others](#): This webpage provides information for people who had or likely had COVID-19. People can use the information on this page to determine when it is safe for them to leave their house and be with others.
- [Stop the Spread of Germs](#): This animation shows ways people can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses
- [Cases, Data, and Surveillance](#): This webpage provides the latest information about case and death counts, laboratory testing, hospitalization rates, and more.

New COVID-19 Mortgage Rules

Both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have announced new standards for self-employed borrowers. Virtually all lenders will soon follow. The new rules require self-employed borrowers to provide one or two new documents when applying for a mortgage: either an audited P&L statement or an unaudited P&L statement along with 2 months' business account statements.

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

What Is The Difference Between The Recently Signed PPP Legislation And The Original PPP Law?

The new bipartisan law tried to alleviate this uncertainty, easing the rules on how small business owners need to spend the coronavirus aid money to be forgiven. The "Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020" makes changes to the PPP loan provisions of the CARES Act. The Flexibility Act's changes to the PPP Loan program include the following:

- Businesses now have 24 weeks, rather than 8 weeks, to spend their PPP loan funds and have the loan forgiven. The deadline under the Flexibility Act is technically 24 weeks from the date the loan is funded, or December 31, 2020, whichever is earlier.
- The Flexibility Act provides that businesses that have already received a PPP loan may elect to have the original 8-week "covered period" continue to apply. Businesses who plan to spend all of their loan proceeds on forgivable expenses within the original 8-week period, and may consider employee layoffs or salary reductions sometime after the end of their 8-week period, should consider making this election. If not, the loan forgiveness amount could be reduced if the borrower's workforce is reduced within 24 weeks of receiving the loan funds.
- It reduces the amount of loan proceeds required to be spent on payroll costs, from 75% to 60%. This allows businesses to spend more funds on rent, utilities and mortgage interest if necessary.
- It extends the deadline for rehiring employees to full capacity from June 30, 2020, to December 31, 2020. The CARES Act provides for a reduction in the amount of loan forgiveness to the extent the business reduces its number of employees or wages paid during the covered period of the loan. However, reductions made from February 15, 2020, through April 26, 2020 (30 days after the date the CARES Act was enacted) are disregarded as long as the business eliminates the reduction by June 30, 2020. The Flexibility Act pushes this deadline back to December 31, 2020. It allows businesses that receive PPP loan funds and have them forgiven to take advantage of the social security

tax deferral provisions of the CARES Act, by removing an exception in the CARES that prevented PPP loan recipients from participating in this program.

- The Flexibility Act also adds some important new exceptions to the forgiveness reduction rules. Businesses are not required to reduce their forgiveness amount to the extent they can document an inability to rehire former employees or similarly qualified employees (presumably addressing the question of what to do if some workers choose not to come back to work and instead draw unemployment). It also provides an exception for businesses that are not able to return to the same level of previous business activity due to federal guidelines related to sanitation, social distancing, or other worker or safety requirements.
- It pushes the deadline for applying for loan forgiveness to October 31, 2021. Prior to this change, the CARES Act and other SBA guidance had not yet officially set a due date for forgiveness application, although the application form recently released by SBA stated the deadline was October 31, 2020.
- For any portion of the PPP Loan that must be repaid, it extends the deferral of payments of principal and interest until as far out as January 2022. Technically, the Flexibility Act states that lenders must defer payments until the borrower's forgiveness application is processed and the forgiveness amount is sent to the lender by the SBA. The CARES Act states that applications should be processed within 90 days of being submitted. So, a borrower that may be required to repay some or all of its PPP loan could wait until October 31, 2021, to submit its forgiveness application, and defer payment until after the application is processed 90 days later, around January 30, 2022. Current provisions of the CARES Act allow lenders to defer loan repayment anywhere from 6 months to a year after the loan is funded.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Partial PPP Loan Forgiveness Remains If 60% Threshold Not Met

Borrowers under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) can qualify for partial loan forgiveness if less than 60% of the PPP loan is used for payroll, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Treasury said Monday. Legislation signed June 5 lowered to 60% from 75% the minimum percentage of PPP funds borrowers have to spend on payroll costs to have the loans forgiven. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Restaurants Rally To Support Law Allowing Early Lease Termination

A controversial proposal to allow California businesses to terminate their leases faces a critical hearing tomorrow, prompting restaurateurs across the state to rally for it to succeed. As previously reported by Eater LA, California State Bill 939 (you can read it in full here) was proposed by San Francisco-based Senator Scott Wiener and SoCal Senator Lena Gonzalez, last month. It was prompted by (per tweets by Wiener) fears of mass closures by restaurants, bars, and cafes, all of which stand to generate less revenue than expected due to social-distancing guidelines necessary to slow the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19). To read the full story, click [here](#).

Gene Study Suggests Coronavirus Came To California Multiple Times

A new genetic study suggests the coronavirus was carried into California several times by travelers, and that the state missed several opportunities to use contact tracing to stop further spread.

The report, published in the journal *Science* on Monday, also strongly indicates that at least one cruise ship outbreak started with a virus transmitted by a single person infected with a strain of the virus that spread in Washington state early in the pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

In-N-Out Burger Joins the Fight Over Business Interruption Coverage

In-N-Out Burger's breach-of-contract suit against Zurich American Insurance Company over denial of its claim is only the latest wrinkle in what has become a contentious debate around business interruption coverage in the time of stay-at-home orders. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Some California Casinos And Cardrooms Could Open By June 12

The California Gambling Control Commission (Commission), with guidance from the Department of Health, has issued reopening guidelines for cardrooms and casinos with a notification of intent to release the emergency regulations related to the COVID-19 closures, according to a letter sent to casino owners and obtained by Hews Media Group. To read the full story, click [here](#).

There's A Glaring, Misleading Error In The May Jobs Report: U.S. May Be At 20% Unemployment

The BLS has admitted that government household survey takers mistakenly counted about 4.9 million people as employed, although they were unemployed. Had the mistake been corrected, the unemployment rate would have risen to 16.1% in May. The corrected April figure would have been more than 19.5%—rather than 14.7%. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Capital One and Other Debt Collectors Are Still Coming for Millions of Americans

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Americans got protection from evictions, foreclosures and student debt. But debt collectors have continued to siphon off their share of paychecks from those who still have jobs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The CARES Act Sent You a \$1,200 Check but Gave Millionaires and Billionaires Far More

The stimulus checks were meant to get average Americans through the lockdown, but those \$1,200 payouts were small change compared with the billions in tax breaks the CARES Act handed out to the country's wealthiest. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus And Prisons: San Quentin Reports More Than A Dozen Inmates Infected

The coronavirus has reached San Quentin State Prison, where more than a dozen inmates have been infected by the virus, according to state prison officials. As of Sunday, there were 14 inmates at San Quentin with active cases of the virus, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation website. To read the full story, click [here](#).

New COVID-19 Hotel Guidelines Affecting Tourism in Coronado

Local hotels received a letter from the County on June 2 notifying them of a change to the San Diego County Health Order, effective immediately, that allows county hotels to only accept guests that are essential workers, homeless in need of shelter, isolating due to exposure to COVID-19 or in need of safe refuge due to risk of abuse or an unsafe residence. To read the full story, click [here](#).

A US Recession Began In February In The Face Of Coronavirus

The U.S. economy entered a recession in February as the coronavirus struck the nation, a group of economists declared Monday, ending the longest expansion on record. The economists said that employment, income and spending peaked in February and then fell sharply afterward as the viral outbreak shut down businesses across the country, marking the start of the downturn after nearly 11 full years of economic growth. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Exclusive investigation on the coronavirus pandemic: Where was Congress?

During President Trump's impeachment trial, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asked Chief Justice John Roberts if he could make a brief announcement. "In the morning, there will be a coronavirus briefing for all members at 10:30," McConnell stated on January 23, noting the Senate Health panel was taking the lead on it. McConnell's remarks represented the first time that the novel coronavirus was mentioned in the Congressional Record this year. At the time, there was one confirmed case in the United States. To read the full story, click [here](#).

It's Time To End The State Of Emergency Over COVID-19

In March, Californians needed a state of emergency on COVID-19 because the virus was unfamiliar and our health system was unprepared. California is now prepared. It's time to end the emergency, return the decisions to the people, and bring in more perspectives, more questions and more oversight. COVID-19 was not an earthquake. It was an emergency only of uncertainty and unpreparedness. When it arrived, we didn't know how fatal it was or how quickly it would spread, and we feared that it would overwhelm our hospitals. To read the full story, click [here](#).

What Is Plasma Therapy, And How Does It Work To Treat The Coronavirus? Everything You Need To Know

As the government works double-time alongside companies to test and manufacture an effective vaccine for the coronavirus, researchers examine other drugs and treatments for COVID-19, the illness caused by SARS-CoV-2. Many scientific articles and government officials have been focused on drugs such as hydroxychloroquine and remdesivir, but little attention has been directed toward a less glamorous form of treatment: convalescent plasma therapy. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Managing Freshwater Ecosystems In A Pandemic

Among the many challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, the day-to-day stewardship of California's freshwater ecosystems has remained under the radar. However, continuing the

work of restoring and maintaining the health of freshwater ecosystems will have repercussions for California's water well into the future, and is key to reducing the impact of a hotter, drier climate. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How COVID-19 Is Giving Rise To Disasterpreneurs

We are seeing the epic rise of the counterfeiters, who have stepped up and filled the last mile supply chain vacuum by providing substandard and locally assembled or produced spurious products. To read the full story, click [here](#).

State Should Protect Essential Businesses From Frivolous And Predatory Lawsuits

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an extremely trying situation for essential businesses, which have stepped up in amazing and heroic ways to provide the goods and services that Californians rely on daily. But as the state eases quarantine restrictions and takes steps to reopen, essential businesses face yet another devastating threat to operations – predatory lawsuits. A wave of coming litigation capitalizing on this pandemic threatens to further burden essential businesses and greatly exacerbate economic recovery in California and across the nation. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Nearly Half Of Coronavirus Spread May Be Traced To People Without Any Symptoms

One of the more insidious features of the new coronavirus behind COVID-19 is its ability to settle into unsuspecting hosts who never show signs of being sick but are able to spread the virus to others. In a study published June 3 in the Annals of Internal Medicine, researchers at the Scripps Research Translational Institute reviewed data from 16 different groups of COVID-19 patients from around the world to get a better idea of how many cases of coronavirus can likely be traced to people who spread the virus without ever knowing they were infected. Their conclusion: at minimum, 30%, and more likely 40% to 45%. To read the full story, click [here](#).

WHO Official Walks Back Comments On Asymptomatic Transmission Being 'Very Rare'

An official leading the World Health Organization's COVID-19 response clarified comments made at a media briefing Monday that suggested coronavirus transmission by asymptomatic individuals is "very rare." Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead, said in a video posted on the organization's Twitter feed that she was referring to a small subset of studies and unpublished information from member states when making the comments. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Google Maps To Alert Users About Travel Restrictions Related To COVID-19

Google Maps, a web mapping service that is developed by Google, has rolled out a number of new transit features which are aimed at helping users to travel safely through car or public transport as countries start to ease lockdown and reopen after closures caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL.O) unit disclosed on Monday that Google is adding features on its Maps service to alert users about COVID-19-related travel restrictions to help them plan their trips better. To read the full story, click [here](#).

More Than Half Of States May Be Undercounting Coronavirus Cases By Not Following CDC Guidelines

At least 28 states are not following US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on reporting new Covid-19 cases -- half of which saw the trend of new cases increasing in the last week.

Those states are not reporting probable cases, according to the daily case count listed on the CDC's website. Probable cases include those that show evidence of an infection without the confirmation of a lab test and cases where coronavirus was listed as a cause or contributing cause of death but are not confirmed with a lab test. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Social Distancing And Shutdowns Have Been Astonishingly Effective At Blunting The Pandemic

Lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, closed schools, and canceled public events prevented millions of Covid-19 coronavirus cases and deaths, according to two new peer-reviewed studies in the journal Nature. One of the studies estimated the number of Covid-19 cases with and without these tough interventions. They found that in six countries, including China and the U.S., pandemic control policies had a huge effect. In the United States alone, the measures stopped 4.8 million more confirmed cases of Covid-19 and up to 60 million infections in total. In China, they prevented 285 million infections. 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 the email addresses to be removed.