

## COVID-19 Update From EKA – June 17, 2020

### Stay At Home Order Day 90

Today is day 90 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 98 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

### General Reopening of Courtrooms

Reopening of about 400 closed Los Angeles Superior Court courtrooms and the resumption of hearings, which was scheduled to occur on June 22, has been postponed as a result of a general order issued by Presiding Judge Kevin Brazile. Under the order, released late Thursday, "time-sensitive, essential functions"—such as proceedings relating to emergency protective orders and preliminary hearings—will continue; other operations, such as those relating to probate, mental health, and juvenile matters will resume, on schedule; and some courtrooms, such as those handling writs and receivers matters, will reopen next Monday. However, the new target date for getting somewhat back-to-normal, court-wide, is now July 9. To read the 14-page order which details all court openings, click [here](#).

### Restaurants

County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said that inspectors visited 2,000 restaurants over the weekend, and half of them were "still not in compliance" with health requirements. The County Health Department will be revisiting all of the restaurants that were not in compliance and issuing them an order to come into compliance.

### Protocols For Establishments Able Reopen

The Los Angeles County Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community Revised Order was updated for additional sectors to reopen. To review the 69-page Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community Revised Order, click [here](#). Below please find the protocols and requirements and need to be posted at establishments to be able to reopen.

- Social Distancing Protocol [English](#)
- Retail Businesses Opening for In-Person Shopping Protocol [English](#)
- Warehousing, Manufacturing, Logistics Protocol [English](#)
- Office-Based Worksites Protocol [English](#)
- Shopping Center Operators Protocol [English](#)

- Places of Worship Protocol [English](#)
- Vehicle-Based Parades or Drive Thru Events Protocol [English](#)
- Hair Salons and Barbershops Protocol [English](#)
- Restaurants Protocol [English](#)
- Music, Television and Film Production Protocol [English](#)
- Day Camps Protocol [English](#)
- Gym and Fitness Establishments [English](#)
- Museums, Galleries, Zoos and Aquariums [English](#)
- Pro-sport Leagues, Facilities, Training Protocol [English](#)
- Campgrounds and RV Parks [English](#)
- Hotels, Lodging and Short Term Rentals Protocol [English](#)

## LOS ANGELES

### Taxing Landlords

The Los Angeles City Council took a preliminary step toward putting a vacancy tax measure before voters in November that would be aimed at compelling landlords to put vacant units on the market to alleviate the city's housing shortage. The penalties that would be levied on landlords were not specified in the motion, which Ryu introduced with Councilmen Mike Bonin, Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Paul Koretz last June. Bonin moved to exclude commercial properties that are not eligible for residential use and single-family homes that are not owned by corporations.

### Hollywood Chamber

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has launched its new Back to Business webpage that brings together vital information and resources to businesses plan a safe and successful reopening. The Chamber is offering its members a complimentary Back to Business Kit to help alleviate the costs each business is required to invest before they are allowed to reopen. The kits include mandatory social distancing signage, including floor graphics, window clings, and wall decals as well as masks for your staff. For more information, click [here](#).

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY

### Temperature Check Requirement

The County of San Diego amended its [Health Order](#) to do away with its previous requirement that employers conduct temperature screening at the worksite unless thermometers were unavailable. The new version instead requires employers to screen employees for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Employers must prohibit employees with such symptoms or a temperature of 100 degrees or more from entering the workplace. The amendment brings the San Diego County Health Order in line with other California state, county and local directives which recommend, but do not require, temperature checks as part of any employee health screening protocol. The change also appears to provide San Diego County employers with alternative screening options, including at-home temperature checks by employees. The Health Order continues to require that most

reopened businesses prepare and post in the workplace a Safe Reopening Plan using the county's form, which has not been updated since May 5, 2020. As of the date of this publication, the template [Safe Reopening Plan](#) requires that employees undergo a temperature screen upon reporting to work. Restaurants, bars, wineries, and breweries that are reopening operations beyond take-out or delivery services are excluded from the Safe Reopening Plan requirement and are, instead, required to prepare and post a [COVID-19 Restaurant Operating Protocol](#) that requires a temperature or thermal scan prior to the beginning of each work shift without an explicit requirement that the scan be conducted at the worksite.

## LONG BEACH

### Surge Hospital

Healthcare officials are asking Los Angeles County leaders to work with the state to reopen its "surge" hospital and recommended that another in Long Beach swing open its doors, citing the need to fully reopen medical centers while also dealing with an expected surge in coronavirus cases. The state-funded Los Angeles Surge Hospital, which opened on April 13 at the former site of the St. Vincent Medical Center amid heightened concern about having enough beds to deal with Covid-19 patients, has closed. Dr. Hector Flores, an Adventist Health White Memorial physician, told the county's Board of Supervisors and his fellow members on the county's Economic Resiliency Task Force that county officials should work to bring it back online. He also recommended that Long Beach Community Hospital — which has long been on the cusp of reopening — become a surge hospital.

### Testing

All Long Beach residents can now receive COVID-19 testing, regardless of symptoms, at three City-operated testing sites. Appointment availability will continue to be prioritized for those who are exhibiting symptoms, individuals who are 65 years old or older and those with underlying health conditions. For more information on testing, click [here](#).

## SACRAMENTO

### New Executive Order

Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order addressing a variety of issues. The order extends waivers temporarily broadening the capability of counties to enroll persons into the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, allowing for self-attestation of pregnancy and conditions of eligibility, and waiving in-person identification requirements. The order also extends permission for commercially-licensed food trucks to operate in roadside rest areas, in compliance with a temporary permit issued by Caltrans, to ensure essential infrastructure workers have access to food; suspends face-to-face visits for eligibility for extended foster care; and extends deadlines related to the payment of real estate license application and renewal fees and continuing education requirements for licensees. The text of the Governor's executive order can be found [here](#) and a copy can be found [here](#).

### Letter to Google and Apple Expressing Concerns Contact Tracing Apps

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today joined a multistate letter to Google LLC and Apple Inc., expressing privacy concerns regarding the proliferation of contact tracing apps on their platforms. The attorneys general expressed concern that these apps, which are intended to track the spread of COVID-19, do not sufficiently protect consumers' personal information. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today joined a multistate letter to Google LLC and Apple Inc., expressing privacy concerns regarding the proliferation of contact tracing apps on their platforms. The attorneys general expressed concern that these apps, which are intended to track the spread of COVID-19, do not sufficiently protect consumers' personal information. In the letter, the attorneys general urge Google and Apple to take the following actions on contact tracing apps available to U.S. consumers on Google Play and the App Store:

- Verify that every app labeled or marketed as related to contact tracing is affiliated with a municipal, county, state or federal public health authority, or a hospital or university in the U.S. that is working with such public health authorities;
- Remove any app that cannot be verified consistent with the above;
- Pledge to remove all COVID-19 contact tracing apps once the national emergency ends; and
- Provide written confirmation that the apps have been removed or an explanation as to why the removal of a particular app or apps would impair the public health authorities affiliated with that app.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#)

### **Governor's Task Force On Business And Jobs Recovery**

Members of Governor Gavin Newsom's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery issued an open letter calling out the insidious effects of structural racism across society, including the economy, and urging business and civic leaders to take a stand against injustice as the state and nation work to rebuild, for a more inclusive and resilient economy. The letter, signed by California leaders from across a diverse range of economic and social sectors, outlines how people of color are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; unemployment; and racism in policing, and highlights the income gaps across ethnicity, gender and ability that persist in our state -- the world's fifth-largest economy. The Task Force urged business and civic leaders in California to pledge to:

- Lead on racial equity in businesses and institutions, pointing to the corrosive impact of racism and encouraging conversations and actions among employees and colleagues;
- Recover from the COVID-19 recession by working to create jobs that are inclusive, sustainable and equitable, building ladders of opportunity for Californians who have been locked out of our state's prosperity;
- Commit to a robust, equitable educational system in which learners of all ages can succeed, including closing the digital divide and supports for parents furthering their education;
- Work with the Governor's Office and in their own institutions to develop policies that can correct the past and improve the future, including supporting small businesses owned by and operating in communities of color, targeting education and training to

those usually left behind, prioritizing environmental-justice principles, and closing the racial wealth gap;

- Continue to make transparent and address the racial disparities of COVID-19, by working with the Governor's Office to provide more equitable access to PPE in the workplace, testing in communities of color and access to health care for prevention and treatment.
- Address the long-term housing crisis in California with a full understanding of the racially disparate patterns of homeownership, rent burden and homelessness;
- Think long-term by collaborating with the Governor's Office and in their own organizations to design jobs programs for California's diverse youth so that their futures are not permanently derailed by coming of age in a recession.

A copy of the Task Force's letter can be found [here](#).

### **Assembly Bill 1436**

Assembly Bill [1436](#), will force rental housing providers to defer unpaid rent for more than one-year – for 15-months! This proposed State Bill would also allow your tenants to Not Pay Rent For 90-Days Following The Lifting Of The Emergency Declaration Due To Covid-19! Assembly Bill 1436 would allow renters to forgo rent payments due to COVID-19 impacts for up to 90-days following the lifting of the State of Emergency without any requirement to provide documentation or any proof whatsoever. The Bill would force rental housing providers to defer uncollected rent for 15-months following the lifting of the State of Emergency Orders, whenever that might be. Any default in the repayment of unpaid, deferred rent by any tenant during the State of Emergency, would not be a basis for an unlawful detainer action. Any unpaid, deferred rent would be converted by Assembly Bill 1436 into consumer debt and force housing providers to undertake a separate, expensive civil court action in order to collect unpaid rent.

Under the legislation, courts will be prohibited from awarding possession for a tenant's failure to pay rent within ninety (90) days from the end of State of Emergency is lifted, which date is presently unknown. Renters will be protected from eviction due to non-payment irrespective of their present employment status or ability to pay rent. Assembly Bill 1436 encourages tenant payment defaults while the State of Emergency is in effect – why pay if you cannot be evicted? Assembly Bill 1436 prohibits the reporting of rent payment defaults during the State of Emergency and for the period of up to ninety (90) days thereafter as a negative factor to a credit bureau. And, if all of that is not bad enough, FINALLY, Assembly Bill 1436 prohibits applying a security deposit towards the payment of rent and makes the security applicable to just property damage.

## **LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **3M Has Filed 14 Actions Claiming N95 Fraud**

3M's legal battle to keep price gougers from profiting on sales of its N95 face masks during the coronavirus pandemic grew on two new fronts in recent days. 3M targeted a third-party seller

on Amazon.com for using its trademark to sell \$350,000 worth of masks at up to 20 times list prices. KM Brothers Inc., a California company trading under several different business names, "claimed to be reselling authentic N95 respirators, while actually selling damaged and fake goods at highly inflated prices," 3M said. The action against KM Brothers came on the heels of a different suit filed late last week in which 3M alleged that an Ohio company lied about ties to 3M to convince another business to act as its selling agent for 10 million 3M masks at \$4.95 apiece. The seller, Preventative Wellness Consultants LLC, sought a nondisclosure agreement as well as full payment upfront for any purchases. The new legal actions bring to 14 the number of suits 3M has filed since January to try to control price gouging for its product by what the company calls "pandemic profiteers." 3M said it "has won five temporary restraining orders and three preliminary injunction orders from courts across the country that put a stop to other defendants' unlawful and unethical profiteering from the pandemic." It has shut down more than 3,000 websites and 4,000 social media posts that try to expropriate the 3M brand for profit. To read the 3M press release, click [here](#). To read one of the complaints, click [here](#).

## REOPENING

### Catholic School Campuses

Catholic schools in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties will resume on-campus instruction this Fall. The school openings at more than 250 campuses across the three-county region will follow guidance from the California Department of Public Health, which includes physical distancing, regular sanitation, frequent hand washing and face coverings. Each school will also customize a plan to meet their specific needs. To read the letter from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, click [here](#).

### Reporting Requirements

Requirements for recording and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses are unique in California, with the state having more stringent obligations than the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") around both reporting of "serious injuries" and what constitutes a work-related injury or illness. To complicate the matter further for California employers, the State of California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health ("Cal OSHA") recently [issued guidance](#) on recording and reporting of coronavirus ("COVID-19") cases, which differs from guidance issued by federal OSHA. Much like federal OSHA's guidance on [COVID-19 recording and reporting](#), Cal OSHA's guidance contends that employers need to assess COVID-19 cases for work-relatedness and record them on the company's log. Under Cal OSHA's guidance, employers may also need to report the COVID-19 case when work-related and results in the employee's death or hospitalization. But, unlike federal OSHA requirements, Cal OSHA's guidance makes clear that employers may also need to record a COVID-19 case, and potentially report if it causes a "significant injury or illness" as diagnosed by a licensed medical or healthcare professional. In addition, any work-related COVID-19 case that results in a fatality or hospitalization needs to be reported, regardless of how long has passed from the possible exposure event due to differences in Cal OSHA's requirements for reporting. Some other significant differences in Cal OSHA's guidance around recording and reporting of COVID-19 cases include the following:

- **Confirmed COVID-19 Case:** Cal OSHA like federal OSHA considers a positive COVID-19 test to provide confirmation of COVID-19 infection. Yet unlike federal OSHA, Cal OSHA's guidance conveys that there may be circumstances where an employer must record or report a COVID-19 case without a test result confirming the presence of COVID-19. Cal OSHA also takes the position that in some cases recording and reporting obligations will apply to a suspected COVID-19 case and some employee illnesses which have yet to be diagnosed as COVID-19.
- **Sickness at Work:** Because of Cal OSHA's more stringent requirements for reporting of a "serious injury or illness," Cal OSHA's guidance contends that employers need to report a case when an employee becomes sick at work if it constitutes a "serious injury or illness" without regard for whether it is work-related. Under this guidance, California employers may have an obligation to report a COVID-19 case to the agency, even if it is ultimately determined not to be work-related.
- **Workers Compensation Considerations:** In direct response to [California Governor Newsom's order](#) on workers compensation eligibility for essential workers that contract COVID-19, Cal OSHA's guidance advises employers that the work-related determination for recording and reporting obligations under Cal OSHA regulations remains separate from the determination for workers compensation eligibility.

While in the end, both federal OSHA and Cal OSHA agree that COVID-19 cases will be recordable and reportable in some cases employers in California need to be diligent in assessing instances of COVID-19 to ensure they comply with California's more stringent recording and reporting obligations.

## NATIONAL

### SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Advance Program Reopened

The U.S. Small Business Administration reopened the [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) and EIDL Advance program portal](#) to all eligible applicants experiencing economic impacts due to COVID-19. With the reopening of the EIDL assistance and EIDL Advance application portal to all new applicants, additional small businesses and non-profits will be able to receive these long-term, low interest loans and emergency grants – reducing the economic impacts for their businesses, employees and communities they support. The EIDL Advance will provide up to \$10,000 (\$1,000 per employee) of emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties, and these emergency grants do not have to be repaid. The application process involves filling out a simple SBA form requesting an EIDL application which provides for the advance even if the loan is not granted.

- The SBA is offering low interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses and non-profit organizations that are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19 in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories.
- These loans may be used to pay debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact, and that are not already covered by a Paycheck Protection Program loan. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

- To keep payments affordable for small businesses, SBA offers loans with long repayment terms, up to a maximum of 30 years. Plus, the first payment is deferred for one year.
- In addition, small businesses and non-profits may request, as part of their loan application, an EIDL Advance of up to \$10,000. The EIDL Advance is designed to provide emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. This advance will not have to be repaid, and small businesses may receive an advance even if they are not approved for a loan.
- SBA's EIDL and EIDL Advance are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response.
- The SBA is also assisting small businesses and non-profits with access to the **federal forgivable** loan program, the [Paycheck Protection Program](#), which is currently accepting applications until June 30, 2020.

### **New and Revised Guidance Regarding the Paycheck Protection**

The U.S. Small Business Administration issued new and revised guidance for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The guidance and revised application forms are available on SBA's and Treasury's websites. SBA will issue additional guidance regarding loan forgiveness and a revised forgiveness application to implement the PPPFA in the near future.

- Click [here](#) to view the new Interim Final Rules.
- Click [here](#) to view the new Borrower Application.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The CDC has issued an update on [COVID-19](#). To view guidance documents, videos, print resources, a digital press kit, and more COVID-19 related communication resources, click [here](#). Some of the new resources are:

- [Overview of Testing for SARS CoV-2](#)
- [Testing Guidelines for Nursing Homes](#)
- [CDC Diagnostic Test for COVID-19](#)
- [Testing Strategy for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in High-Density Critical Infrastructure Workplaces after a COVID-19 Case Is Identified](#)
- [New COVID-19 MMWR's: Public Beliefs, Infections from a Navy Ship, Infection in Companion Animals](#)

## **QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED**

### **When COVID-19 Began, We Understand That Tax Filings Were Delayed. Have They Been Extended Past July 15<sup>th</sup>?**

As a reminder, when the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRS pushed this year's tax deadline to July 15. Of course, if you already filed and paid your taxes for 2019, you don't need to take any additional action. According to the IRS, estimated taxes must be paid by July 15 to avoid penalties and interest -- but you have until October 15 to actually file your tax return. For tax year 2019, the IRS has tweaked [individual income tax brackets](#), adjusting them for inflation. And there are new regulations involving the standard deduction, 401(k) plans and health savings



accounts that may impact how you prepare your taxes. The IRS published [a 12-page PDF](#) covering the major changes that took effect last year, and there are answers to many questions on [the IRS website](#). The IRS usually allows taxpayers to [file for an extension](#). This year, according to [the instructions on Form 4868](#) ("Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File US Individual Income Tax Return"), taxpayers can apply for an extra six months to file, making Thursday, October 15, 2020 the due date. The major changes for taxes include:

- The standard deduction is now \$12,200 for single filers and \$24,400 for married couples filing jointly ([learn more](#))
- The 401(k) contribution limit has increased to \$19,000 but the catch-up limit -- for folks 50 and over -- remains \$6,000 ([learn more](#))
- The contribution limit for health savings accounts has increased to \$3,500 for self-only coverage and \$7,000 for families ([learn more](#))
- The "individual mandate penalty" -- previously charged to people who didn't have health insurance -- has now been eliminated ([learn more](#))

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **First Drug Proves Able To Improve Survival From COVID-19**

Researchers in England say they have the first evidence that a drug can improve COVID-19 survival: A cheap, widely available steroid called dexamethasone reduced deaths by up to one third in severely ill hospitalized patients. Results were announced Tuesday and researchers said they would publish them soon. The study is a large, strict test that randomly assigned 2,104 patients to get the drug and compared them with 4,321 patients getting only usual care. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Los Angeles County Finds 1,000 Restaurants Failing to Following Reopening Guidelines**

Over the weekend, Los Angeles County government officials visited more than 2,000 restaurants, and were dismayed to discover that roughly 1,000 of them were not in compliance with the "minimum standards" required for safely reopening during the ongoing pandemic. According to Eater, on Monday, NBC4 reporter Joel Grover asked Los Angeles County health director Dr. Barbara Ferrer about restaurants that have allegedly failed to follow the reopening guidelines, after some widely shared social media posts mentioned large groups waiting to be seated, "packed sidewalks," and other infractions. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **A 'No-Cuts Budget': How California Democrats Are Trying To Preserve Programs Despite Deficit**

Last week, powerful California lawmakers in the Capitol wore masks with a message: "Invest. Don't cut." The masks underscored their preferences for how they want to navigate the unprecedented situation brought on by the coronavirus outbreak, which has forced the Legislature to implement new safety protocols and rethink the budget. Even with an estimated \$54 billion budget deficit looming, Democrats who control the California Legislature plan to

pass a budget Monday that attempts to avoid slashing funds for education and health care by delaying cuts in hope of future economic relief. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **L.A. Gets It Right on the Right To Cure**

The Los Angeles City Council recently adopted a trailblazing ordinance guaranteeing workers laid off in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic the right to be recalled back to their jobs. Such an ordinance ordinarily might be subject to criticism in the business community. But we believe that the Council should be applauded for at least one aspect of this new law: It contains a "right to cure" any alleged violation. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Hydroxychloroquine: FDA Pulls Emergency Use Of Malaria Drug Touted By Trump To Treat The Coronavirus**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration revoked its emergency authorization for hydroxychloroquine, a controversial malaria drug promoted by President Donald Trump for treating the coronavirus. The agency said in a letter the decision is based on new evidence that made it unreasonable to believe hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine "may be effective in diagnosing, treating or preventing" COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Former Obama Ebola Czar Ron Klain Says White House's Bad Decisions Have Put US Behind Many Other Nations On COVID-19; Fears Of Virus Reemergence Intensify**

Former Obama Ebola czar Ron Klain says White House's bad decisions have put the U.S. behind many other nations on COVID-19; expresses confidence in vaccine development because of Anthony Fauci's oversight; claims Jared Kushner and Vice President Pence worked at cross-purposes in preparing America for COVID-19 fight. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Coronavirus 2nd Wave? Nope, The U.S. Is Still Stuck In The 1st One**

Just weeks after parts of the U.S. began reopening, coronavirus infections are on the upswing in several states, including Arizona, Utah, Texas and Florida. Dramatic increases in daily case counts have given rise to some unsettling questions: Is the U.S. at the start of a second wave? To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Masks Now Seen As Vital Tool In Coronavirus Fight**

Evidence is mounting that widespread mask-wearing can significantly slow the spread of coronavirus and help reduce the need for future lockdowns. Public health authorities did not initially put an emphasis on masks, but that's changed and there is now increasing consensus that they play an important role in hindering transmission of the virus at a time when wearing one has become politicized as some states and businesses have made them a requirement for certain activities. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Newsom, Legislature Build New Wall Of Debt**

When Jerry Brown returned to the governorship in 2011, he pledged that fixing a deficit-ridden state budget would be his highest priority. A big piece of Brown's fix was taking down what he called "a wall of debt," more than \$30 billion in various kinds of loans that predecessor Arnold

Schwarzenegger and the Legislature had taken out to cover revenue shortfalls during the Great Recession. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Buying A Face Mask Online? Where To Shop And What To Look For**

Now that face masks have become the new normal, you may be looking to add several more to your collection. And if you don't have the supplies or desire to make your own face mask or covering at home, the internet is brimming with options. Choices range from simple, homemade coverings from crafters online to slicker (and often more expensive) designs that feature familiar characters, higher-end materials or name brands. Proceeds often go to coronavirus-related charities. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **'No Time To Die' Moves Up 5 Days, 'Wonder Woman 1984' Shifts To Fall As Coronavirus Cases Spike**

As coronavirus cases spike all over the country, studios are playing release-date musical chairs once again. "Wonder Woman 1984," director Patty Jenkins' hotly anticipated superhero sequel starring Gal Gadot as the title Amazon warrior, is shifting from August 14 to October 2, moving yet another big flick out of what's left of 2020's summer-movie season. Warner Bros. is also shifting another high-profile film, Christopher Nolan's mystery thriller "Tenet," two weeks, to July 31. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **US Coronavirus Map: Tracking The Outbreak**

The number of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 grows every day throughout the U.S. and across the world. The numbers on this page are based on the latest statistics available, which is likely far lower than the actual number of cases due to limited testing across the U.S. Here's the situation as it stands. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **California Rapid Pace Of Restoring Economy Continues Amid Rise In Coronavirus Cases**

The rapid pace of restoring San Diego County's economy continues, even as public health officials reported 184 new COVID-19 cases, six deaths and an outbreak tied to a reopened restaurant. Bars, zoos, community swimming pools, movie theaters and hotels all were allowed to reopen Friday. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **'Real Normality' Still A Year Away In US As Coronavirus Pandemic Rages On, Fauci Says**

Can't wait until you can quit worrying about coronavirus? You may not want to hold your breath. "I would hope to get to some degree of real normality within a year or so," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, The Telegraph reports. "But I don't think it's this winter or fall, we'll be seeing it for a bit more." Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the virus "could go on for a couple of cycles, coming back and forth" in the U.S., according to the publication. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **These Places Pose The Greatest Risks For Contracting Coronavirus**

As states are rolling back lockdowns, cases of the coronavirus are still rising in America. Experts have suggested one reason for the surges could be the lifting of stay-at-home orders and other

restrictions put in place during the spring to stem the virus's spread. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Prejudice 'Pandemic' Spreading With Covid-19**

Spreading invisibly online much the same way the coronavirus does, a new study published in Wednesday suggests there is a strong relationship between social media use and prejudice against Chinese Americans during the current pandemic infecting the world. "The more you believe social media, the more likely you are to think Asians are a threat during the pandemic," explained Stephen Croucher, who leads the School of Communication, Journalism and Marketing at Massey University in New Zealand. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **The Economic Toll of COVID-19 on Self-Employed Workers**

Independent contractors, freelancers, and gig workers account for more than one-quarter of Californians providing personal care, household upkeep, or other services—areas especially hard hit during the pandemic. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **The Pandemic And Protests Have Exposed The Truth About California**

California, the novelist Wallace Stegner wrote, is like the rest of America, only more so. That truism has played out in recent days in scenes of triumph, anguish and incongruity, a mirror of the country seen through a distinctly California lens. Peaceful demonstrators were clubbed, sprayed, injured with rubber bullets, zip-tied and detained for hours on charges that have already been dismissed. In the People's Republic of Santa Monica, the National Guard patrolled the streets. After a three-hour debate about civil liberties, a divided Berkeley City Council extended the city's curfew; a week later, the Council banned the use of tear gas in demonstrations. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Extra \$600 In Unemployment Benefits Ends Next Month, What Happens Then?**

The extra \$600 a week in unemployment benefits put in place to help Americans who lost their jobs during the coronavirus pandemic is set to expire at the end of July, but lawmakers are at odds over additional aid for the tens of millions of individuals who are still out of work. Despite a better-than-expected May jobs report, which showed the unemployment rate actually dropped to 13.3 percent, both political parties appear to agree that another round of relief measures for workers and businesses is necessary. Still, they're divided over specific policy measures, including whether or not to continue providing boosted jobless payments. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Is It Actually Safe to BBQ This Summer?**

When you ask experts whether it's safe to BBQ during the coronavirus pandemic this summer, the answers you'll get tend to vary. For instance, according to the Indiana Joint Information Center, social gatherings of up to 250 people in Indiana will be allowed as of June 12, so long as people follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) social distancing guidelines. However, this is just the rule that applies in Indiana—since the state is moving quickly in its reopening process. On the other hand, when you ask experts from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), they says it's best (at least at this stage of the pandemic)

to "connect with your loved ones through phone and video calls, as visiting friends and family outside your household still presents a risk of spreading coronavirus." To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **U.S. Airlines Threaten To Ban Passengers Who Refuse To Wear Masks**

U.S. airline passengers who refuse to wear facial coverings could have their flying privileges revoked, the industry's main lobby group said on Monday. As of now, major U.S. airlines may prevent anyone not wearing a mask from boarding and provide the coverings to passengers who have none. Once on board, however, flight attendants have little power to enforce the policy if passengers remove their masks. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Amazon's New Distance Assistant Uses AI To Encourage Social Distancing**

Amazon said Tuesday it's developed a new artificial intelligence system to help maintain social distancing in its warehouses, and it plans to share the underlying technology for free. Called Distance Assistant, the tech involves a 50-inch monitor, camera and laptop set up on a mount. The camera tracks how closely people are walking near each other, showing workers walking by the device augmented-reality circles around them. The circles remain green if someone is six feet away from others but turns red if they get too close together. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### **Coronavirus may sway regulators to allow casinos to say good-bye to cash**

No states currently allow cashless payments on casino floors. The CDC recommends mobile payments to limit the handling of cash, and therefore, risk of Covid-19 exposure. More than half of casino customers say they are less likely to use cash in their everyday lives because of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a report released Tuesday by the American Gaming Association. To read the full article, 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.