

COVID-19 Update From EKA – June 3, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 76

Today is day 76 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 84 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

Protests & Testing

Los Angeles County officials are worried there could be a spike in coronavirus cases as thousands of people march in protests that in turn have forced some virus testing centers to close. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Los Angeles County's Public Health Department, urged those who choose to protest to wear facial coverings to protect others, even if they are willing to take the risk of rallying during the pandemic. Many Los Angeles County COVID-19 testing sites were closed due to the state of emergency countywide, with officials saying more closures may be announced.

Remote Court Appearance

Los Angeles County's court system is expanding its technology to allow attorneys and self-represented litigants to appear remotely through audio or video appearances in certain cases starting later this month. The program, called LACourtConnect, will be available first for cases involving civil settlements and probate matters on calendar starting the week of June 22. Throughout the rest of the summer, the program will launch in phases for all limited civil, unlimited civil and complex, family law and traffic courtrooms, according to court officials. Court fees for each remote appearance will be \$15 for an audio appearance, \$23 for a video appearance and free for individuals with fee waivers. The court's other remote courtroom appearance technology -- court-hosted video Webex -- will be expanded to new litigation areas and added to more criminal courtrooms, with remote appearance technology expected in 580 courtrooms by the end of August, according to the court. To read the Court press release that contains additional details, click [here](#).

Courts To Remain Closed Due to Protests

All 38 Los Angeles Superior Court courthouses were closed due to the ongoing unrest and protests. It is not immediately clear how long the closure will last. Court officials said the decision to close was made in the interest of public safety, and the situation will be

reevaluated. Court operations have been dramatically scaled back in recent weeks due to COVID-19.

Restrictions on Reopening

Leaders in the film, sports, theme park, business and restaurant industries today presented detailed plans for reopening all sectors to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, urging county officials to allow them to move as quickly as safely possible. Members of the [Economic Resiliency Task Force](#) have been working for weeks with other industry representatives, including unions, on safety guidelines and best practices. The 26-page sports plan reflects input from every major venue and operator, all of whom are also working on individual plans, and is meant to lay out a baseline of safety guidelines. Some details, like testing for players, will rely on collective bargaining between the players and management.

Census Workers

Census workers were supposed to hit the streets of L.A. County, but local health officials haven't yet approved that effort to begin due to the coronavirus pandemic. But efforts are going forward in Orange County, with census workers expected to deliver paper questionnaires to more than 1,700 households.

Free Webinars

A series of FREE webinars to help L.A. County businesses in the First District get through difficult times begin tomorrow. L.A. County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, in conjunction with L.A. County's Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), and the Development Authority (LACDA) will offer information on resources and services that may be of assistance to businesses, including:

- The First District COVID-19 Business Relief Grant
- The Regional COVID-19 Relief Fund
- Great Plates Delivered
- Business Services (Specialized Training, Lay Off Aversion & Technical Assistance)
- Disaster Help Center & Small Business Resources

The webinars will take place **TODAY June 3** (3 to 4:30 p.m.) To attend, click [here](#).

Thursday, June 4 (3 to 4:30 p.m.) To attend, click [here](#).

Friday, June 5 (3 to 4:30 p.m.) To attend, click [here](#).

LOS ANGELES

City Council

The EKA team is tracking several items on the [Council agenda](#) for today.

June 3 Council Meeting Agenda Items		
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1	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to establishing a temporary limit on the charges imposed by third-party delivery services on retail food establishments during the COVID-19 epidemic and for 90 days after the City's Order prohibiting on-premises dining is lifted.	20-0470
2	MOTION (RODRIGUEZ - BONIN) relative to the development of a program to allow for deployment of the public right-of-way for use by restaurants for as long as social distancing is necessary.	20-0614
3	REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that creates an expedited and low-cost permit process, during the COVID-19 Local Emergency, for businesses and Business Improvement Districts to apply for temporary use of sidewalks, streets, public spaces, and adjacent parcels for outdoor living, exercise classes, and other outdoor business operations that will enable compliance with the public health guidelines for physical distancing.	20-0616
4	MOTION (BONIN - RODRIGUEZ) relative to a new affordable program that permits restaurants to provide dine-in service within the public right-of-way to meet the needs of the restaurant industry.	20-0617
6	RESOLUTION relative to the Declaration of Local Emergency by the Mayor, dated March 4, 2020, wherein he declared that conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen both internationally and within the United States as a result of the introduction of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), pursuant to the provisions of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Section 8.27.	20-0291

LONG BEACH

Testing

The city of Long Beach has reopened test sites for the Coronavirus that had been shuttered for two days as a precaution against urban unrest. The reopenings include Long Beach City College's Pacific Coast Campus, Cabrillo High School and Jordan High School. Locations at Jordan Plus High School and St. Mary Medical Center did not close and remain open. New appointments are required for all testing sites and can be made online or by calling 562-570-INFO (4636). Testing at Veterans Memorial Stadium remains closed until further notice. The Rapid Assessment Clinic at the LBCC Pacific Coast Campus also reopens today. The new, free mobile testing service is intended for residents who are homebound due to mobility or transportation issues.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

\$10K Small Businesses Grants

Business owners in Riverside County can apply for individual grants of up to \$10,000. These grants can be used for job retention, economic preservation, payroll, working capital, to buy

personal protective equipment. The \$45 million allotment was part of a larger \$431 million award to the county under the CARES Act. To view the website established for interested parties to gather information on the requirements to apply for funds, click [here](#).

SACRAMENTO

Evictions

Governor Newsom, extended Executive Order [N-28-20](#) until July 28 via the issuance of a new [Executive Order N-66-20](#). Executive Order N-28-20 granted local jurisdictions the authority to temporarily impose limitations on residential and commercial evictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Order N-28-20 provides, among other provisions that:

- "Any provision of state law that would preempt or otherwise restrict a local government's exercise of its police power to impose substantive limitations on residential or commercial evictions as described in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) below—including, but not limited to, any such provision of Civil Code sections 1940 et seq. or 1954.25 et seq.—is hereby suspended to the extent that it would preempt or otherwise restrict such exercise. This paragraph 2 shall only apply to the imposition of limitations on evictions when:
- The basis for the eviction is nonpayment of rent, or a foreclosure, arising out of a substantial decrease in household or business income (including, but not limited to, a substantial decrease in household income caused by layoffs or a reduction in the number of compensable hours of work, or a substantial decrease in business income caused by a reduction in opening hours or consumer demand), or substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses: and the decrease in household or business income or the out-of-pocket medical expenses described in subparagraph (i) was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, or by any local, state, or federal government response to COVID-19, and is documented.

Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order N-37-20](#), which provided further restrictions on evictions for nonpayment of rent due to reasons related to COVID-19, including renter notification and supporting documentation retention. At this time, Executive Order N-37-20 has not been extended.

Stricter Labor Standards

A bill that would result in inconsistent enforcement of wage and hour laws by local jurisdictions by authorizing them to impose their own wage payment requirements as long as they are "at least as stringent" is making its way through the legislative process. The bill, [AB 3075](#), purports to authorize local jurisdictions to "enforce labor standards requirements regarding the payment of wages that are at least as stringent as those" in the Labor Code. While it is unclear what additional regulation is being proposed to be authorized at the local level, this would appear to open the door to local enforcement of an unknown and potentially unlimited number of

"wage" standards that meet or exceed the requirements of state law. This could include things like the time for payment of wages, overtime standards, penalties for violations of wage standards, and even a stricter definition of "independent contractor." Under this proposal, a local jurisdiction could attempt to require an employer to pay wages daily, or to pay overtime wages after six hours in a day, or establish entirely new penalties for wage violations on top of penalties already imposed at the state level, as long as they are "at least as stringent" as state law.

Workers' Compensation

Two pieces of legislation would impact workers compensation. One bill, [AB 664](#) would significantly increase workers' compensation costs for public employers and public and private hospitals by "conclusively" presuming (non-rebuttable) that exposure or contraction of communicable diseases, including COVID-19, are caused by the workplace and defines required compensation to include non-workers' compensation items such as "temporary housing costs." The second bill, [AB 196](#) significantly increases workers' compensation costs for employers by "conclusively" presuming (non-rebuttable) that contraction of COVID-19 by all "essential workers" is a workplace injury. Both bills also establish a precedent for expanding presumptions into the private sector for COVID-19 issues, which the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau (WCIRB) recently estimated will add billions in costs to California's workers' compensation system.

Coalition Calling on Walmart to Protect Workers

Attorney General Xavier Becerra joined a coalition of 12 attorneys general in a letter calling on Walmart to step up efforts to protect workers and the public during COVID-19. In the letter, the coalition calls on Walmart to take a number of steps, including:

- At a minimum, offer paid leave protections in line with what is required for smaller employers under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act;
- Provide non-medical masks for employees;
- Install shields or other barriers at registers and check-out areas to physically separate cashiers and customers, and use every other register;
- Assign an employee to wipe down carts and handbaskets after each use;
- Reduce the number of customers allowed in stores as may be necessary to ensure that workers and customers can remain six feet away from each other at all times; and
- Inform state and local health departments in signatory states about the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in each store.

A copy of the letter is available [here](#)

COVID-19 PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Several of EKA's clients offer a variety of solutions that can help governments and businesses through this new normal. EKA's clients offer the following:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

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

To see details on any of the products or services above, please review our detailed PowerPoint [here](#). Feel free to reach out to any EKA team member identified in the PowerPoint who will be able to connect you to the right people.

RETURNING TO WORK

As we begin to reopen in California, there is now light at the end of the tunnel. However, scientists tell us this virus will be around for quite a while. So for those of us who prefer to run sprints, it's time we prepare to run a marathon.

Testing

As businesses prepare to reopen, many employers will be concerned about the risk of workplace transmission of the COVID-19 disease. Testing employees before allowing them to enter the workplace is one preventative measure employers are considering. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued guidance regarding employer testing of employees for COVID-19 before they enter the workplace. This guidance states that employers can require employees to undergo a COVID-19 test before entering the workplace without violating the ADA. The EEOC suggests that employers review the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA's) recommendations on testing. To read the guidance, click [here](#).

Diagnostic testing is generally considered more accurate than serology testing for detecting the presence of the virus. Accordingly, the FDA has issued an "Emergency Use Authorization" to certain diagnostic tests of COVID-19. An EUA essentially gives the FDA the authority to allow unapproved products to be used in emergency situations. Laboratories must submit an application with information regarding the effectiveness of their product in order to obtain EUA certification from the FDA. You can view a list of the COVID-19 tests that have received EUA certification on the FDA's website. To view the Emergency Use Authorization, click [here](#).

Employers considering COVID-19 testing of employees should ensure that they follow the EEOC's guidance and choose reliable and accurate testing.

NATIONAL

House Passes PPP Loan Forgiveness Bill

As detailed in previous updates, the House passed the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act by 417-1, which attempts to ease restrictions on small businesses as they seek loan forgiveness under the PPP under the CARES Act. The House bill comes on the heels of the new Treasury Department ["Interim Final Rules"](#). The House bill addresses many of the concerns expressed by small businesses. It reduces the amount of the loan needed to be spent on payroll from 75% to 60%, thus increasing the amount of funds available for other expenses from 25% to 40%. These expenses still include rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and interest on loans. This change is less than the 50-50 level most small business advocates were seeking, but it is still an improvement. The plan outlined in the bill would also offer the following:

- Extend the window businesses have to use the funds from eight weeks to 24 weeks
- Push back a June 30 deadline to rehire workers to December 31, 2020
- Provide more leeway on loan forgiveness for business owners who show they could not rehire workers or reopen due to safety standards
- Extend the time recipients have to repay the loan
- Let companies that get loan forgiveness defer payroll taxes

Issues About PPP Rules

The SBA can review any loan at any time. The [May 13 Treasury FAQs](#) provided a "safe harbor" for all loans under \$2 million, deeming them made in "good faith" that the economic uncertainty faced by the borrower necessitated the loan. However, it did leave the door open to the possibility that the SBA could review all loans to determine eligibility and accurate calculations for the loan amount and forgiveness.

- The loan forgiveness process could take up to 5 months. Once you file the forgiveness application with your bank, it will have 60 days to review it and let you know the amount of forgiveness. The bank will then notify the SBA of the amount of forgiveness and the SBA will have 90 days to approve the bank's decision. The SBA can request more information from the lender or the borrower directly and then will approve the amount in whole or in part. If the SBA determines a portion or all of the loan did not meet the guidelines for eligibility or forgiveness, it can request repayment of the loan or "pursue other available remedies." The guidelines do not explain what these other remedies might be. Borrowers do have the right to appeal decisions rejecting forgiveness to the SBA. It is important to note the SBA now requires borrowers to keep all files and paperwork on PPP loans for six years.
- The borrower is responsible for forgiveness calculation. The guidelines make clear that the borrower is responsible for calculating the forgiveness amount and providing the

necessary documentation along with the [forgiveness application](#) released on May 15. It is then the lender's responsibility to make a "good faith" review of the application. The guidelines articulate that a "good faith" review would include checking a payroll report from a third-party provider, or, in lieu of that, canceled checks, lease agreements, and utility bills.

- Employees must be rehired by June 30, 2020. The rehire date did not change from June 30 in these new regulations, but they did clarify a few items. First, if an employee was fired for cause, voluntarily resigned, or voluntarily requested reduced hours due to the Coronavirus, the borrower can still request forgiveness for the amount of payroll for that employee. It is critical to document this scenario in writing to provide to your lender with the forgiveness application. Likewise, as before, if an employee rejects an offer for rehire, the correspondence must be documented in writing for forgiveness.
- Loan forgiveness tied to maintaining the same number of full-time employees. Your amount of forgiveness is tied to having the same number of full-time employees as you did when calculating the loan amount. Thus, your forgiveness amount will be reduced by the same percentage of the reduction of your full-time employees or full-time equivalents.
- Loan forgiveness tied to maintaining the same wages per employee. Any amount of wages reduced in excess of 25% per employee will not be forgiven. The new Treasury guidelines also provide that if an employee earns less than \$100,000, you can offset wage reductions with hazard pay and bonuses that are eligible for forgiveness. While this is fairly straightforward, the new guidelines clarify that the wage reduction "applies only to the portion of the decline in employee salary and wages that is not attributable to the FTE reduction." This rule, a rare positive in this round of guidance, is intended to avoid double harming borrowers for both wage and head count reduction.
- Owner employees and the self-employed payroll forgiveness capped at \$15,385. The maximum loan amount for a self-employed individual would be based on \$100,000 annual compensation, the limit for all employees covered by PPP. \$100,000 divided by 12 months and multiplied by 2.5 as provided in the application process results in a loan amount of \$20,833. This arbitrary cap will create roughly a \$5,000 difference. Many self-employed individuals work from home or have minimal expenses to make up this gap, likely leaving many with a portion of the loan unforgiven.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Reopening Early

A Minnesota judge issued a restraining order against a bar owner who promised to open his six locations this week in defiance of the Governor's order closing bars and restaurants across the state. Kris Schiffler owns six bars around central Minnesota under the brand Shady's and

promised to open all six of them this week despite Governor Walz's order restricting restaurants to delivery and pick-up service. To read the Complaint, click [here](#).

Princess Cruises

The family of Ronald Wong, a cruise ship passenger who died of Coronavirus has sued Princess Cruises and its parent company in federal court. Mr. Wong and his wife were passengers on the Grand Princess when the ship set sail from San Francisco on February 21. He died in a California hospital a month later after testing positive for Coronavirus. Eva Wong tested positive and recovered. According to the Complaint, filed last week in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Princess and its parent, Carnival Corp., should have known that a passenger on the ship's prior voyage had Coronavirus. To read the Complaint, click [here](#).

Lysol Price Gouging Lawsuit

The New York Attorney General has filed a lawsuit accusing Quality King of price gouging related to Lysol products. According to the lawsuit, wholesale supplier Quality King increased their prices for Lysol disinfectant products when selling to local grocery and discount stores in New York. As a result, consumers were allegedly forced to pay dramatically increased prices for these products – prices they were willing to pay considering the ongoing global crisis. To read the A.G. press release, click [here](#). To read the Complaint, click [here](#).

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

When Will California's State Of Emergency End?

On March 4, 2020, California's Governor Gavin Newsom [proclaimed](#) a "state of emergency" due to COVID-19. The term "state of emergency" is just one of three degrees of emergency under [California's Emergency Services Act](#) - the other two being a "state of war emergency" and "local emergency." Under the act, the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency must be in writing and takes effect immediately upon its issuance. Cal. Gov't Code § 8626, but when does it end? Government Code Section 8629 provides an answer, but not a complete answer. It says, "The Governor shall proclaim the termination of a state of emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant. All of the powers granted the Governor by this chapter with respect to a state of emergency shall terminate when the state of emergency has been terminated by proclamation of the Governor or by concurrent resolution of the Legislature declaring it at an end."

Can You Explain The EEOC Direct-Threat Standard?

Some employees who you ask to return to work may say that they cannot return to the workplace because doing so will pose a direct threat to themselves or to others. The EEOC defines direct threat in its [guidance on pandemics and the ADA](#) as "a significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of the individual or others that cannot be eliminated or reduced by reasonable accommodation."

What Are Examples Of Accommodation That, Absent Undue Hardship, May Eliminate (Or Reduce To An Acceptable Level) A Direct Threat To Self?

[Accommodations](#) may include additional or enhanced protective gowns, masks, gloves, or other gear beyond what the employer may generally provide to employees returning to its workplace. Accommodations also may include additional or enhanced protective measures, for example, erecting a barrier that provides separation between an employee with a disability and co-workers/the public or increasing the space between an employee with a disability and others. Another possible reasonable accommodation may be elimination or substitution of particular "marginal" functions (less critical or incidental job duties as distinguished from the "essential" functions of a particular position). In addition, accommodations may include temporary modification of work schedules (if that decreases contact with co-workers and/or the public when on duty or commuting) or moving the location of where one performs work (for example, moving a person to the end of a production line rather than in the middle of it if that provides more social distancing). These are only a few ideas. Identifying effective accommodation depends, among other things, on an employee's job duties and the design of the workspace.

Do We Have To Honor An Employee Request An Accommodation?

The good news here is that the ball (responsibility) is in the employees' court! Per the EEOC, "If the worker does not request a reasonable accommodation, the ADA does not require that the employer discuss or provide accommodations." For more information on COVID-19 California, specific compliance from the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), [click here](#). Again, we urge you to consult with your legal and HR counsel.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Some California Farmers Are Skeptical Of Government Assistance In The Wake Of COVID-19

For employees of Sunrise Farm Labor, it's business as unusual. Instead of working on every row of a field, laborers are picking fruits in alternate rows. Hand-washing all day, multiple times a day. Disinfecting surfaces three times daily. Employees are watching mindless webinars about hygiene that remind them to change their clothes after work. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Two Crisis Convulse a Nation: A Pandemic and Police Violence

They are parallel plagues ravaging America: The Coronavirus. And police killings of black men and women. Jimmy Mills's life has been upended by both. His barbershop in Midtown Minneapolis was one of many small, black-owned businesses that have struggled to survive the pandemic. But Mr. Mills was hopeful because, after two months shut down, he was due to reopen next week. Then early on Friday, the working-class neighborhood where Mr. Mills has cut hair for 12 years went up in flames as chaotic protests over the death of George Floyd and police killings of African-Americans engulfed Minneapolis and cities across the country. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Latino Homes Report Serious COVID-19 Symptoms Nearly Twice As Often, Survey Of 1.6 Million Shows

Across the nation, Hispanic households said yes to symptoms of COVID-19 – the lung disease caused by the virus – nearly a third more often than others, a USA TODAY analysis found. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The Brave New World of Restaurant Dining. How Was the First Week of Service?

Whether sitting alone, with another person or ordering takeout, dining out on a regular basis has been a part of my DNA for the better part of 25 years. Being in quarantine found me cooking three meals and snacks a day, seven days a week, for over two months (minus a couple of call-ahead orders on the weekend); my dishwasher is run a minimum of twice a week. To say I missed sitting at a table or on a barstool was an understatement. I craved in-person conversation with friends, and not needing to prep, cook, and clean multiple times a day. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Wall Street And Fed Fly Blind As Coronavirus Upends Annual Stress Tests

U.S. financial regulators, banks and their investors will get their first glimpse into the health of the nation's banking system as it confronts soaring corporate and consumer defaults in the economic crisis sparked by the novel Coronavirus. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Cyberattacks On The Rise During The Covid-19 Pandemic

Cyberattacks are on the rise, and new cybersecurity risks are emerging due to the unprecedented changes in the way companies and their employees are currently forced to do business. In the last two months, cyberattacks have exploited the unique challenges that businesses face due to increased teleworking. Some examples include hacking, video- and teleconference hijacking, data breaches, and fraud. To read the full story, click [here](#).

This Treasury Official Is Running the Bailout. It's Been Great for His Family.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have become the public faces of the \$3 trillion federal coronavirus bailout. Behind the scenes, however, the Treasury's responsibilities have fallen largely to the 42-year-old deputy secretary, Justin Muzinich. A major beneficiary of that bailout so far: Muzinich & Co., the asset manager founded by his father where Justin served as president before joining the administration. He reported owning a stake worth at least \$60 million when he entered government in 2017. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Hidden in the New House Coronavirus Relief Bill: Billions for Defense Contractors

A section of the HEROES Act championed by Virginia Democrat Gerry Connolly would cover executive compensation and other perks for defense and intel contractors. The legislation's wording mirrors what an industry group proposed. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Mayor Garcetti's Budget, Which Includes a Bump in LAPD Funding, Will Advance Unless the City Council Acts

With the Los Angeles city budget for the coming fiscal year due today, critics are calling for an eleventh-hour reassessment of how public funds are to be spent. In the [proposed budget](#) laid out by Mayor Eric Garcetti, the LAPD gets far and away the largest slice of the pie. At

\$1,857,330,549, the police budget is larger than the allocations to the fire department, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Street Services, and the Housing and Community Investment Agency combined. To read the full story, click [here](#).

China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO

Throughout January, weeks before a global pandemic was declared, the World Health Organization publicly praised China for what it called a speedy response to the new Coronavirus. It repeatedly thanked Beijing for sharing the genetic map of the virus "immediately" and said its work and commitment to transparency were "very impressive, and beyond words." But behind the scenes, there were significant delays by China and considerable frustration among WHO officials over the lack of outbreak data. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Virus-Tracking App Angers Thousands In Moscow With Fines

A smartphone app designed to track Moscow's quarantined patients was rolled out by officials in April, but complaints about it have mushroomed. The app's nearly 70,000 registered users were subject to fines if they left their home or if they failed to take a selfie when directed to do so to prove their location. Officials have handed out 54,000 fines for a total of \$3 million. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Black Businesses Hit Hard By COVID-19 Fight To Stay Afloat

The pandemic has not only disproportionately impacted the community, infecting and killing them at higher rates across the nation, but black Americans are also experiencing the economic brunt as well. It has raised fresh concerns about the survival of black businesses that have been the backbone of cities like Detroit and Atlanta for years. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Will Temperature Checks Of Employees Make Workplaces Safe?

Will temperature checks of employees make workplaces safe? No, not completely. They can help reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections but shouldn't be the only safety measure employers take. Some employers are following White House guidelines to screen workers for a fever with daily temperature checks to help prevent the spread of infections. To read the full story, click [here](#).

What to Know About LA County's Strict New Restaurant Guidelines?

Social distancing in the kitchen, masks on masks, and more strict details to adhere to in L.A. County's newest guidelines To read the full story, click [here](#).

Covid-19 Cuts Deep Into LA Jobs

L.A. County's unemployment rate for April hit 19.6% amid COVID-19 related business closures and layoffs. Photo by California Employment Development Department It's no surprise that L.A.'s economy has been walloped by coronavirus-driven business shutdowns, but the extent of the damage and how much worse L.A. County has fared only became apparent with the release of data for April. The state Employment Development Department reported on May 22 that L.A. County's April unemployment rate reached a modern record of 19.6%, far exceeding the

statewide average of 15.5% and the national average of 14.7%, both record highs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Johns Hopkins's Jennifer Nuzzo says America needs public health crisis insurance to pay for COVID-19 victims; Protests, pandemic continue to ravage America

Coronavirus outbreak reported at Senegal research institute working on low-cost virus test Johns Hopkins's Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo says America needs public health crisis insurance to pay for victims, calls on policymakers to proactively work to destigmatize the virus or people who are sick won't reveal their condition. To read the full story, click [here](#).

When California reopens schools, steep drop in vaccinations could endanger children

With measles vaccinations declining 74%, a new law that is not yet enforced and a history of preventable outbreaks, doctors warn that the Coronavirus is not the only health risk in schools. 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.