

COVID-19 Update From EKA – July 15, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 118

Today is day 118 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 126 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

Closure of Indoor Operations

Governor Newsom announced that [effective July 13, 2020](#) all counties, including Los Angeles County, and Culver City, are required to close the following **indoor operations** unless they can be modified to operate outside or by pickup:

- Gyms and Fitness centers
- Worship services
- Protests
- Offices for non-critical infrastructure sectors [as identified by the State of California](#)
- Personal care services, like nail salons, body waxing and tattoo parlors
- Hair salons and barbershops
- Malls

During a Monday afternoon press conference, the Governor flipped what he calls the "dimmer switch" to combat the growing spread of coronavirus cases in many states around the country. Newsom said the approach allows the State to gradually modify certain health and economic restrictions on a county-by-county basis. The reason for the new orders is the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Bars, indoor dining at restaurants, indoor museums, indoor operations at zoos and aquariums, and cardrooms and satellite wagering facilities remain closed in Los Angeles County, including Culver City, and all events and gatherings are prohibited unless specifically allowed by the [LA County Health Officer Order](#).

Noncompliance

On July 7, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion to fine LA County businesses, including restaurants, for violations of COVID-19 public health orders, and to shut businesses down for noncompliance in as little as two health inspector visits. The [motion](#) was proposed by Supervisors Shelia Kuehl and Janice Hahn. In explaining the urgency of passing the motion, the proposal states: "on the weekend of June 27-28, inspectors found that 49% of bars

and 33% of restaurants were not adhering to physical distancing protocols indoors and that 54% of bars and 44% of restaurants were not enforcing the requirement that workers wear face masks and face shields. Moreover, 65% of retail stores and 83% of restaurants failed to post DPH's protocols, as required by local law. At the same time, as DPH's inspectors are seeing widespread noncompliance by businesses with public health directives, we are also seeing significant increases in the number of people leaving their homes and interacting with each other at these businesses. The Department of Public Health now has a two-week window to present an enforcement plan for approval by the Board. The proposal will detail the amount of the fines to be levied, and the process for shutting businesses down. A copy of the motion is [available here](#).

Covid-19 Testing For Los Angeles County Public Housing Residents

The Los Angeles County Development Authority is pleased to announce its partnership with the Central Neighborhood Health Foundation (CNHF) to conduct COVID-19 testing for seniors and families at the Carmelitos Public Housing community. With the increase of positive cases proliferating throughout California, Los Angeles County continues to have the leading loss of life brought by the pandemic. The LACDA staff joined CNHF to pre-register residents for COVID-19 testing and issuing one call reminders.

Hollywood Burbank Airport Installs PPE Vending Machines

Travelers are now able to purchase KN95 masks, infrared thermometers and other personal protective gear from vending machines at Hollywood Burbank Airport's terminals. The machines stock a variety of face coverings -- disposable, cloth and KN95 -- hand sanitizer and wipes, gloves, infrared and digital thermometers, hygiene kits and UV-C sanitizer cases for cell phones and toothbrushes. One machine is located pre-security in Terminal A, next to the airline ticket counters and before the Transportation Security Administration checkpoint. The second PPE machine stands pre-security in Terminal B, in the baggage claim area. "We've been a proud partner of Hollywood Burbank Airport since 2016, and so it is our responsibility to ensure we are providing their travelers with the product offerings and shopping experiences they are looking for.

LA Unified Campuses Will Remain Closed For Start Of School Year

Students and teachers in Los Angeles will not return to the classroom next month as the novel coronavirus infections continue to spike across the region. On Monday, LA Unified School District Administrator Austin Beutner said the health and safety of all in the community is not something that the district could compromise. "It's July 13, and August 18 is about five weeks away. In ordinary circumstances, we would have already shared all of the details about the upcoming school year — from the time of the school bus pickup to the schedule of volleyball and football practices. These aren't ordinary circumstances. As we've seen over just the past five weeks, things can change quite quickly," Beutner said in a statement

Metro

The CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority joined 27 other transit agency leaders in calling on the federal government to provide \$36 billion in nationwide

support due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A joint letter from the transportation agencies was sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. Los Angeles Metro officials are anticipating a shortfall of up to \$1.8 billion over the next two fiscal years due to the pandemic. They said they are grateful for the funding provided through the CARES Act, but as Congress considers a new COVID-19 aid package, it is clear that Metro and other transit agencies will need more federal funding to keep operating.

LOS ANGELES

LA Renters Relief Program

A relief program to help Los Angeles residential tenants and landlords struggling with the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic began taking applications on Monday. The application process for the Emergency Renters Relief Program will be open for five days and closes at 11:59 p.m. on July 17. The program allocates \$103 million to provide a rent subsidy for low-income tenants in the City of Los Angeles who are unable to pay rent due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of the funds – \$100 million – come from the city's federal CARES Act stimulus money. It will provide a grant of up to \$1,000 per month, with a maximum grant of \$2,000 per household, and will be paid directly to the tenant's landlord on behalf of the tenant. Eligible tenants are those whose household income is at or below 80% of the area median income. It is anticipated that the number of applications will far exceed available funding, therefore all applications submitted during the application period that meet all requirements will be placed in a random selection system. [James Capital Advisors](#) put together a great overview of the program. To view the document, click [here](#). To apply, click [here](#).

Los Angeles City Attorney says mask enforcement could be coming

Even though it's the law in California, some people are still refusing to wear masks in public. Right now, the police are not arresting people for failing to wear face coverings, but enforcement of some sort could be coming. On Eyewitness Newsmakers, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer explained how some people, other than law enforcement, could eventually remind others about the obligation to wear a mask. "You could imagine a task force assembled, perhaps disaster workers other ambassadors in the city who are put on the streets together. You could imagine law enforcement joining occasionally in this effort. It is the case now that I hope we don't have to reach the point where we have to actually enforce through criminal sanctions," he said. Click [here](#) to watch the Eyewitness Newsmakers interview.

City Attorney Files Lawsuit Against Nursing Facility

City Attorney Mike Feuer's office has filed its second lawsuit in two years against Lakeview Terrace Skilled Nursing Facility over allegations of "patient dumping" during the COVID-19 pandemic, patient abuse and neglect, denial of medical care and efforts to conceal its conduct. In 2019, Feuer reached a settlement with the Westlake/MacArthur Park facility requiring it to pay civil penalties and submit to a court-ordered monitor to oversee Lakeview Terrace's operations. Feuer's current lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction barring all Lakeview Terrace Skilled Nursing Facility staff from engaging in the acts and practices alleged in the latest

complaint, the appointment of a special master to oversee operations at Lakeview Terrace moving forward and civil penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation of the 2019 injunction. According to the complaint, over the past several months, Lakeview Terrace Skilled Nursing Facility has allegedly unlawfully discharged sick, elderly and disabled patients into facilities unable to care for them without getting consent from these patients or their families, which is known as "patient dumping" to make room for new, incoming patients. The City Attorney's Office alleges that to conceal this abuse and neglect, Lakeview Terrace falsified medical records. Staff allegedly signed hundreds of records falsely indicating that they had administered medication to patients when they had not, misleading regulators, the monitor and the physicians responsible for the patients' care.

SACRAMENTO

Shop Safe Shop Local

The Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery announced a new campaign, *Calling All Californians: #ShopSafeShopLocal*, to encourage Californians to support small businesses in their communities. This campaign is a call to action to help all California small businesses operate safely amid the COVID-19 pandemic and grow their digital footprints. The State has partnered with industry-leading companies and launched a [website](#) that connects California's small business owners to critical tools and resources. For more information, please click [here](#).

AB 1035

Small Businesses and Nonprofits legal certainty during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), the Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC) are strongly supporting AB 1035, which would provide small businesses and nonprofit organizations with 25 or fewer employees protection from COVID-19 related lawsuits resulting from operations during the pandemic. AB 1035 would give small businesses and nonprofit organizations the protection they need to continue operating during a time of great public health and economic uncertainty. Four million small businesses in California contribute significantly to our economic strength; while nonprofits provide assistance to those most vulnerable among us.

Trump Administration Backs Down On Kicking Online Foreign Students Out Of Country

The federal government, facing lawsuits filed by USC, Harvard and other colleges and universities throughout the country, Tuesday dropped a new visa policy requiring that international students take at least one in-person class or face deportation to their home countries during the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision was announced during a Boston federal court hearing on a lawsuit brought by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology challenging the ICE restriction. Multiple universities in Southern California and elsewhere also challenged the rule. California Attorney General Becerra, California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley, and California State University Chancellor Timothy White said the State of California is filing a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration's policy that threatens to exacerbate the spread of COVID-19 and exile hundreds of thousands of college students studying in the United States through the Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

COVID-19 Notification

A [bill](#) that would require employers within 24 hours to notify their employees, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, and the State Department of Public Health, of any employee exposure to COVID-19 "that the employer knew of or should have reasonably have known of." An employer's failure to adhere to the proposed notification requirements would be a misdemeanor carrying a \$10,000 fine. The bill would require employers to take *all* of the following actions within 24 hours after the employer knew or reasonably should have known of exposure to the employee:

- Provide a notice to all employees at the worksite where the exposure occurred that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. This notification shall be, at a minimum, in writing in both English and the language understood by the majority of the employees. Employers shall also make every reasonable effort necessary to notify workers verbally.
- Notify the exclusive representative, if any. This notification shall be, at a minimum, in writing in both English and the language understood by the majority of the employees. Employers shall also make every reasonable effort necessary to notify the exclusive representative verbally.
- Notify all employees and the exclusive representative, if any, of options for exposed employees including COVID-19-related leave, company sick leave, state-mandated leave, supplemental sick leave, or negotiated leave provisions.
- Notify all employees and the exclusive representative, if any, on the cleaning and disinfecting plan that the employer plans to implement prior to resuming work.
- Notify the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 6409.1, of the number of employees by occupation with a COVID-19 positive test, diagnosis, order to quarantine, or death that could be COVID-19 related.
- Notify the California Department of Public Health and the appropriate local public health agency of the number of employees by occupation with a COVID-19 positive test, diagnosis, order to quarantine, or death that could be COVID-19 related.

The bill defines "Exposed to COVID-19" as exposure to a person with any of the following:

- A positive COVID-19 test.
- A positive COVID-19 diagnosis from a licensed health provider.
- A COVID-19-related order to quarantine from a licensed health provider.
- A fatality that was or could have been caused by COVID-19.

COVID-19: California Executive Orders, Agency Guidance

Below are the links to the Governor's Executive Orders and California County directives and mandates Given the rapidly changing environment, we will update this page frequently. See the California coronavirus (COVID-19) response [here](#). [Proclamation of a State of Emergency](#) (3/4/2020), [California State Budget 2020-2021](#)

[Executive Order N-71-20 \(06/15/2020\)](#)

[Executive Order N-70-20 \(06/15/2020\)](#)

[Executive Order N-69-20 \(06/15/2020\)](#)

[Executive Order N-47-20 \(04/07/2020\)](#)

[Executive Order N-46-20 \(04/07/2020\)](#)

[Executive Order N-45-20 \(04/04/2020\)](#)

[Executive Order N-68-20 \(06/05/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-67-20 \(06/03/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-66-20 \(05/29/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-65-20 \(05/19/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-64-20 \(05/08/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-63-20 \(05/07/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-62-20 \(05/06/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-61-20 \(05/06/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-60-20 \(05/04/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-59-20 \(05/01/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-58-20 \(04/30/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-57-20 \(04/23/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-56-20 \(04/22/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-55-20 \(04/22/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-54-20 \(04/22/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-53-20 \(04/17/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-52-20 \(04/17/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-51-20 \(04/16/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-50-20 \(04/15/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-49-20 \(04/14/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-48-20 \(04/09/2020\)](#)

[Executive Order N-44-20 \(04/03/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-43-20 \(04/03/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-42-20 \(04/02/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-41-20 \(04/01/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-40-20 \(03/30/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-39-20 \(03/30/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-38-20 \(03/27/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-37-20 \(03/27/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-36-20 \(03/24/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-35-20 \(03/21/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-34-20 \(03/20/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-33-20 \(03/19/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-32-20 \(03/18/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-31-20 \(03/17/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-30-20 \(03/17/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-29-20 \(03/17/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-28-20 \(03/16/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-27-20 \(03/15/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-26-20 \(03/13/2020\)](#)
[Executive Order N-25-20 \(03/12/2020\)](#)

REOPENING/CLOSING

Governor Closes Indoor Dining Statewide, And Salons, Gyms In 30 Counties

On Monday, Governor Newsom closed indoor activities at restaurants and movie theaters statewide Monday, while also singling out 30 counties, including LA, Orange, San Diego and Riverside, to shut down businesses like salons and places of worship. The orders came as cases of coronavirus surged in the State, and Los Angeles Unified School District announced students would not return for in-person classes in the fall. Newsom also said bars must shut down all operation statewide, while wineries were required to shut down indoor operations only. The 30 counties that are on the State's targeted engagement list are ordered to close additional businesses. The targeted counties, which account for 80% of the State's population, are also required to close indoor operations of fitness centers, places of worship, offices for non-critical sectors, personal hair services, and indoor malls.

Musso & Frank

Musso & Frank Grill, which weathered a three-month closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, announced today that for the first time in its century-plus history, the iconic Hollywood eatery will begin taking to-go orders and offering delivery service seven days a week. The ``Musso's To

You" program will remain in effect until LA restaurants are permitted to offer indoor dining once again. It's the first time in decades that Musso & Frank has been open on Mondays.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Exhibitors Sue Reopening Delay

Major movie theaters in New Jersey have filed a federal lawsuit against the State for its decision to hold back on reopening multiplexes due to lingering concerns about COVID-19. The National Association of Theatre Owners of New Jersey is leading the complaint (read it in full [HERE](#)), with major circuits like AMC, Cinemark and Regal also on board. The suit was filed in US District Court for the District of New Jersey. Theaters in the State as well as in New York and California are crucial to salvaging some piece of the movie summer. Initially eyeing early July, studios have now shifted major tentpoles like *Tenet* and *Mulan* back to August as the US continues to experience major surges in infection in many states. According to the lawsuit, however, the Governor's approach unfairly punishes businesses like movie theaters. The virus is "a serious public health risk," the complaint acknowledges. Nevertheless, "the government-mandated total closure of movie theatres is neither fair nor reasonable, and is instead a violation of plaintiffs' First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and freedom of expression, Equal Protection of the laws, Due Process under the law, and is a Taking of property without just compensation." Theater owners met with state officials and outlined precautions they plan to take, the suit says. The plaintiffs are seeking a ruling that theaters are on the same footing as other businesses as well as a determination that Murphy and other officials have acted to deprive them of "just compensation

Nevada Church Appeals Virus Attendance Cap

Leaders of a rural Nevada church are asking the US Supreme Court to suspend the State's 50-person cap on religious gatherings while an appellate court considers their claim that COVID-19 restrictions treating casinos and others more leniently violate their constitutional right to freely exercise their beliefs. Gov. Steve Sisolak's June 4 directive allowing casinos, restaurants, bowling alleys and amusement parks to reopen at 50% of capacity while maintaining a hard cap for church services "simply turns the First Amendment on its head," lawyers for Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley wrote in the request to the high court for an emergency injunction. "The Free Exercise Clause protects the exercise of religion. No constitutional provision protects the right to gamble at casinos, eat at restaurants, or frolic at indoor amusement parks," they said. The church east of Reno appealed to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals last month after a federal judge in Nevada upheld the State's policy. Last week, the appellate court in San Francisco denied the church's request for an emergency injunction pending the outcome of the appeal. The three-sentence ruling pointed to the Supreme Court's refusal in May to strike down California's limit on the size of religious gatherings.

HUB Employee Suing Firm for Discrimination

A former insurance account executive in California has filed a lawsuit claiming she was fired from her job in retaliation for complaining about discrimination against her by a supervisor who didn't like her caring for her two children while she worked from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. The suit, filed in the Superior Court of California in San Diego, alleges gender

discrimination, retaliation, gender harassment, and wrongful termination by HUB International Insurance Services Inc., a massive insurance brokerage headquartered in Chicago that provides property/casualty, risk management, life and health, employee benefits, investment, and wealth management products and services. Drisana Wallace was employed by HUB in San Diego from August 2019 to June 2020. In the suit she alleges that her supervisor had issues with her working from home and caring for her children, and that she was eventually terminated over her complaints about the supervisor.

VENTURA COUNTY

Ventura County Lays Out Plans For 2020-21 School Year

The Ventura County Office of Education has released guidelines and requirements to help public school districts prepare for the start of the 2020-21 school year. The document presents information to school districts in hopes of providing them with the latest information from state and local health officials as they work to determine how to move forward with the upcoming school year. The *Framework for Reopening Ventura County Schools* was created Dr. Antonio Castro, Ventura County Office of Education's Associate Superintendent for Educational Services and was prepared by the Ventura County Office of Education. The office of education consulted the Ventura County Public Health Department as well as the county's school districts and charter schools. It provides extensive information about safety protocols on school campuses and how to respond to the potential for confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and staff. The Office of Education says the document aims to provide schools with "maximum flexibility on how they will function during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic while keeping the health and safety of students and employees a top priority." To read the *Framework for Reopening Ventura County Schools*, [click here](#).

NATIONAL

OSHA Updates FAQs on Face Masks in the Workplace

OSHA FAQs now indicate that "OSHA generally recommends that employers encourage workers to wear face coverings at work. Face coverings are intended to prevent wearers who have COVID-19 without knowing it (i.e., those who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic) from spreading potentially infectious respiratory droplets to others. This is known as source control." Consistent with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendation](#) for all people to wear cloth face coverings when in public and around other people, "wearing cloth face coverings, if appropriate for the work environment and job tasks, conserves other types of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as surgical masks, for healthcare settings where such equipment is needed most." OSHA explains that:

Employers have the discretion to determine whether to allow employees to wear cloth face coverings in the workplace based on the specific circumstances present at the work site. For some workers, employers may determine that wearing cloth face coverings presents or exacerbates a hazard. For example, cloth face coverings could become contaminated with chemicals used in the work environment, causing workers to inhale the chemicals that collect on the face covering. Over the duration of a work shift, cloth

face coverings might also become damp (from workers breathing) or collect infectious material from the work environment (e.g., droplets of other peoples' infectious respiratory secretions). Workers may also need to use PPE that is incompatible with the use of a cloth face covering (e.g., an N95 filtering facepiece respirator). OSHA concludes that where cloth face coverings are not appropriate in the work environment or during certain job tasks, "employers can provide PPE, such as face shields and/or surgical masks, instead of encouraging workers to wear cloth face coverings. Like cloth face coverings, surgical masks and face shields can help contain the wearer's potentially infectious respiratory droplets and can help limit spread of COVID-19 to others."

While OSHA offers face shields as an alternative where face coverings are not feasible, no federal agencies have certified face shields as an equally effective alternative means of protection. The CDC explains that "it is not known if face shields provide any benefit as source control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles. CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings." To view the CDC recommendations, click [here](#).

COVID-19 One-Stop-Shop Toolkits

CDC's [One-Stop Shop](#) provides quick access to communication resources. Topic-specific toolkits make it easy to access, leverage, and share CDC resources. These new toolkits contain videos, social media posts, PSAs, print resources, checklists, FAQs, and web resources for the following populations

Young Adults: Age 15-21

- Childcare Programs and Summer Camps
- Youth Sports
- K-12 Schools
- Business and Workplaces
- Community and Faith-based Organizations
- General Public
- Domestic Travelers
- Shared and Congregate Housing
- Parks and Recreational Facilities

For additional details, click [here](#). For communication resources, click [here](#).

EPA Ends Enforcement Discretion Policy

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a memorandum regarding [termination](#) of the COVID-19 temporary enforcement policy. EPA has selected August 31, 2020 as the termination date for its temporary enforcement policy. Also updated were EPA's [Frequent Questions About the Temporary COVID-19 Enforcement Policy](#). In support of the US Government's overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA previously issued a temporary enforcement discretion policy, [COVID-19 Implications for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program](#) (3/26/2020), that applied to civil violations during the COVID-19 outbreak. See our earlier blog, [EPA Enforcement Discretion Policy for COVID-19 Pandemic](#), for detailed

discussion of the temporary policy. The EPA has now announced that this temporary policy will [terminate on August 31, 2020](#), and EPA will return to its pre-COVID enforcement guidelines. This means that the EPA will not base any exercise of enforcement discretion on this temporary policy for any noncompliance that occurs after August 31, 2020. According to EPA, it is terminating its temporary policy because "new federal guidelines and directives have been issued to support both the public health response and economic recovery efforts, and many parts of the country have already taken steps to relax social distancing restrictions in parts or all of individual states, with the goal of returning to normal operations. As state and local restrictions are relaxed or lifted, so too may the restrictions that potentially impede regulatory compliance, reducing the circumstances in which the temporary policy may apply."

Federal Activities

[S-3 Group](#) key legislative and Administration activities has been tracking issues at the Federal level. Below is their report. The House is out of session this week, but the committees are still working. Appropriations Committee is working through full committee markups. Over a half-dozen different committees are holding COVID-related hearings, including oversight hearings at Small Business, Energy and Commerce and Homeland Security. When the House returns the week of July 20, they will consider NDAA, anti-Muslim ban legislation, a bill pertaining to statues in the Capitol, and the first Apropos minibus, which will cover State and Foreign Ops, Ag, Interior, and MilCon/VA. The Senate is out of session this week but will complete NDAA consideration when they come back next week.

COVID Relief Update:

[S-3 Group](#) has informed us that bipartisan discussions have not begun on the next COVID package. Senate Republicans have been gathering ideas at the Committee level for a couple of weeks and some reports indicated they were sharing them with the White House late last week. Education will be a major focus with some going so far to suggest the White House will demand in-person classes as a condition to receive federal funding. Senate Republicans are very concerned about the cost of the next package and are going to try to keep it as low as possible, though ultimately, whatever the White House is comfortable with will rule the day. Liability protection continues to also be a major priority for Republicans in the next COVID package. Senate Democrats are focused on Unemployment Insurance (UI), state and local aid, and funding for frontline workers. Their opening position is those issues must be resolved before turning to others, such as tax. Keep an eye on Senator Rob Portman's UI bill, which is a phase-out of expanded UI.

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

Is A Second Stimulus Check Coming And If So, How Much Could It Be

Congressional relief package is expected to be approved by the end of July. The details on exactly when a new economic impact payment will happen this year, who will qualify for a second stimulus check and how much you might get won't be hammered out until the Senate is back in session. The size of another relief package -- and how that money is divided up -- will

determine the amount that individuals and families are eligible to receive in a second economic impact payment. The first stimulus check, which was approved in March, sent each person who met the requirements up to \$1,200 apiece, and up to \$6,000 for families. White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow said that a second stimulus check will be smaller than the first. That aligns with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has indicated that the next stimulus package would have a \$1 trillion cap, but it runs contrary to the President's stated desire for a larger check. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, disagrees. Washington leaders are talking about these possible stimulus figures for individuals, not businesses at this time. Here is what we have seen proposed:

- Less than \$1,200. Suggested by Larry Kudlow, White House economic advisor, on [July 10](#).
- A \$1,200 maximum single payment for individuals. Proposed by the [Heroes Act](#) passed by the House of Representatives. (This is not law. More below.)
- More money for individuals than the Heroes Act proposes, as [referenced by President Donald Trump](#).
- A [\\$2,000 monthly payment](#) through the end of the pandemic and for three months after. Proposed by Sen. Kamala Harris.
- \$2,000 a month [for up to 12 months](#). Proposed by Rep. Ro Khanna.
- A [\\$4,000 temporary travel tax credit](#) (PDF). Proposed by the US Travel Association, after [Trump embraced the idea in May](#). Sen. Martha McSally took the idea further and [proposed a bill](#) (PDF) that would give couples a \$8,000 tax credit to cover travel expenses plus \$500 for each qualifying child.
- A payroll tax cut, [proposed by Vice President Mike Pence and other White House officials](#), that would allow workers to keep more of their paychecks.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Using UV Light To Kill Coronavirus: The Benefits And Risks

UV light sanitizers are popping up as the answer to killing coronavirus on our hands and phones, but consumer devices may have more risks than they're worth. With man-made [hand sanitizer](#) in short supply, many people are turning to what's been called "nature's hand sanitizer," or ultraviolet light. UV light is the latest popular tool in the ongoing race to find ways to prevent oneself from catching SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes [COVID-19](#). [Self-cleaning UV light water bottles](#) and [UV-emitting cases](#) that [clean your dirty phone](#). To read the full story, click [here](#).

Nearly 240 Experts Urge WHO, CDC To Acknowledge Airborne Transmission Of COVID-19

Micro-droplets of infectious coronavirus could be airborne for hours and social distancing practices may not be enough to stop the infection and spread, experts said. In an open letter to the international science community, 239 health experts urge their colleagues to take airborne transmission seriously as COVID-19 cases rise in most parts of the USA. Though most of the heavier respiratory droplets don't reach more than 6 feet from a person, aerosolized droplets

can span an entire room and hang in the air for several hours, [according to the letter](#) published July 6 in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases. To read the full story, click [here](#).

State Cracks Down On Bars, Restaurants

Amid [intense criticism](#) for reopening California's economy too quickly, Gov. Gavin Newsom is ramping up enforcement of his coronavirus orders following the 16th straight day of [record hospitalizations](#). Twenty-three counties are now on the State's coronavirus [watch list](#), with new additions Colusa, Madera, Marin, Merced, Monterey and San Diego [ordered](#) Monday to close for at least three weeks [indoor portions](#) of restaurants, wineries and movie theaters. Bars get fully shuttered. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Despite Local Differences Over Mask Order Enforcement, Gov. Newsom Expresses Confidence In OC

For the second news conference in a row, California Gov. Gavin Newsom talked about ramping up enforcement of the State's mandatory face covering order and other public health guidelines while at the same time praising both Orange County and several Los Angeles County cities — despite the two regions' starkly different approaches to making sure people mask up. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The Airline Bailout Loophole: Companies Laid Off Workers, Then Got Money Meant To Prevent Layoffs

Three airline industry companies slated to receive \$338 million in public money designed to preserve jobs in the hard-hit industry have laid off thousands of workers anyway, according to Treasury disclosure filings and public layoff data. The largest company, [Gate Gourmet](#), is a global preparer of airline meals and part of a Swiss conglomerate owned by the [private equity firm](#) of wealthy Malaysian businessman [Richard Ong](#). Gate Gourmet is scheduled to get \$171 million from the federal program to bail out the airline industry even after it reported laying off thousands of workers at airports in half a dozen states, including California, Georgia, New York and Illinois, in recent months, according to public filings. The exact number of workers who lost their jobs is not clear. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Can Asymptomatic People Spread Coronavirus? What We Know Right Now

The World Health Organization incited backlash from public health officials during a news conference on June 8 when Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead for the COVID-19 response, said it's "very rare" for asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 to spread the virus. The statement came after Kerhove said that in countries tracking asymptomatic cases, they are "following contacts and they're not finding secondary transmission onward." A day later, the WHO backtracked and clarified the statement, with Kerkhove noting that the WHO "actually doesn't have that answer yet," regarding if -- and how often -- asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 spread the virus. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Dr. Anthony Fauci Says He Hasn't Briefed Trump In At Least Two Months, Despite Pandemic Resurgence

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said Friday he has not briefed President Donald Trump in at least two months and not seen him in person at the White House since June 2, despite a coronavirus resurgence that has strained hospitals and led several states to pause reopenings. Fauci told the Financial Times he was "sure" his messages were sent to the President even though the two have not been in close contact in the past several weeks. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Experts fear bad tick season amid coronavirus pandemic

As if there wasn't enough to worry about in 2020, experts are warning about a potentially bad tick season. The Lyme Disease Research Group reports a mild winter could mean an especially rough time for ticks. Medical experts fear that many people who've been stuck inside due to coronavirus may "let their guard down" once they're able to venture outdoors and not pay attention to tick bite prevention. Some symptoms of Lyme disease are very similar to the symptoms of COVID-19, according to medical professionals. Ticks can carry Lyme and other dangerous diseases that can be severe if not treated properly. To read the full story, click [here](#).

CDC Director Says Agency Won't Revise School Reopening Guidelines Despite WH Push

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will not revise its guidelines for reopening schools despite calls from the White House to do so, agency Director Dr. Robert Redfield said Thursday. Instead, additional reference documents will be provided, Redfield told ABC's "Good Morning America." "Our guidelines are our guidelines, but we are going to provide additional reference documents to aid basically communities in trying to open K-through-12s," Redfield said. "It's not a revision of the guidelines; it's just to provide additional information to help schools be able to use the guidance we put forward." To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA Could Reimpose Stay-At-Home Order If Coronavirus Spike Continues, Mayor Warns

Los Angeles residents could again be ordered to stay home to stem the spread of the coronavirus should infections and hospitalizations continue to climb, Mayor Eric Garcetti warned Wednesday. The potential return of the kind of strict restrictions that kept Angelenos indoors and effectively shuttered wide swaths of the region's economy is yet another indicator of what elected and health officials have maintained for weeks: that the threat of COVID-19 remains real, and trend lines are heading in the wrong direction. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Ivy League Suspends Fall Sports Due To Coronavirus Pandemic

The Ivy League on Wednesday became the first Division I conference to suspend all fall sports, including football, leaving open the possibility of moving some seasons to the spring if the coronavirus pandemic is better controlled by then. "We simply do not believe we can create and maintain an environment for intercollegiate athletic competition that meets our requirements for safety and acceptable levels of risk," the Ivy League Council of Presidents said in a statement. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Japan's Theme Parks Ban Screaming On Roller Coasters Due To Coronavirus

This may be one of the biggest challenges of the coronavirus outbreak, much more difficult for most people than strapping on a face mask. Japan's theme-park associations are telling roller-coaster riders not to scream, The Wall Street Journal reports, because those delighted, terrified utterances release all kinds of possibly infected droplets. A four-minute video shows two executives from the Fuji-Q Highland amusement park, Daisuke Iwata and Koichiro Horiuchi, formally clad and properly masked, riding the park's Fujiyama coaster, which revs up to 80 miles per hour (128 kilometers per hour). They're a lesson in calm. One adjusts his hair and mask. Their hands clench the safety bars tightly. Their bodies shake back and forth, as they take deep drops and tight turns that send them sideways. But from beginning to end, they're as quiet as sleeping kittens. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Face Masks: These Are The Best And Worst Materials For Protecting Against Coronavirus

Everyone should wear nonmedical face masks when interacting with others during the coronavirus pandemic, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But the material your mask is made from may make a difference when it comes to reducing the spread of the virus, a new study published in the Journal of Hospital Infection found. Researchers from the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health collected data from different studies of mask efficacy, and created a computer model to simulate how well different nontraditional mask materials protect a person from infection in a highly contaminated environment. To read the full story, click [here](#). To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump To US Schools: Reopen Or You May Lose Federal Funds

Determined to reopen America's schools despite coronavirus worries, President Donald Trump threatened Wednesday to hold back federal money if school districts don't bring their students back in the fall. He complained that his own public health officials' safety guidelines are impractical and too expensive. Shortly afterward, Vice President Mike Pence announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would be issuing new guidance next week "that will give all new tools to our schools." The recommendations will keep students safe, he said, but "the President said today we just don't want the guidance to be too tough." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Lack of Plumbing Makes Fighting COVID-19 Difficult

For most Californians, handwashing is a matter of turning on their home faucet. And while it is no substitute for other guidelines, handwashing is a surprisingly effective measure against the coronavirus. Unfortunately, not everyone can implement this public health guidance. The State's homeless population has difficulties, and so do residents with inadequate plumbing. Nationally, plumbing issues—such as lack of running water—can make regular handwashing almost impossible, and California is no exception. The American Community Survey, conducted by the US Census Bureau, collects national- and state-representative information about housing characteristics. In more than 6,300 housing units in California, people lack adequate plumbing, meaning they have no piped hot and cold water, no bathtub or shower, or no flush toilet. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Early Research Links Coronavirus Gun Sales Surge to Increased Shootings

Gun purchases have soared during the coronavirus pandemic, and a new paper suggests that these additional firearms may be exacerbating violence around the country. In a [paper pre-print](#) released on July 4, researchers at the University of California, Davis found a link between excess gun sales over the past few months and increased rates of intentionally inflicted gun injuries and deaths. In the new paper, which has not yet gone through the peer-review process that will subject it to vetting by other scientists, the researchers analyzed data from the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System from January 21 through May 31, 2020 in 48 states and Washington, DC, to get a sense of how many people have been buying guns and where. They then compared those numbers to the same months in previous years. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How the pandemic may change airlines' much-hated \$200 rebooking fees -- Airlines have done away with their \$200 change fees, giving passengers the flexibility they've long desired - at a time when few people are traveling. None of the major US airlines have signaled they will abandon change fees altogether. But as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to spread, they have repeatedly delayed their deadlines for reimplementing the fees. To read the full story, click [here](#).

SF Hotel Groups Disapprove of New Cleaning Ordinance

According to members of the Hotel Council of San Francisco, the California Hotel and Lodging Association (CHLA), workplace safety experts and San Francisco's business community, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' approval of the Healthy Buildings ordinance puts hotel employees at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19. According to these groups, the ordinance will also delay those workers' return to work and adds costly and unnecessary cleaning requirements to a single industry while exempting the supervisors' own offices. The groups reiterated their strong opposition to the ordinance's mandates that require repeated cleaning of low-touch hotel walls and chandeliers that exceed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California's Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommendations. To read the full story, click [here](#).

WHO: Indoor Airborne Spread Of Coronavirus Possible

The World Health Organization is acknowledging the possibility that COVID-19 might be spread in the air under certain conditions — after more than 200 scientists urged the agency to do so. In an [open letter](#) published this week in a journal, two scientists from Australia and the US wrote that studies have shown "beyond any reasonable doubt that viruses are released during exhalation, talking and coughing in microdroplets small enough to remain aloft in the air." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Why Denny's Is Focused On Its Labor Force During The Coronavirus Crisis

A number of fast food brands, McDonald's [MCD +0.3%](#) and Taco Bell among them, have gone on massive hiring sprees in the past month or so, filling tens of thousands of positions across their systems nationwide. This may seem like a big, fat disconnect as the restaurant industry is on track to lose a [staggering \\$240 billion](#) from the crisis by the end of this year. But those chains have drive-thrus and a significant off-premise business in general—table stakes in this

lingering stay-at-home environment. Such a model has relatively insulated fast food players from the full brunt of this crisis. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Proposed California Legislation Promising for Business Insurance Policy Owners Dealing With COVID-19

California Assemblymembers James Ramos and Monique have introduced a promising bill regarding business interruption insurance coverage for COVID-19-related losses in California. Legislation proposed in other states to date seeks to impose requirements that insurers pay such claims, regardless of the specific coverage provisions of the insurance policies, raising significant Constitutional concerns. In a notable departure, AB 1552 by Ramos and Limón seeks to shift the relevant burden of proof to the insurer, rather than the insured. Every California business with a commercial insurance policy with coverage for business interruption in effect on or after March 4, 2020, will be impacted by this legislation, if it passes. This law would form the basis for reconsideration, if not immediate reversal, of the countless COVID-19-related insurance claim denials which have been issued to date. As such, it could serve its intended purpose of protecting the solvency of "businesses that were forced to close their doors or limit business due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic." To read the full story, click [here](#).

You Can Make Millions Selling Masks To The Government In Three Easy Steps

The federal government is essentially providing seed money to PPE startups, including some run by people accused of fraud. Mask brokers describe a simple blueprint for buying masks from China to get rich. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Inside The Detective-Style Hunt For Missed COVID-19 Cases

Dr. Matija Snuderl has spent the last couple of months poring over tissue samples collected from the bodies of the recently departed. As a neuropathologist at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City, he's usually diagnosing brain tumors and other brain diseases. But this effort goes beyond his typical duties: Snuderl is among a group of medical experts around the country on a detective-style hunt for missed cases of COVID-19. To read the full story, click [here](#).

PAC-12 Limits College Football In Coronavirus Crisis

The chance for a "normal" college football season fell by the wayside Friday when the PAC-12 said it will limit its 2020 games to conference opponents only due to the coronavirus crisis. The decision follows the Big Ten's move Thursday also to only play colleges within its conference to mitigate the possible spread of COVID-19, where the US has 3.24 million active cases. Athletic teams could be at an elevated risk as many often fly cross-country for games. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Church Singing Ban Strikes Sour Note With California Pastor

Crossroads Community Church Senior Pastor Jim Clark wants to keep his 1,500 parishioners safe during the coronavirus pandemic but he's drawing the line at a new California ban on singing or chanting at religious services. "I said enough's enough," Clark said. "We will be singing and

praising the Lord. ... We don't chant, but if we did chant, we'd be chanting too." To read the full story, click [here](#).

'Vaccine Nationalism' Could Lead To The Coronavirus Devastating Public Health And The Economy, Experts Warn

"Vaccine nationalism" is turning the search for a Covid-19 cure into an arms race, which will ultimately damage the economy and public health, experts have warned. Analysts at Eurasia Group speculated that tension over a vaccine would heat up over the summer, predicting a battle for access that will stretch into 2021 or 2022. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus: Can Wearing A Mask Help The Economy? Yes, Kaplan Says

Dallas Federal Reserve President Robert Kaplan told Fox Business this week that wearing a mask may be the key to saving the US economy. Kaplan told Fox Business that wearing a mask can help stop the spread of the coronavirus, which has been surging across the country. Too much of a spread could hurt the progress the country has made in reopening, especially if governors and local leaders reinstitute lockdowns, which hit the country back in March, according to The New York Times. To read the full story, click [here](#).

PPP Loan Program Extended; Loan Data Released: What Small Businesses Need To Know

President Trump signed a new law extending the deadline for applying for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan from June 30 to August 8. This extension comes on the heels of new Interim Final Rules (IFR) issued by the Small Business Administration (SBA) on June 22, clarifying some issues and attempting to make complete loan forgiveness attainable for most borrowers. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Funds Run Out For Federal Business Grant Program, SBA Says

Federal grant funds have run out for small businesses, farms and nonprofits trying to survive the coronavirus pandemic, officials said Sunday. The Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance Program has exhausted the \$20 billion authorized by Congress, the U.S. Small Business Administration announced. As a result, the agency has stopped taking applications for Advance grants, which are up to \$10,000 per applicant and do not have to be repaid. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Everyone Is Lying': Trump Questions Public Health Experts On Twitter

President Donald Trump on Monday shared a handful of social media posts questioning the expertise of his own public health officials, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, and suggesting their scientific counsel was intended to thwart his political standing ahead of November's general election. In a burst of early morning online activity, Trump retweeted messages from the politically conservative former game show personality Chuck Woolery — who served stints hosting "Wheel of Fortune" and "Love Connection" — which lamented the "most outrageous lies" being spread about the coronavirus pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Virus Spread, Not Politics Should Guide Schools, Doctors Say

As the Trump administration pushes full steam ahead to force schools to resume in-person education, public health experts warn that a one-size-fits-all reopening could drive infection and death rates even higher. They're urging a more cautious approach, which many local governments and school districts are already pursuing. But US Education Secretary Betsy DeVos doubled down on President Donald Trump's insistence that kids can safely return to the classroom. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Are State Parks And Campgrounds Open In California?

While many of California's national and State parks are open to the public, there's a caveat: Visitors still have to social distance, although wide open spaces may make that easier. And just because the scenery has changed, you should take the same health precautions that you would at home, like washing your hands regularly and not traveling if you're feeling ill. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Federal Stockpile Is Thin Amid Coronavirus Surge, Internal Documents Show

The federal government may not have the capacity to supply medical professionals with personal protective equipment amid the latest surge in coronavirus cases, according to internal administration documents obtained by NBC News. For example, the Strategic National Stockpile and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have fewer than 900,000 gloves in reserve after shipping 82.7 million of them — or just 30 percent of the amount requested by state, local and tribal governments — since the COVID-19 crisis began, according to figures compiled Sunday by Health and Human Services Department officials for senior leaders of the interagency coronavirus task force effort. To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti's Failed Policies Exposed By COVID-19

Since the day he took office, Mayor Eric Garcetti has been an obstacle to progress in Los Angeles. The city has been disproportionately hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the nation in large part because of his lack of leadership. The virus has served to unmask several critical failures in his left-leaning policies, exposing how many of his shortcomings created a slate of problems that are holding Angelenos back as they struggle to deal with the hardships caused not just by the past several months, but by the seven years he has been in office. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How Trump Is Helping Tycoons Exploit the Pandemic

The secretive titan behind one of America's largest poultry companies, who is also one of the President's top donors, is ruthlessly leveraging the coronavirus crisis—and his vast fortune—to strip workers of protections. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Salesforce's Marc Benioff: Face Masks Can End The US Coronavirus Crisis Within Weeks

Masks are so important," Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff told CNBC's Jim Cramer. "If everyone in the United States wore a mask for 3 weeks — just 3 weeks — we would not have coronavirus anymore because there would be no more spread, but people do not want to wear masks," he said on "Mad Money." The two have teamed up to sponsor Next-Gen Mask Challenge, a contest

launched by the global pandemic response coalition XPRIZE Pandemic Alliance to induce widespread mask-wearing in America. To read the full story, click [here](#).

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