

COVID-19 Update From EKA – July 29, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 132

Today is day 132 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 140 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

Establishing County's Moratorium Provisions

On July 21, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors extended the temporary eviction moratorium through September 30, 2020, unless further extended or repealed by the Board. The Board of Supervisors also considered a proposal which would establish the County's eviction moratorium provisions as the baseline for all incorporated cities within the County. During the meeting, an amending motion introduced by Board Chair, Supervisor Barger was advanced, requesting that staff review and report back to the Board within 14 days on eviction moratoriums within the incorporated cities and additional resources needed for outreach prior to the Board's reconsideration of the proposal. It is anticipated that Staff will report back on this matter at the August 4 Board meeting, at which time the Board of Supervisors will consider the proposal to impose the County's eviction moratorium provisions on incorporated cities, where the City's moratorium does not meet or exceed the County's provisions.

Compliance Plan to Enforce Health Officer Orders

As health inspectors continue to conduct visits to ensure infection control measures are in place in businesses across the County, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has created a tiered compliance and enforcement plan that will include citations and fines for businesses that continue to violate Health Officer Orders. Since March, Public Health received a total of 17,808 Health Officer Order complaints and investigated more than 17,000 restaurants, more than 3,500 grocery stores, more than 600 pools, and more than 3,000 other businesses. Twenty-six restaurants, one grocery store, one pool and 67 other businesses were shut down for Health Officer Order violations. Most of the businesses under investigation either came into compliance or were working to come into compliance, and that's why they were not closed.

Beginning at the end of August, fines will be issued to businesses that are non-compliant that can range from \$100 for the first offense to \$500 and a 30-day permit suspension for multiple offenses. This includes businesses licensed and permitted by the department and those that are

not. The Department of Public Health will start an enforcement process through a tiered system. The DPH will start issuing fines at the end of August.

- 1st violation - \$100 fine and another inspection 2 weeks later.
- This fine can be given upon the first inspection/visit. There will be no warning first.
- 2nd violation - \$500 fine and a 7-day suspension.
- 3rd violation - \$500 and a suspension of 30 days with the possibility of your permit being pulled.

Since the newest executive order, they've found that most restaurants are playing by the rules and are in no violation.

- Employees of restaurants providing only takeaway do not have to wear face shields.
- Guidance for employees coming back to work after having COVID are-
 - 10 days since symptoms have started and at least one day since any symptoms including a fever.
 - If someone tests positive but has no symptoms, the guidance is still 10 days.
 - A negative COVID test does not mean an immediate ability to go back to work nor is it required before returning back to work.

Restaurants can get copies of complaints made against them from DPH Environmental Services. Restaurants **can refuse** service to any customer who is unwilling to wear a mask for medical reasons.

Parks, Libraries as Supervised Distance Learning Sites

With school campuses remaining closed this fall, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to explore using county parks and libraries as alternative learning sites for children in unincorporated areas. Supervisor Janice Hahn recommended identifying safe spaces for children who cannot stay at home to access computers and participate in distance learning. County parks have Wi-Fi access and libraries have been supporting students with online homework support, reading activities and grab-and-go summer lunches. It may be possible for library community rooms and outdoors spaces to be used by students and parents. The Board also approved a motion co-authored by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Mark Ridley-Thomas recommending the county press Gov. Gavin Newsom and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond to provide more support for distance learners, especially vulnerable youth.

LOS ANGELES

Coronavirus Relief Package

Mayor Garcetti sent a letter to the L.A. Congressional delegation outlining what the City of L.A. needs in the next Coronavirus relief package: funding to keep our essential public servants on the job, more resources for testing, direct payments to Angelenos, and an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program and \$600 bonus for unemployment insurance. While the roughly \$2 trillion pandemic relief package (PL 116-136) passed in March included \$150 billion for states

and localities, that money was restricted to coronavirus-related expenses. And, according to the National League of Cities, 69 percent of cities have yet to see any of those funds. Democrats would provide \$1 trillion to states and localities in the bill the House passed in May (HR 6800), but Senate Republicans say they won't take that bill up and are split on the idea of helping out states. Many, like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have emphasized that if Congress does provide more money, it should be capped at actual revenue shortfalls rather than used to address preexisting financial headaches like underfunded pensions. To read the six-page letter, click [here](#).

LADOT Extends Relaxed Parking Enforcement

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation will continue relaxed parking enforcement for several parking offenses through at least August 16. Tickets will not be issued for:

- residential street sweeping;
- expired vehicle registration;
- overnight and oversize parking districts;
- rush hour and gridlock zone parking restrictions; and
- abandoned vehicles.

Fines will also not be increased for failure to pay and a grace period will be extended for people dropping off and picking up passengers. Deadlines for all payments will also be extended, the department announced. Enforcement will continue for:

- metered parking;
- time limits inside preferential parking districts for vehicles without a permit;
- posted time limit zones in residential and commercial areas;
- posted temporary “No Parking” zones;
- vehicles blocking emergency access, including alleyways and fire hydrants;
- colored curb zones; and
- parking restrictions for city-owned lots.

The department will supply a temporary, print-at-home permit to residents inside preferential parking districts who have renewed their permit but have not received new hang-tags before their current permit expires.

L.A. Mask Print Project

Mayor Eric Garcetti launched the L.A. Mask Print Project, a grassroots initiative to remind Angelenos to wear a mask in public through open-source art in collaboration with local artists and businesses. This effort kicked off with three commissioned posters in English and Spanish produced pro-bono by Studio Number One, a Los Angeles creative studio founded by Shepard Fairey. Studio Number One designed the launch posters pro-bono and granted the City of Los Angeles license to distribute the artwork for non-commercial use. The City will work with local small businesses to distribute the posters throughout the City. Residents and business owners are encouraged to download and print the artwork for display in their windows as a way to inspire one another to wear a face mask whenever they are outside their home, and build grassroots-level support for this simple but life-saving act.



LONG BEACH

Coronavirus Relief Fund

The Long Beach City Council approved a spending plan for the City's Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation from the State of California. The [general framework](#) for funding prioritizes COVID-19 emergency response costs, community support, and business recovery and resiliency programs. The City Council approved \$6,750,000 in funding to support transition grants for small businesses and non-profits, supplies and technology for economic recovery, economic inclusion and equity programs, and the City's [Open Streets Initiative](#). The City is in the process of preparing application materials for each funding opportunity. Each program funded through the City's CRF allocation will be screened through a commitment to equity and inclusion, ensuring the programs benefit the entire community, particularly those who are most impacted by COVID-19. Additional details and eligibility requirements for each program are forthcoming. For those who are interested in being considered for one of the programs mentioned above, please complete the [CARES Act Interest Form](#).

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Mask Giveaway

Riverside County plans to give out 10 million masks in the next 30 days as part of a public outreach campaign aimed that stop a COVID-19 surge. The Masks Are Medicine campaign will use nonprofit groups, food banks, senior services, meal-delivery services, the faith community, schools and business to distribute masks, which also will be handed out at County- and state-run COVID-19 testing sites. The goal is to give a mask to any county resident who wants one. The County used \$2 million in federal coronavirus relief funding to buy the 10 million masks.

SACRAMENTO

Governor Newsom Announces New Supports for California Workers

Governor Gavin Newsom announced a host of new safeguards for California workers who face the greatest risk of COVID-19. In addition to support for workers, including agricultural and farmworkers, to isolate and quarantine, Governor Newsom unveiled a robust education

campaign for workers and employers. He also committed to working with the legislature and key stakeholders to expand critical protections like paid sick leave. Governor Newsom will work with the legislature to build on previous executive action and advance worker protections. Expanded paid sick leave will provide workers financial security so they are able to stay home when sick. Similarly, workers' compensation access helps ensure that front-line workers can quarantine and stay home from work when ill.

Employer Resources

As California businesses work to reopen, a new Employer Playbook released today will guide them on how to provide a clean environment for workers and customers to reduce risk. Proactive education efforts led by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) will provide information and support to businesses to help them come into and stay in compliance, including technical assistance and a model training program. Additionally, the state will provide employers information to share with their workers regarding health insurers' COVID-19 testing coverage and eligibility requirements.

Strategic Enforcement

Cal/OSHA and the Labor Commissioner's Office have strategically targeted investigations in high-risk industries, where the state has seen the most workplace outbreaks. Expedited enforcement authority and advanced reporting of health and safety hazards at work will improve enforcement outcomes. Requiring employers to report outbreaks to their local health departments will help track county transmission. Governor Newsom will work with the legislature to establish this authority. Today's actions and proposals build on ongoing efforts to protect workers from the first days of this crisis. In addition to strengthening supports like paid sick leave for workers in the food sector and expanded child care, the administration has built a pipeline of personal protective equipment to help these workers stay safe on the job. The state has also expanded testing and health plan reimbursement for the essential workforce, in addition to requiring health plans to reimburse all COVID-19 testing for high-risk essential workers. Finally, the administration has released robust workplace safety and health guidance that emphasizes masks, distancing, cleaning, hand washing, screenings and staying home if feeling sick. Watch the new PSAs about how we can all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep California healthy here:

- [Make It Happen](#) (English)
- [Essential Workers](#) (English)

420 Million New Protective Masks

Governor Newsom has directed the Department of Public Health and Office of Emergency Services to further increase the state's strategic stockpile to 100 million N-95 respirators and 200 million surgical masks by early fall in order to account for the potential need given the recent rise in COVID-19 cases. In order to fulfill the stockpile goal, which was developed in consultation with health leaders and informed by advanced modeling data, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services has entered into a new contract with California-based BYD North America to produce 120 million N-95 respirators and 300 million surgical masks for the state.

Rebuttable Presumptions Supporting Covid-19 Business Interruption Coverage

As the latest in a series of similar bills introduced by the legislatures of various states, [Assembly Bill 1552](#) would create important rebuttable presumptions affecting the burden of proof and supporting coverage for policyholders' COVID-19-related business interruption claims. AB 1552 was referred to the California Senate Insurance Committee. Designed to "protect the solvency of businesses that were forced to close their doors or limit business" due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AB 1552 would create three rebuttable presumptions affecting the burden of proof and supporting coverage for policyholders' COVID-19-related business interruption claims:

- First, with respect to coverage for general business interruption and extra expenses, a rebuttable presumption that "COVID-19 was present on the insured's property and caused physical damage to that property which was the direct cause of the business interruption."
- Second, with respect to coverage for business interruption due to an order of civil authority, a rebuttable presumption that "COVID-19 was present on property located within the geographical location covered by the order of civil authority and caused physical damage to that property which was the direct cause of the insured's business interruption."

Third, with respect to coverage for business interruption due to impairment of ingress or egress, a rebuttable presumption that "COVID-19 was present on the property of a third party and caused physical damage to that property which was the direct cause that prevented the ingress and egress to the insured's property and resulted in the insured's business interruption."

California Judicial Rule Making Body to Meet to Determine Status of Eviction Ban

The California Judicial Council will likely soon meet to vote whether to end its emergency suspension of virtually all unlawful detainer matters throughout the State. The Judicial Council was previously set to vote on ending its suspension of eviction cases in June but had suspended its meeting before a vote could take place amid political pressure by the State Legislature and Governor's office. Under its emergency rules 1 and 2, most evictions and foreclosure matters may not be heard by California courts until 90-days beyond the lifting of the State of Emergency set by Governor Newsom. The date for the meeting to terminate emergency rules 1 and 2 has not yet been set. The reason for cancelling the meeting and earlier vote to end the suspension of unlawful detainer matters was explained by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye during the July 24, 2020 meeting of the Judicial Council.

New Employment Laws May Be On The Horizon For California Employers

The [California Labor & Employment Law Blog](#) details a number of pieces of legislation that Sacramento is considering that deal with personnel policies, risk management, and employment litigation. Here are some notable bills from the blog that are pending and have been passed by their house of origin:

- [SB 385 \(Employer Headcount Tax\)](#): This bill would impose a new “headcount” tax on private, for-profit businesses with more than 500 employees who perform any part of their duties within California, at the rate of \$275 per employee. (It’s a wonder that businesses are fleeing the state.)
- [AB 2999 \(Bereavement Leave\)](#): This bill would require employers to provide up to 10 business days of unpaid bereavement leave to employees.
- [AB 3056 \(Warehouse/Distribution Center Employees\)](#): This bill would provide certain protections for warehouse and distribution center employees who have performance quotas (e.g. they are required to perform a specific number of tasks and/or produce a quantifiable amount of material within a defined amount of time). Specifically, the bill would require employers to exclude reasonable amounts of time that an employee spends (1) accessing and using a restroom or hand-washing station, or accessing hydration; (2) taking rest, recovery, or meal breaks; and (3) documenting and reporting to the employer or a government agency a colorable claim of a Labor Code violation. [#3 is plainly infeasible from a time-tracking perspective.] Employers who violate this requirement would be exposed to a penalty of \$250 per employee for an initial violation and \$1000 per employee for a subsequent violation.
- [SB 973 \(Pay Data Reporting\)](#): Yes, we’ve seen this bill before. It was not successfully passed in prior legislative terms, but the legislature has revived the effort. This bill would require private employers with 100 or more employees to provide annual pay data to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing detailing the number of employees holding certain categories of jobs by race, gender, and ethnicity, and to provide pay band data for these employees. The purpose of the reporting, which could be shared with the Labor Commissioner’s office, is to assist the state in identifying and accusing employers of pay discrimination.
- [AB 1066 \(Unemployment Claims\)](#): This bill would provide that if an employer fails to supply the EDD with requested records regarding an unemployment claim within 10 days, it shall be *conclusively* presumed that the claimant is entitled to the maximum amount of unemployment compensation benefits allowable.
- [SB 1383 \(Expansion of CFRA\)](#): This bill would greatly expand coverage of the California Family Rights Act (California’s version of the FMLA) to employers with 5 or more employees. (Currently, CFRA only applies to employers with 50 or more employees). It would also eliminate the eligibility requirement that an employee work at a worksite where there are at least 50 employees (or 20 employees, in the case of parental leave) employed within a 75-mile radius. If ultimately signed into law, this bill would require most employers within the state to provide up to 12 weeks of job-protected family and medical leave to employees in circumstances covered by CFRA.

- [AB 685 \(COVID-19 Reporting\)](#): This bill would require employers to take specified actions within 24 hours after the employer knows “or reasonably should have known” that an employee has been exposed to COVID-19. The employer would be required to (1) notify all employees at the worksite where the exposure occurred that they may have been exposed; (2) notify the employees’ exclusive representative, if any; (3) notify all employees and the exclusive representative, if any, of paid and unpaid leave options available to the employees; (4) notify all employees and the exclusive representative, if any, of the employer’s cleaning and disinfecting plans for the worksite; and (5) notify Cal-OSHA, the California Department of Health, and the county health department of the number of employees by occupation with a positive COVID-19 test, diagnosis, order to quarantine, or death that “could be” COVID-related.
- This bill would expand the circumstances under which eligible employees could take up to 12 weeks of CFRA leave to include qualifying exigencies related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the bill, an employee who has been employed for at least 12 months, has worked at least 1250 hours, and who works at a worksite with at least 50 employees employed within a 75-mile radius could take CFRA leave because of the employee’s inability to work due to (1) being subject to a quarantine or isolation order, including a shelter at home order; (2) being advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to exposure to the disease; (3) experiencing symptoms of the disease; (4) being a member of a vulnerable population at high risk for serious illness from the disease; (5) living with or providing care to a family member who is a member of a vulnerable, high-risk population; and/or (6) the need to provide care to a child or family member whose school or place of care has been closed due to the pandemic. In addition to expanding CFRA leave to cover pandemic-related issues, this bill would also expand employers’ requirement to provide paid sick leave to employees by providing that, in a public health emergency, employers shall provide each employee with at least 56 hours or 7 days of paid sick leave, which must be available for use immediately. Finally, the bill would provide reinstatement rights to laid off workers by requiring that employers offer laid-off employees all job positions that become available for which the laid-off employee is qualified.
- [SB 1102 \(New Hire Wage Notice; Notice for H-2A Farmworkers\)](#): This bill would amend California’s Wage Theft Prevention Act Notice requirements (Labor Code 2810.5) to require employers to include information in their notices about any federal or state emergency or disaster declaration affecting the County or counties where the employee would work, if the declaration was issued within 30 days prior to the employee’s hire and may affect the employee’s health and safety during employment. The bill would also add Labor Code 2810.6 to create unique additional notice requirements for H-2A farmworkers.
- [SB 1399 \(Garment Industry Employee Protections\)](#): This bill would eliminate piece-rate compensation for garment manufacturing employees. It would also create joint and several liability between different levels of garment industry contractors for wage and hour violations.

- [SB 729 \(Food Sector Workers/COVID\)](#): Similar to an Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom earlier this year, this bill would require employers of food sector industry workers to allow those employees to wash their hands every 30 minutes and additionally as needed. It would also require these employers to provide supplemental paid sick leave for employees to use during the COVID-19 health emergency.
- [SB 275 \(Healthcare Employers/PPE\)](#): This bill would require healthcare employers to maintain a stockpile of unexpired personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees to use in the event of a declared state of emergency. The stockpile would need to be sufficient to meet needs for 30, 60, or 90 days according to specified deadlines in the bill. The bill would provide a penalty of \$25,000 for non-compliance.
- [AB 196 \(COVID-19/Workers' Compensation\)](#): Similar to, but more extreme than, the Governor's recent Executive Order providing workers' compensation coverage for COVID-19, this bill would create a conclusive presumption that a COVID illness contracted by an employee in an essential services industry arose during the course and scope of employment. The presumption would extend to a period of 90 days post-termination of service, starting with the last day actually worked. The bill excludes employees in certain occupations from this presumption, such as firefighters, peace officers, certain rescue personnel, and health care personnel providing direct care in acute care hospitals. (However, these workers are covered by a different below, discussed below.)
- [AB 664 \(COVID-19/Workers' Compensation\)](#): This bill would provide a conclusive presumption that any COVID-19 related "injury" sustained by firefighters, peace officers, certain rescue personnel, and health care personnel providing direct care in acute care hospitals was sustained in the course and scope of employment. The term "injury" would include not only a diagnosis of COVID-19, but also exposure to COVID-19 and being required to quarantine as a result of that exposure. The bill would provide for certain compensation to these employees for their injuries, including compensation for the cost of temporary housing needed because of exposure to COVID-19 and the resulting need to quarantine away from those in the employee's usual residence.
- [AB 2992 \(Expanded Protections for Employee Leave for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking\)](#): This bill would expand employment protections provided by Labor Code section 230 and 230.1, which provide that employees who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking may take leave for specified purposes, and which also prohibit discrimination or retaliation against employees for using such leave. The bill would provide that employees may, but need not, provide a certification signed by a professional that certifies an employee's absence was for a purpose covered by the statute. Instead, an employee simply can provide a personal written statement stating that an absence was for a covered purpose.

- [AB 3075 \(Articles of Incorporation/Successor Liability/Local Enforcement of State Wage Laws\)](#): This bill would do a number of things. First, it would require business entities' articles of incorporation, which have to be filed with the Secretary of State, to include an attestation signed by the filers under penalty of perjury that the purpose of the corporation is lawful and that the filer is not an owner, director, officer, managing agent, or any other person acting on behalf of an employer that has an outstanding final judgment issued by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement or a court of law and no appeal therefrom is pending, for violation of any wage order or provision of the Labor Code. Second, the bill would provide that a successor employer is liable for wage and hour violations of a predecessor employer in specified circumstances showing the successor effectively is a continuation of the predecessor entity. Third, the bill would amend the Labor Code to provide that local jurisdictions can enforce state labor standards requirements related to the payment of wages.
- [AB 1947 \(Statute of Limitations/Fee-shifting\)](#): This bill would extend the time for employees to file certain administrative claims of discrimination with the Labor Commissioner's office (pursuant to Labor Code 98.7) from six months to one year. The bill also would amend Labor Code section 1102.5 (which prohibits retaliation against employees for making certain complaints of unlawful activity) to specify that an employee who prevails on a retaliation claim is entitled to recover his/her attorney fees incurred in connection with the claim from the employer. Of course, there is no reciprocal ability for a prevailing employer to recover its attorney fees.
- [SB 1384 \(Arbitration of DLSE Claims\)](#): This bill would authorize the Labor Commissioner to represent a claimant in arbitration where the claimant is financially unable to represent himself/herself, the court has ordered the claim to be resolved in arbitration in accordance with an arbitration agreement, and the Labor Commissioner has determined that the claim has merit. The bill would also require any petition to compel arbitration to be served on the Labor Commissioner.

REOPENING/CLOSING

Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings

Based on new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is no longer recommended that employers require employees who tested positive for COVID-19 to be tested again before they can return to work. The CDC test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except in certain circumstances. People with COVID-19 who have mild to moderate symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms began, have not had a fever for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medications and other symptoms have resolved.

- A limited number of people who have severe or critical illness or are severely immunocompromised are recommended to wait 20 days after symptoms developed and one day after fever resolution and improving symptoms.
- People who are severely immunocompromised but have no symptoms can leave isolation after 20 days after testing positive.
- People who tested positive for the novel coronavirus but never developed symptoms can stop isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first diagnostic positive test virus.

To read the new guidance, click [here](#).

Guidance For California Businesses

In the past few months, federal, state, and local governments have rapidly and constantly proliferated laws, orders, and guidance for conducting business in light of COVID-19. Unless a business has personnel dedicated to monitoring the ever-changing legal requirements related to the pandemic, it can be terribly confusing and difficult to keep track of this morass of information. California Industry Guidance: California industry guidance is available on the [California Resilience Roadmap Website](#). Every business in California must follow the applicable guidance, and the state has released guidance for 27 different industries. More than one set of industry guidance might apply to a single business. For example, if a business consists of an office and a warehousing facility that delivers items, the business might follow the [Guidance for Office Workspaces](#), the [Guidance for Logistics and Warehousing Facilities](#), and the [Guidance for Delivery Services](#).

Additional industry guidance is available for businesses in California counties with attestations. What is an attestation? When a county meets certain criteria as decided by the California Department of Health, it may fill out a [COVID-19 County Variance Attestation Form](#) to reopen 11 more industries, also found on the [California Resilience Roadmap Website](#). A list of counties that have successfully obtained a variance can also be found on the COVID-19 [County Variance Attestation Form](#) website. This website is updated regularly. Such counties are known as “counties with attestations” as opposed to “counties without attestations.” As of July 13, 2020, counties with attestations were required to close indoor operations for the following sectors: dine-in restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms, movie theaters, family entertainment centers (for example: bowling alleys, miniature golf, batting cages and arcades), zoos and museums, and cardrooms. Keep in mind that counties without attestations cannot have these industries open at all. Also, as of July 13, 2020, all counties (with or without attestations) had to close indoor and outdoor operations for bars, brewpubs, breweries, and pubs unless they offer sit-down, outdoor dine-in meals, in which case alcohol can only be sold in the same transaction as a meal. This information is also available on the [California Resilience Roadmap Website](#).

Counties with especially high counts of COVID-19 are being monitored by the California Department of Health. The criteria on what is being monitored is available on the [County Data Monitoring](#) website, and specific county monitoring data is available on the [County](#)

[Data Chart](#). On the [County Variance Info](#) Website, you'll notice a map of California. The map is updated almost every morning and tracks which counties have been on the monitoring list and whether they have been on the county monitoring list for more than three days. On the [County Variance Info Website](#), you'll also notice a list labeled "Affected counties as of [date]". This list is a list of counties on the County Data Monitoring List for at least three consecutive days. This list is updated less frequently and ordinarily around 1:00 pm after Gov. Gavin Newsom's Noon News. If a county remains on the County Data Monitoring List for at least three consecutive days, the County must shut down the following industries or activities unless they can be modified to operate outside or by pick-up: gyms and fitness centers, places of worship and cultural ceremonies (like weddings and funerals), offices for non-critical infrastructure sectors, personal care services (like nail salons, body waxing and tattoo parlors), and shopping malls.

Local Guidance, Orders, and Ordinances

California businesses must comply with County, City, and local orders. These orders may harmonize with, or be stricter than, California Industry Guidance. For example, San Diego has a [Public Health Order](#), which requires, amongst other things, for businesses to "conduct temperature screening of all employees and prohibit entry to the workplace of employees with a temperature of 100 degrees or more... ." This is stricter than California guidance which generally allows employees to take their own temperatures at home and requires employees with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more stay at home. As another example, San Francisco has a [Stay Safer at Home Order](#), which requires, amongst other things, for businesses to accept cash, allow patrons to use reusable bags, and prohibits cancellation fees for missed appointments due to COVID-19-related reasons. Additionally, some California counties and cities have enacted ordinances requiring employers who are otherwise exempt (e.g., businesses with more than 500 employees and [small businesses](#)) from the federal [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) (FFCRA) to provide paid leave to their employees for certain COVID-19-related reasons. For example, the [San Jose Paid Sick Leave Ordinance](#) requires nearly all employers exempt from FFCRA to provide paid leave benefits to their employees for four reasons. As another example, the [Oakland Paid Sick Leave Ordinance](#) requires nearly all employers with more than 500 employees to provide paid leave benefits to their employees for 11 reasons.

Federal Laws and Guidance

California businesses must also follow federal guidance, which is ordinarily released by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), the [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), and the [Department of Labor](#). As referenced above, California businesses must also comply with FFCRA. Navigating COVID-19 law can be confusing and keeping up with the changes can feel daunting.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

50-Person Cap On Worship Services

The U.S. Supreme Court denied a rural Nevada church's request to strike down as unconstitutional a 50-person cap on worship services as part of the state's ongoing response to the coronavirus. In a 5-4 decision, the high court refused to grant the request from the Christian church east of Reno to be subjected to the same COVID-19 restrictions in Nevada that allow casinos, restaurants and other businesses to operate at 50% of capacity with proper social distancing. Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley argued that the hard cap on religious gatherings was an unconstitutional violation of its parishioners' First Amendment rights to express and exercise their beliefs. Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the liberal majority in denying the request without explanation. Three justices wrote strongly worded dissenting opinions on behalf of the four conservatives who said they would have granted the injunctive relief while the court fully considers the merits of the case. "That Nevada would discriminate in favor of the powerful gaming industry and its employees may not come as a surprise, but this Court's willingness to allow such discrimination is disappointing," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in a dissent joined by Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh also wrote his own dissent, as did Justice Neil Gorsuch, who said today's world "with a pandemic upon us, poses unusual challenges." "But there is no world in which the Constitution permits Nevada to favor Caesars Palace over Calvary Chapel," Gorsuch wrote.

SoCal Public Radio Sues Government Over Paycheck Protection Loans Info

Southern California Public Radio filed suit against the U.S. Small Business Administration, seeking disclosure, under the Freedom of Information Act, of records that would reveal the names of all Paycheck Protection Program loan recipients and the amount of their loans. The radio network, which includes Pasadena-based public radio station KPCC-FM (89.3) and the online news site LAist, believes the public is entitled to know "how the hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars invested in the PPP have been spent." According to the complaint, filed in federal court, SBA has failed to comply with statutory deadlines imposed by FOIA, its own regulations, and has unlawfully withheld PPA records from Southern California Public Radio.

Group Sues Over California Ban On Most In-Person Schools

A conservative legal foundation filed suit to overturn Gov. Gavin Newsom's order barring schools in most of the state from bringing students into the classrooms this fall. The suit, which was filed in a Los Angeles federal court by the [Center for American Liberty](#), accuses Newsom of arbitrarily depriving children of their right to an adequate education and argues that he has no constitutional power to make that decision. The governor and the state "have ushered in a new wave of COVID-19 restrictions, this time barring in-person schooling for most children in California," the suit charges, adding that "they have placed politics ahead of the well-being of children" and deprived millions of children "of the opportunity for meaningful education and the attendant hope for a brighter future." The suit calls for a permanent injunction barring the state from enforcing the school closure rules. This isn't the first suit Dhillon and her center have filed against the state. She has challenged Newsom on everything from [church services](#) to Orange County beach closures and [fought for various other causes](#) around the country.

NATIONAL

PPP Forgiveness Applications on Hold Until at Least August 10

The Small Business Administration (SBA) advised lenders on July 23 that the PPP Forgiveness Platform will not begin accepting Forgiveness Applications until August 10, 2020, and this date will be subject to extension if any new legislative amendments to the forgiveness process necessitate changes to the system. Further, final Treasury guidance concerning PPP Forgiveness Applications, which was expected in early July, is now not expected until after related federal legislation is resolved. Banks, accountants and others are being advised not to process PPP Forgiveness Applications until this legislation is enacted and related Treasury and SBA guidance is finalized. Many borrowers who received PPP loans under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136) have already completed their specified “covered period” and spent the PPP loan proceeds and wish to submit the related forgiveness applications (SBA Form 3508 or 3508EZ) as soon as possible. While related records should be assembled in preparation for submission, lenders will not accept applications at this time.

CDC Changes COVID-19 Guidance

People who have been confirmed with mild to moderate COVID-19 can leave their isolation without receiving a negative test, according to recently revised guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Increasing evidence shows that most people are no longer infectious 10 days after they begin having symptoms of COVID-19. As a result, [the CDC](#) is discouraging people from getting tested a second time after they recover. There are exceptions for the 10-day guidance, including people with compromised immune systems who may be infectious for a longer period of time.

PPP Loan Forgiveness Process

A new free online tool can simplify the PPP loan forgiveness process. The new PPP forgiveness platform at PPPForgivenessTool.com is available to any business that took out a PPP loan, regardless of whether they worked with a bank or a non-bank lender. The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and CPA.com released the platform which is powered by software from small business lender Biz2Credit. Business owners or their accountants can access a suite of loan aids on the platform, including the AICPA’s PPP forgiveness calculator, the PPP loan forgiveness application and all of the required government forms mandated when you submit your loan forgiveness application. You can even submit your application on the platform using an electronic signature, although the site recommends holding off on filing the application until the federal government offers additional guidance on calculating PPP loan forgiveness.

Updates From the Federal Agencies

Among the key agency developments are updates from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) and the Department of Labor (“DOL”). Last month the EEOC released [supplemental guidance](#) regarding employer best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EEOC’s new guidance addresses and clarifies issues relating to mandatory screening and exclusion of employees from the workplace. In its guidance, the EEOC reminds employers about their obligation to protect the confidentiality of employees’ medical information and avoid COVID-motivated harassment in the workplace, in particular against employees who are or are perceived to be Asian. Together with previous guidance, here is what employers should know.

Mandatory Screening

With regard to screening, the EEOC indicates that employers may mandate screening before employees enter the workplace but should continue to rely upon CDC guidance and input from public health authorities in doing so. Employers may, for instance, take the temperature of all those entering the workplace or require employees to self-report any COVID-related symptoms. When administering tests, employers should ensure the tests are accurate and reliable. Notwithstanding negative test results, employers should still require that employees observe infection control practices. The ADA prohibits employers from requiring COVID-19 antibody testing before allowing employees to return to the workplace. Relatedly, exclusion of an employee from the workplace due to an employee's refusal to submit to antibody testing is prohibited. Employers may find consolation in the fact that, according to the CDC, it cannot be assumed that individuals who test positive for COVID-19 antibodies will not contract COVID in the future. Employers must treat employees' requests for alternative methods of screening because of an alleged medical condition as a reasonable accommodation request under the ADA or Rehabilitation Act. Employers should engage in an interactive process with those employees if the reason for the accommodation is not obvious. As part of the interactive process, employers may request medical documentation that supports the employee's accommodation request. According to the EEOC, employers will not need to worry about the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") issues if they screen employees on return to work consistent with dictates of the CDC and public local health agencies.

Exclusion Of Employees From The Workplace

The EEOC guidance also answers employers' questions about what to do regarding employees the employer knows are at an increased risk for severe illness if they contract COVID-19 at the workplace. The EEOC reminds employers that they are not required to take any action unless an employee requests a reasonable accommodation. However, employers may inquire whether particular employees would like to request reasonable accommodations prior to returning to work, or they may notify employees generally of that option. An employer may only exclude an employee from the workplace due to a medical condition if the employer knows the medical condition presents a "direct threat" to the employee's own health that cannot be addressed by a reasonable accommodation. Even if the employee poses a "direct threat" to his or her own health, the employer still cannot exclude the employee unless, after engaging in an interactive process with the employee and considering all options, the employer concludes a reasonable accommodation is unavailable. Employers are prohibited from postponing a start date or withdrawing a job offer because the individual being hired is over 65 years old or pregnant (both of which are conditions that place individuals at higher risk from COVID-19). If the employee would prefer, remote work or postponement of a start date is acceptable. An employee at risk of serious illness due to COVID-19 is obligated to inform his/her employer, that he or she requires a reasonable accommodation. The employer may ask follow up questions or request medical documentation.

Confidentiality Of COVID-Related Information:

Employers may maintain a log of temperature checks for an employee. However, an employee's medical information is confidential. Therefore, an employer must keep an employee's temperature log apart from the employee's personnel file and must restrict access to this confidential information. An employer, however, is allowed to convey to a public health agency the name of an employee when the employer learns that the employee has COVID-19. Temp agencies may notify employers if they know an employee has tested positive for COVID-19.

COVID-Motivated Harassment

Employers may notify employees that COVID-19 concerns must not be asserted against individuals because of a protected characteristic, including national origin, race or other prohibited bases. Employers may require employees to wear PPE and conform to practices such as hand washing and social distancing. However, employers may need to accommodate employees with disabilities or limitations based upon religious beliefs or clothing. The EEOC's website provides certain policy toolkits for employers, particularly small businesses, to help them avoid harassment claims. Before it promulgated this supplemental guidance, the EEOC hosted a March webinar in which the agency answered questions about the applicability of the ADA and Title VII to COVID-19-related employment actions. The EEOC updated its previously published guidance entitled [Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans With Disabilities Act](#) to provide information and examples regarding COVID-19. This guidance confirmed that COVID-19 constitutes a "direct threat" and a significant risk of substantial harm would be posed by having someone with COVID-19, or symptoms of it, present in the workplace. Employers should follow the EEOC guidance in conjunction with the guidelines and suggestions made by the CDC and state/local health authorities.

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

California COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Presumption Expired On July 5, 2020—Will It Be Revived?

On May 6, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom of California issued [Executive Order \(EO\) N-62-20](#), creating a temporary rebuttable presumption that employees working outside of their homes who test positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, may receive workers' compensation benefits. In doing so, the governor simplified the process for sick employees to seek certain wage replacement benefits, and therefore sought to encourage ill employees to stay home to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues across the state, it has gone almost entirely unnoticed that the rebuttable presumption created by EO N-62-20 expired on July 5, 2020. The executive order stated that "[t]his presumption shall only apply to dates of injury occurring through 60 days following the date of this [o]rder." In addition, any employee who tested positive or received a COVID-19 diagnosis "within 14 days after a day that the employee performed labor or services at the employee's place of employment" was covered by the presumption. As a result, a positive test result or diagnosis through at least 14 days after the order's expiration could arguably entitle the employee to assert the presumption.

What Happens Next?

Whether the COVID-19-related rebuttable presumption will be revived remains to be seen. Ogletree Deakins will continue to monitor the governor's briefings and new executive orders for any sign that the state will continue or reinstitute the presumption. Until that time, the presumption will fall away but employees who test positive for COVID-19 while performing work outside the home may still seek workers' compensation benefits. Without the presumption, these employees will be required to prove causation from work—for example, that they were in close contact to other employees, customers, or vendors who later tested positive for COVID-19 or were otherwise exposed to a person with COVID-19.

WHAT WE'RE READING

California May Offer \$600 A Week In Extra Jobless Benefits If Congress Doesn't Act

If Congress doesn't act to extend an extra \$600 in weekly benefits for unemployed Californians, state legislators say they're ready to jump in to prevent benefits from plunging during the pandemic. The expanded federal unemployment benefits, which began in April, are set to expire Friday. That will reduce the average jobless payment in California to about \$338 a week. The House passed a coronavirus relief bill in May that would extend the \$600 weekly checks through January 31, but the GOP-led Senate has yet to act. Republicans released a package late Monday that proposes to cut the aid to \$200 a week. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus relief will include \$1,200 checks and extension of eviction moratorium, says Kudlow

"There's a \$1,200 check coming, that's going to be part of the new package," White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow said in an interview on CNN. Kudlow also said the administration plans to lengthen the federal eviction moratorium. The eviction moratorium expired Friday and the \$600 boost in weekly unemployment benefits stopped over the weekend. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Assembly Committee to Consider Two Job Killer Bills That Will Increase Labor Costs

Two job killer bills that will increase costs and expose employers to potential litigation will be considered by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on Wednesday. To read the full story, click [here](#)

Three Simple Acts Can Stop Covid-19 Outbreaks, Study Finds

If people washed their hands regularly, wore masks, and kept their social distance from each other, these three simple behaviors could stop most all of the Covid-19 pandemic, even without a vaccine or additional treatments, according to a new study. The study, published Tuesday in the journal PLoS Medicine, created a new model to look at the spread of the disease and prevention efforts that could help stop it. To read the full story, click [here](#).

16 Classic LA Restaurants Offering Takeout During The 'Safer At Home' Order

Since Governor Gavin Newsom announced mandatory stay-at-home restrictions on March 19, restaurant dining rooms remain closed. Many LA businesses switched to delivery or takeout models to keep revenue coming in and Angelenos fed. It's a welcome option for those stuck at home. But before placing that takeout order, it's important that LA's most cherished and old-school spots aren't overlooked. Here now are 16 old-school restaurants offering delivery or pickup from north to south. To read the full story, click [here](#).

From Internet Rights To Streeteries, How The Pandemic Is Changing Working From Home

For a number of California communities, internet connections can be slow and unreliable, making it hard to tackle work or school assignments. In some instances, Californians have resorted to parking outside of Starbucks to tap hotspots. "Right now, some communities have internet, but the speed is terrible. You can't do telehealth and online education," State Sen. Anna Caballero said. While hotspots have been added to school parking lots and buses, many Californians still lack high-speed internet. Whether or not the internet should be treated as a public utility, like water or electricity, is still up for debate and remains controversial. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Not following health rules in Marin County? You could pay fines up to \$10,000

The Marin County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance calling for fines of \$25 to \$500 for individuals, and fines of \$250 to \$10,000 for businesses that do not follow public health orders. Local law enforcement agencies and municipal departments in charge of restaurant health inspections will begin enforcing the new ordinance in the next couple of weeks, said Laine Hendricks, public information officer for Marin County. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Using Virus-Closed Classrooms For Child Care

In Glendale, education officials opted last week to move to online instruction due to a rise in coronavirus cases and hospitalizations. They also started a program for families in need of child care where students will be dropped off at local schools and placed in small groups. They will complete their online lessons with support from a staff member or substitute teacher during what would normally be school hours. To read the full story, click [here](#).

"This Is A Pandemic Of Trauma. Everybody Is Feeling The Pain..."

As COVID-19 cases surge in California, some of the state's leading mental health professionals warned of long-lasting psychological fallout that will require enormous investment to help Californians who are suffering. Yet they also praised innovative experiments during the pandemic and said there is reason for hope. "This is a pandemic of trauma. Everybody is feeling the pain and suffering from stress and anxiety and depression across the Board," said Dr. Jonathan Sherin, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, at "PolicyMatters: The Crisis in California Mental Health." The virtual panel Tuesday was sponsored by CalMatters and moderated by reporter Jocelyn Wiener. To read the full story, click [here](#).

School Reopening 'Strings' Bedevil Stimulus Talks

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows briefed congressional Republicans Tuesday afternoon on Trump's priorities for the GOP version of the stimulus measure. Of the money for schools in the next package, the White House is looking to earmark 10 percent for nonpublic schools and Education Freedom Scholarships, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said on Friday. McConnell said the GOP bill, which is expected to be unveiled this week, will focus on "kids, jobs and health care" and that the \$105 billion for education would be in addition to support for childcare needs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

FDA Warns Of Dozens More Hand Sanitizers To Avoid, Growing List To 75

If you are purchasing hand sanitizer to keep your hands clean and slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, avoid purchasing products that contain methanol, a type of wood alcohol that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin. In recent weeks, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has identified 75 products that contain methanol. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus Questions We Haven't Answered, Six Months Later

On December 20, 2019, a 61-year-old man from Wuhan, China, presented to the Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital with a fever and a strong cough. He'd previously been diagnosed with chronic liver disease but was exhibiting a new, pneumonia-like illness. On the same day, CNET reported on a "mystery illness" that had infected dozens of citizens in Wuhan, a city of over 11 million people. The patients were sick with pneumonia-like symptoms: Their lungs filled with fluid, and their temperatures soared. On January 20, the first coronavirus case was recorded in the US. Six months later, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has killed over 600,000 people, and the World Health Organization warns that the pandemic may get "worse and worse and worse." To read the full story, click [here](#).

MIT Engineers Design A Reusable Face Mask That Could Be As Effective As An N95

What if you could safely sanitize and reuse an N95 protective face mask instead of disposing of it? A group of engineers and researchers at MIT and Brigham and Women's Hospital may have found a way to do exactly that. The group has created a new prototype for a reusable silicone face mask that can accommodate disposable N95 disc filters to protect people from coronavirus. The mask's design appeared in a paper published earlier this month in the British Medical Journal Open. The new mask requires much less disposable material than a traditional N95 mask, and its silicon rubber can be safely sanitized, according to the researchers. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Can You Get Coronavirus Twice? Doctors Are Unsure Even As Anecdotal Reports Mount

Doctors emphasize there is no evidence of widespread vulnerability to reinfection and that it is difficult to know what to make of these cases in the absence of detailed lab work, or medical studies documenting reinfections. Some people could be suffering from a reemergence of the same illness from virus that had been lurking somewhere in their body, or they could have been hit with a different virus with similar symptoms. Their positive covid-19 tests could have been false positives — a not-insignificant possibility given accuracy issues with some tests — or picked up dead remnants of virus, as authorities believe happened in hundreds of people who tested positive after recovering in South Korea. To read the full story, click

Fact Check: Trump Revisits Familiar Falsehoods In First Coronavirus Briefing In Months

President Donald Trump overstated his administration's response to the coronavirus crisis Tuesday and repeated falsehoods that he has pushed since the earliest days of the pandemic. In a solo briefing at the White House that included a question-and-answer session with reporters — his first coronavirus briefing in months — Trump offered a newly sober projection for the country as deaths have surpassed 140,000. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Bill Gates Says The Coronavirus Crisis In The US Is 'An Ugly Picture' And That 'Serious Mistakes Were Made' In How The Virus Was Handled

Bill Gates criticized the US coronavirus response, calling the current state of the outbreak in the US "an ugly picture." In an interview with CBS News, Gates said that "serious mistakes were made" in how the virus was handled, pointing to reopenings and mask compliance as the two main issues. Gates has been actively involved in the government's coronavirus response since the beginning of the outbreak in the US through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation has committed more than \$250 million to developing coronavirus diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Buys More Masks, But Some Workers Still Lack

A new contract with Chinese manufacturer BYD will provide the state 120 million tight-fitting N95 respirator masks and 300 million looser-fitting surgical masks. California's initial \$1 billion deal with the company was signed in April. The state will soon launch a competitive bidding process to try to get even more protective masks at lower prices and is encouraging manufacturers within the state to make equipment, Newsom said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Watchdog Finds Flawed Virus Response At California Prison

The report found that staff members at the Bureau of Prisons facility in Lompoc, California, came to work despite experiencing coronavirus symptoms, and that officials in March failed to test or isolate an inmate who had begun having symptoms two days earlier and eventually tested positive. As of mid-July, four inmates had died and over 1,000 had tested positive, according to the inspector general's office, which has embarked on a review of 16 prisons, halfway houses and other institutions. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Job Losses Grow As Unemployed Face Benefit Cuts

California processed 292,673 new unemployment claims for the week, a slight increase from the prior week. It also handled 163,525 claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. ... California had 2.7 million continuing claims, down 217,526 from a week earlier. Continued claims for self-employed people totaled 13.2 million nationally and 2.3 million in California. Continuing unemployment data lags new claims by a week or more. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Will Let Absent Lawmakers Vote During Outbreak

California's legislative leaders said Thursday they will let absent lawmakers vote on bills during the final month of the legislative session after at least seven people who work in the state Capitol became infected with the coronavirus, including one assemblyman who had to be hospitalized. The state Assembly plans to let four legislative leaders cast votes for absent members during floor sessions.. To read the full story, click [here](#).

In CA: A Toilet Flush Could Hold Clues For Preventing Spread Of Coronavirus

Here's another way to curb the coronavirus pandemic — analyze sewage, writes the Ventura County Star's Wendy Leung. As public health officials analyze data about virus and antibody tests to determine the scope of the pandemic, researchers are looking into what gets flushed down the toilet. Detecting the virus in wastewater could help officials understand the prevalence of the virus in specific areas and help them obtain that information before coronavirus test results come in. To read the full story, click [here](#).

CDC COVID-19 Advice Tells Schools To Wash Hands, Wear Masks, Don't Touch. But Not When To Close

Parent checklist for back-to-school: Label your child's face mask with permanent marker. Have them practice putting on and taking off their mask without touching the cloth. Make a labeled, resealable plastic bag to store their mask during lunch time. Those are among the suggestions the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has for school administrators and parents as families prepare for school to resume in the fall. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Schools Adjusting to the Pandemic May Also Be Affected by Wildfire Season

School districts that have been dealing with the impact of COVID-19 must also consider the potential for school closures and disruptions to distance learning because of fire. The state's new reopening guidelines allow counties to open middle and high schools during the fall semester only if they have been off the state's COVID-19 monitoring list for 14 days; elementary schools can open if they get approval from local health officers. Meanwhile, California's wildfire season has begun, and some parts of the state are especially concerned that it may be longer and more severe than last year, given extremely dry weather in January and February. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump Cancels Jacksonville Portion Of The GOP Convention

In a major reversal, President Donald Trump on Thursday announced that he will no longer travel to Jacksonville, Florida, in late August to accept his party's nomination for reelection. "I looked at my team and I said, 'The timing for this event is not right. It's just not right with what's happened recently, the flare-up in Florida,'" Trump said at a briefing at the White House about the planned Republican National Convention activities. To read the full story, click [here](#).

U.S. Surpasses 4 Million Coronavirus Cases As CDC Predicts 164,000 Deaths By Mid-August

Officials on Thursday confirmed more than 4 million cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., as the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control predicts increased fatalities from the virus in the coming weeks. Data from Johns Hopkins University puts the U.S. case count at over 4 million. It only took 15 days for the nation to go from 3 million to 4 million infections. It took 28 days for

the country to go from 2 million to 3 million cases before that, a sign that the spread of the virus is speeding up. To read the full story, click [here](#).

These SoCal Cities Are Enforcing Fines For Not Wearing A Mask, Here's How Much It'll Cost You

With cases of the coronavirus climbing across the U.S., many states have issued statewide mask mandates, including California. Despite the statewide order, more local governments have enacted their own mask ordinances where residents could face fines for not covering their faces in public. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Hundreds Of Thousands Are Behind On Rent. Why Won't Politicians Cancel It?:

As August approaches, so does another rent due date for millions of renters in Southern California. After months of unemployment, many have fallen far behind on rent, but for now, evictions in California are on hold. Cities and counties have enacted temporary moratoriums, and the state's court system has basically halted all eviction proceedings until 90 days after the emergency is over. But it's not a permanent answer. The reality is many thousands of households won't be able to keep up when the rent, eventually, comes due. To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA County Cities Once Again Demand Share Of \$1.8 Billion In Coronavirus Funding

A coalition of Los Angeles County towns once again demanded on Friday, July 24, that they receive a share of the \$1.8 billion in coronavirus aid the federal government doled out to the County and LA city. ... As part of the CARES Act, Los Angeles County received more than \$1 billion and the City of Los Angeles received a little less than \$700 million, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. But the rest of the County's cities didn't receive anything. To be eligible for CARES Act money, cities must have at least 500,000 residents. LA is the only City in the County to meet that threshold. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Google Extends Work From Home Through June 2021 As Coronavirus Cases Surge

Google will allow most employees to work from home through June 2021 as coronavirus infections surge, keeping one of biggest workforces in tech and the Bay Area away from the office. CEO Sundar Pichai wrote in a memo Monday to employees that most of the Mountain View company's 200,000 workers can stay home for an additional six months, extending a policy that was previously through the end of 2020, a spokesman confirmed. To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Creates Unprecedented Disruption

The final stretch of the legislative session starts today, and it will be like no other ever experienced. COVID-19 has disrupted everything and the legislative session is no exception. After taking an extended recess in the Spring because of the pandemic, the legislature's schedule was already condensed. Several new infections in the Capitol community forced the legislature to take another extended recess in the summer, thereby further limiting an already condensed session. To read the full story, click [here](#).

FDA Says Reports of Methanol Poisoning From Hand Sanitizers Are Rising

Local residents were advised Monday to take care when shopping for and using hand sanitizer, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warning that reports of methanol poisoning from such products have continued to rise nationwide. A statement by the regulatory agency highlighted efforts to recall and stop the sale of hand sanitizers with methanol and noted that it had issued a warning letter to one Mexico-based manufacturer alleging that product seized at the border tested as 83% methanol and 0% ethanol. The FDA had warned consumers in June not to buy hand sanitizers marketed under a wide range of brand names -- including Lavar Gel, CleanCare NoGerm. To read the full story, click [here](#).

U.S. Mint Asks For Help Getting Coins Back in Circulation

Amid the coronavirus crisis, Americans have largely abandoned cash in favor of credit cards or contactless payments. As a result, there aren't enough pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to go around. Now the U.S. Mint, which manufactures coins, is asking for help. "There is an adequate amount of coins in the economy, but the slowed pace of circulation has meant that sufficient quantities of coins are sometimes not readily available where needed," the Mint said in a statement. 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.