

COVID-19 Update From E.K.A. – July 8, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 111

Today is day 111 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 119 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

County Lays Groundwork for Fining Non-Compliant Businesses

The LA County Board of Supervisors are proposing to lay the groundwork for L.A. County to begin to fine, or, in the case of repeated non-compliance, even pull the permits of businesses that do not comply with County health orders. The "Protecting Public Health Through Health Officer Order Enforcement" motion comes in response to reports from L.A. County Department of Public Health inspectors last weekend indicating that 49% of bars and 33% of restaurants were not adhering to physical distancing protocols indoors; workers were not wearing face masks and face shields at 54% of bars and 44% of restaurants. The motion calls for an enforcement plan to be developed within 14 days. Tens of thousands of restaurants, bars, retail stores, gyms, and other businesses in Los Angeles would be covered by the motion. Supervisor Janice Hahn, the co-author of the motion said "We want every business to reopen safely. We had hoped we could rely on voluntary compliance, but it is clear we will need to enforce the health orders. We think it is time to give the Department of Public Health the authority to fine or even shut down businesses that are not complying with the health order and I urge business owners to take all necessary steps to protect their workers and customers and avoid any of these consequences." Click [here](#) to read the full motion

L.A. County Changes COVID-19 Guidance

Los Angeles County has been the epicenter of COVID-19 in California, and it is only getting worse. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health [recently announced](#) that daily hospitalizations have been significantly higher than in past weeks. Accordingly, LA County released new and updated guidance to help stop the spread of COVID-19 within the workplace. The guidance includes more stringent employee screenings, requirements to report a cluster of confirmed COVID-19 cases, updates to L.A. County Reopening Protocols, and requirements that all employees who have regular contact with others wear a face covering or an alternative, regardless of medical conditions.

Price Gouging

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an [urgency ordinance](#) to strengthen protections for consumers and small businesses and to crack down on [price gouging](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies, in response to a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Effective immediately, the ordinance authorizes the filing of civil actions against price gougers at the discretion of County Counsel, and imposes a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation. This comes just months after the Board granted subpoena powers to the County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), which has received almost 2,000 reports of price gouging and over 700 other complaints from a wide variety of consumers since a State of Emergency was declared on March 4. DCBA and County Counsel are partners in the Los Angeles Gouging Task Force, along with the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, the Los Angeles City Attorney, the Santa Monica City Attorney, and the California Attorney General. The task force has sent warning letters to dozens of businesses and continues to investigate price gouging complaints throughout the County.

New Testing Site Funding

As part of its commitment to ensure access to testing during a critical new phase of the epidemic, Los Angeles County has committed \$400,000 in one-time bridge funding to support staffing-related costs at COVID-19 testing sites operated by CORE within the City of Los Angeles. The County's contribution to CORE will help support their current operations while the nonprofit secures other funding streams and will be extended as needed. In addition to supporting these sites, the County will continue to fully fund its nine-operated sites and is also preparing to add additional testing sites in coming weeks to areas identified as "hot spots" where data illustrates high test positivity, low testing access, and high mortality. That effort will include partnerships with community-based organizations to aggressively target high-risk communities through street outreach teams delivering COVID-19 prevention messages door-to-door.

More Stringent Employee Screenings

LA Department of Public Health has released an [Employee Screening form](#). The form requires employees who have experienced COVID-19 symptoms (defined as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing) *within the past 10 days* to be sent home immediately. The form otherwise follows [C.D.C. guidance](#) in that employees should also be sent home immediately if they: (1) have an elevated body temperature greater than or equal to 100.4°F or 38°C or (2) have had any contact with a person with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.

Employers Required to Report Clusters of Confirmed Cases

LA Department of Public Health has also updated the [Protocol for Social Distancing](#). In the event that three or more COVID-19 cases are identified within the workplace within a span of 14 days, the employer should report the cluster to the L.A. Department of Public Health. A case manager will then be assigned to guide the facility response and provide technical support, implement infection control guidance's, and provide site-specific control measures. L.A. Department of Public Health has released a [poster](#) containing this information.

L.A. County Protocols Updated

[LA County Reopening Protocols](#) have been updated to reflect the changes in the [Protocol for Social Distancing](#). For example, the [Office Workspaces](#) guidance addresses the more stringent health screenings, the reporting of clusters of COVID-19 cases and information of face coverings, including that employees be instructed to wash their face coverings daily. Please keep in mind that the changes in L.A. County protocols directly impact businesses located in the City of Los Angeles as Mayor Eric Garcetti's "[Safer L.A.](#)" Emergency Order relies upon L.A. County protocols. Thus, it is very important that businesses located in L.A. County and the City of Los Angeles continue to monitor L.A. County Reopening Protocols as they are continuously updated.

Face Coverings and Medical Conditions

LA Department of Public Health also has released guidance for individuals with medical conditions who are unable to wear a face covering. In the [Guidance for Cloth Face Covering](#), it was explained that individuals who are exempt from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition and who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others must wear an alternative such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge.

Revised Health Officer Order

Last week, Governor Newsom announced that he is [directing several counties](#) on the State's watch list to close indoor operations of certain sectors for a minimum of three weeks. The Los Angeles County Health Officer Order was modified to align with Gov. Gavin Newsom's directives. To review the current L.A. County Health Officer Order, click [here](#).

Minimum Wage Increases in L.A. County

The minimum wage has increased to \$15.00 for large businesses & \$14.25 for small businesses for work done in unincorporated L.A. County.

COVID-19 Could Present Challenges Next School Year

LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said there's still no timetable on when school facilities may reopen due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the district may need to create a balance of online and in-person classes for the next academic year that starts August 18. In order to provide students with adequate education, the new school year will have to include a regular class schedule, attendance will have to be taken, daily live instruction must be given and other requirements must be met. During the next academic year, each school principal will host weekly updates on their plans to reopen and provide education, and community administrators will hold regular town hall meetings to discuss issues related to the new school year.

LOS ANGELES

L.A. Controller's Says Some Jobs Regained, Many Still Lost Due To COVID-19

City Controller Ron Galperin released updated figures showing Los Angeles has regained 16,000

jobs but is still down a total of 252,000 jobs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Galperin's "COVID-19 Job Losses in L.A." map illustrated where Los Angeles lost approximately 268,000 jobs in March and April due to the coronavirus shutdown. The update showed slight gains in May after major sectors of the economy began to reopen. The data on the map is based on the State's most recent employment numbers. According to the map, the industries with the most job gains in May were:

- Accommodation and food service, which gained 5,000 jobs or 3% over the prior month. With the State reverting back to restrictions on certain business operations, like bars and indoor dining, those gains could be reversed
- Waste management, which gained 4,700 jobs or 4% over the prior month
- Construction, which gained 4,200 jobs or 8% over the prior month
- Manufacturing, which gained 4,000 jobs or 4% over the prior month.

Industries with the most job losses in May were:

- Information, down 6,500 jobs or 4% over the prior month; and education, down 2,400 jobs or 2% over the prior month.
- Los Angeles neighborhoods have an estimated 15% to 20.4% fewer jobs now than they did before COVID-19, with a citywide average of 17% fewer jobs
 - Council District 4, which includes the Hollywood Hills and a portion of the southwest San Fernando Valley, experienced the steepest job decline since February with an estimated 26,000 fewer jobs, or 18.9%.

Click [here](#) to view the map

VENTURA COUNTY

Surge Plans Go Into Effect

Ventura County is running low on hospital beds as COVID-19 cases keep increasing. The County said it is seeing a surge with COVID-19 case numbers in Ventura County climbing daily. Public Health said as of Monday there were nearly 90 coronavirus patients hospitalized, including 30 in the intensive care unit, leaving just 24 I.C.U. beds available across the county. At Ventura County Medical Center there are no I.C.U. beds, so the hospital's surge plan is now taking effect.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Six of 17 Riverside County hospitals exceed I.C.U. capacity

Six of Riverside County's 17 acute-care hospitals are over their licensed capacity for intensive-care beds, the Board of Supervisors were told yesterday during an update on the coronavirus pandemic. While hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients in the county continue to hit new highs, Emergency Management Director Bruce Barton stressed that hospitals "are not overwhelmed" and still have capacity to take patients. The six hospitals are utilizing other I.C.U. beds according to their surge plan. To view the County Health map of the situation, click [here](#).

SACRAMENTO

Eviction Moratorium Extended

Governor Newsom issued an updated Executive Order [No. N-71-20](#) under which the statewide ban of evictions has now been extended to September 30, 2020. This is not welcome news for the rental housing industry which has been under the statewide and local eviction moratoria since March. This latest extension through September 30, 2020 along with the California Judicial Council's Emergency Rule No. 1 prohibiting eviction proceedings for a period of 90-days following the lifting of the Governor's Emergency declaration means that more than 9-months will have passed before rental housing providers can seek relief to evict non-paying renters. To make matters worse, the likely severe backlog of unlawful detainer (eviction) matters seeking court hearings following the opening of the courts to housing providers will likely take 4-9 months to obtain hearings and final adjudication.

What is required to be considered a "meal"?

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board has issued a variety of regulatory relief measures that require the service of a meal. (See, [Law and Policy Coronavirus 19](#) Notices of Relief, items 5 and 16; June 10, 2020, Industry Advisory; and various Frequently Asked Questions.) Given the tremendous variety of foods available at the many different licensed premises, this definition provides the necessary flexibility to look at the totality of the circumstances in determining whether or not the food service provided by a licensee is a legitimate offering of meals in a bona fide manner. In evaluating this, the Department generally looks at the various menu offerings, availability during typical meal hours, and whether the food offered is served in a reasonable quantity and what a reasonable person might consider being a meal consumed at breakfast, lunch, or dinner. For example, although multiple courses are not required to constitute a meal, for the patron to be served a meal, there should be a sufficient quantity that would constitute the main course in a multiple-course dining experience. It is often easier to describe what does not constitute a bona fide meal. In that regard, while the statute excludes mere offerings of sandwiches and salad, the Department does recognize that many sandwiches and salads are substantial and can constitute legitimate meals. Once again, the Department looks at the totality of circumstances and generally considers that pre-packaged sandwiches and salads would not typically meet this standard. In addition, the Department will presume that the following, and offerings similar to them, do not meet the meal requirement. Click [here](#) to read the ABC notice.

REOPENING

Face Coverings

The California Department of Public Health [issued guidance](#) broadly mandating that individuals in California wear face coverings in most circumstances. This new state guidance follows face-covering mandates previously issued by many California cities and counties. The state guidance specifies that individuals engaged in work whether at the workplace or offsite must wear face coverings when:

- Interacting with any member of the public in-person,
- Working in a space visited by the public, even if no member of the public is present,

- Working in a space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution,
- Working in or walking through common areas of a business, or
- When driving or operating public transportation, including private car service.

The new guidance provides several exemptions from its requirements. For example, individuals who have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing face-covering or if wearing one would create a risk to the person related to their work. Individuals exempted from wearing a face-covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job with regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom, as their condition permits. The State encourages employers to review [industry-specific guidance](#) available regarding the wearing of face coverings and masks. The State also indicates surgical masks (manufactured paper masks) should be reserved for medical personnel, as well as workers in manufacturing, food processing, community/social services, social work, in-home daycare, law enforcement/public safety, and schools. Workers using surgical masks should start every day with a new mask. The guidance states employees in such industries should be provided surgical masks at work. N95 masks, masks that as a respirator that blocks particles, are also reserved for medical personnel and other industries where they are required. As with surgical masks, the guidance states N95 masks should be provided by employers in industries where they are required. Employers should also check city and county orders where they operate to determine if additional requirements apply to their industry.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Judge Denies Request To Lift Hawaii's Travel Quarantine

A federal judge let stand Gov. David Ige's authority to impose a 14-day quarantine on passengers arriving in Hawaii in a move that protects his plan to reopen the State's tourism industry with a number of safeguards designed to protect residents and travelers. Ruling in the State's favor, U.S. District Judge Jill Otake said the U.S. Constitution allows Ige to take extraordinary steps to protect public health and safety, even if the actions implicate certain fundamental rights. The plaintiffs challenged the law under several principles of the U.S. Constitution, chiefly the Fifth Amendment's due process clause, the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause and the right to travel, which isn't explicitly spelled out in the Constitution, but established as a fundamental right in various U.S. Supreme Court cases. Central to the case was the question of whether the COVID-19 pandemic posed such a threat to public health and safety that Ige could exercise emergency powers recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and other courts have all applied this standard to uphold the actions of state and local governments during the current crisis. In May, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts articulated a position on such powers after a San Diego County church challenged California Gov. Gavin Newsom's order restricting large gatherings. The court rejected the church's argument that the order improperly infringed the right to practice religion.

Churches' Lawsuit Challenges San Jose Ban Of Indoor Worship

Two San Jose churches have filed a federal lawsuit claiming a coronavirus-related ban of indoor worship violates their First Amendment rights. The suit, filed in U.S. District Court by Southridge Church (a California Southern Baptist church plant) and Calvary Chapel San Jose, alleges Santa Clara County's shelter-in-place orders "target" churches by forbidding them to gather indoors for worship while permitting people to gather indoors at shopping centers, real estate offices, summer camps and summer schools among other locations. Additionally, the county has acknowledged the right to attend large protests regarding racial justice while restricting outdoor worship to 25 people. The suit also claims the county's orders violate the right to privacy guaranteed in California's Constitution by requiring churches to record the names and contact information of all worship attendees at permitted outdoor gatherings and hand over that information to the government, if requested, to assist with contact tracing. Penalties for failure to comply with the orders include fines and jail time. Similar lawsuits have been filed by religious groups across the country with mixed results. While some areas have eased worship restrictions, judges have ruled against churches in Nevada and Illinois among other states. In the most high-profile case to date, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a San Diego church's attempt to overturn California's rule limiting houses of worship to 25 percent capacity or 100 attendees, whichever is lower.

Landlords Sue San Francisco Over Covid-19 Eviction Ban

A coalition of landlords and realtors is fighting to overturn a San Francisco law that permanently bans the eviction of tenants who cannot pay rent due to COVID-19-related financial struggles. The San Francisco Apartment Association, San Francisco Association of Realtors and two other groups sued the city on Monday. The 11-page [lawsuit](#) filed in San Francisco County Superior Court claims the city lacks authority to permanently ban evictions, late fees and penalties for tenants experiencing financial hardship during the pandemic. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved the ordinance on June 9 in a 10–1 vote, later affirming its decision in a second vote on June 15. Supervisor Catherine Stefani, who represents the city's affluent Marina and Pacific Heights neighborhoods, voted against it. The ordinance does not erase a tenant's debt. Landlords can still pursue back rent in small claims court or through debt collectors. Governor Newsom issued an executive order March 16, authorizing local governments to place a moratorium on evictions. San Francisco Mayor London Breed issued an emergency proclamation that month temporarily halting evictions, and the city's Board of Supervisors on June 16 adopted an ordinance permanently prohibiting evictions for individuals unable to pay rent during the Covid-19 crisis. The ordinance states that evictions will be barred pursuant to San Francisco's "regular authority" and consistent with the governor's executive order. The landlord and realtor groups say the governor's executive order in no way permits the city to ban evictions permanently.

NATIONAL

Senate To Move Forward On New COVID Relief Bill

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell indicated the upper chamber will move forward on another coronavirus response bill later this month amid concerns over the nearing expiration

date of additional unemployment benefits and the difficulties of reopening schools as states across the country see a spike in COVID-19 cases. McConnell said that a "number one" priority in any bill would be liability protections for businesses and health care institutions. He said that liability protections are necessary so people who "acted in good faith during this crisis are not confronted with a second epidemic of lawsuits in the wake of the pandemic that we're already struggling with. The administration has expressed support for another round of stimulus checks, which were included in the CARES Act passed in March. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said the administration is "very seriously considering" pursuing another round of checks, and Republicans on Capitol Hill have likewise expressed support for the idea.

Senate Extends PPP. Deadline to August 8

The Senate passed a bill to extend the deadline to apply for PPP loans. The bill was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent and extended the deadline until August 8. The PPP program has approximately \$130 billion remaining out of the \$660 billion approved for the program. The Senate has passed an extension of the popular Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses, which was set to close down Tuesday night with more than \$130 billion in funding left over. The extension to August 8 was offered by Senator Ben Cardin and cleared the chamber by unanimous consent.

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

What changes has the SBA made to the PPP rules and how does that impact the loan forgiveness process?

You now have a 24-week "covered period," the period in which you must spend the PPP loan proceeds for full loan forgiveness, starting on the date the funds were disbursed. If your PPP loan was funded prior to June 5, 2020; you still have the option to use the original 8-week covered period. You must use at least 60% of funds for eligible payroll costs to qualify for full loan forgiveness, down from 75%. You can use up to 40% of funds for eligible non-payroll costs, up from 25%.

WHAT WE'RE READING

These Activities Put You Most At Risk Of Getting COVID-19

Can grocery shopping put you more at risk of getting COVID-19 than going to pick up your children from daycare? The Texas Medical Association created a chart that shows what activities put you and your family at risk of exposure during the pandemic. Dr. Ogechika Alozie is an infectious diseases expert in El Paso and a member of the Texas Medical Association's COVID-19 Task Force. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How California Went From Model Student To Pandemic Problem Child

California was long the nation's shining star on the Coronavirus, heralded by national media and White House advisers as an example of how other states could beat the disease. The State was

so confident in April that it sent hundreds of ventilators to the East Coast. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus: Lacking details on enforcement procedures, Gov. Newsom urges health order compliance

Two weeks after Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a new order mandating that Californians wear face coverings in most public settings, the governor announced the State is launching a "major public awareness campaign" encouraging Californians to comply with the order. During a Thursday press briefing, Newsom called the latest campaign "much more comprehensive" and "much more dynamic" than previous efforts to encourage Californians to wear face masks, which included video messages from former governors and spots filmed of celebrities ranging from Larry David to Kim Kardashian. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Tells Houses Of Worship To Discontinue Singing Amid Worsening Covid-19 Pandemic

While you can still attend in-person church services in California, you can't sing. The State, to curb a rapidly worsening pandemic, has temporarily banned singing and chanting in places of worship. "Places of worship must therefore discontinue singing and chanting activities," he State's Department of Public Health said in their [latest guidance for houses of worship posted Wednesday \(.pdf\)](#).

To read the full story, click [here](#).

Fauci Warns Against 'False Complacency' As Trump Touts Falling Coronavirus Death Rate

Dr. Anthony Fauci warned Tuesday that Americans shouldn't take comfort in the dropping death rate among coronavirus patients in the U.S. even as President Donald Trump [touts the trend](#) as evidence of a successful response to the virus. "It's a false narrative to take comfort in a lower rate of death," Fauci said during a live stream press conference with Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama, a Democrat. "There's so many other things that are very dangerous and bad about this virus, don't get yourself into false complacency." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Anthony Fauci Issues a New Coronavirus Plea

On Tuesday, Anthony Fauci sat in a Senate hearing room that had been reconfigured for social distancing and listened, mask at hand, as Patty Murray, of Washington, described the consequences of America's failure to manage its pandemic. The tally of cases was soaring in a majority of states, particularly in the South and West; Murray, speaking by video, quoted a C.D.C. official who had warned that there was "too much virus to control in the U.S." Murray stated the obvious: "Our strategy hasn't worked." What, she asked, did the federal and State governments need to do to turn the numbers around? To read the full story, click [here](#).

Fauci Says U.S. Could Reach 100,000 Virus Cases a Day as Warnings Grow Darker

The government's top infectious disease expert said on Tuesday that the rate of new coronavirus infections could more than double to 100,000 a day if current outbreaks were not contained, warning that the virus's March across the South and the West "puts the entire country at risk." Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and

Infectious Diseases, offered the grim prediction while testifying on Capitol Hill, telling senators that no region of the country is safe from the virus's resurgence. The number of new cases in the United States has shot up by 80 percent in the past two weeks, according to a New York Times database, with new hot spots flaring far from the Sun Belt epicenters. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Fed Officials Fear Second Wave Of Coronavirus Will Cause Deeper Recession

Federal Reserve officials expressed fears in a meeting last month that a second wave of the novel Coronavirus could send a reeling U.S. economy deeper into an unprecedented recession, according to minutes released by the central bank Wednesday. During the June 9-10 meeting of the Fed's policymaking Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which came weeks before record spikes of the virus in states including Florida, Arizona and Texas, economists warned that resurgence of COVID-19 cases could decimate economic growth, spike unemployment and sap inflation far beyond the staggering levels seen earlier this year. To read the full story, click [here](#).

With Single-Use Bag Ban Back, You'll Be Paying For Grocery Sacks Again

Get ready to pack your own reusable bags again, or pay for 10 cents for store bags when you go shopping, if you aren't already. Gov. Gavin Newsom's April 22 suspension of the State's single-use bag ban expired June 22, and stores are eliminating their interim free-bag policies. Suspension of the state law came after some retailers unilaterally stopped allowing reusable bags out of concern that they could contribute to the spread of COVID-19. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Least Of My Worries': Minimum Wage Hikes In Bay Area Add To Costs, Could Boost Spending

The coronavirus pandemic has torn the economy down, but across the Bay Area, the hourly minimum wage is still going up. Several cities are sticking with plans to raise the hourly wage floor Wednesday. Across much of the Bay Area, the local minimum wage is higher than California's, which is going up in annual steps to \$15 an hour by 2023. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Pandemic Purchases Lead To Surge In Online Shopping Complaints, F.T.C. Says

As people rushed to buy supplies online during the coronavirus pandemic, not all shoppers got what they ordered, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission said in a blog post Wednesday. Online shopping complaints about goods that never arrived surged in April and May, said the F.T.C. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Republicans, With Exception of Trump, Now Push Mask-Wearing

In Republican circles — with the notable exception of the man who leads the party — the debate about masks is over: It's time to put one on. As a surge of infections hammers the South and West, G.O.P. officials are pushing back against the notion that masks are about politics, as President Donald Trump suggests, and telling Americans they can help save lives. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Little Evidence That Protests Spread Coronavirus in U.S.

There is little evidence that the protests that erupted after George Floyd's death caused a significant increase in U.S. coronavirus infections, according to public health experts. If the protests had driven an explosion in cases, experts say, the jumps would have started to become apparent within two weeks — and perhaps as early as five days. But that didn't happen in many cities with the largest protests, including New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Washington, D.C. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus Updates: California Reimposes Shutdowns; U.S. Death Toll May Be 35% Higher, Study Says; U.S. Cases Top 50K In One Day For First Time

As California reimposed restrictions on most of its residents to control a growing surge in coronavirus cases, researchers said the U.S. death toll from the pandemic may be 35% higher than reported and the total number of U.S. cases surpassed 50,000 for the first time. The outbreak is also having a significant impact on race relations, as nearly 40% of Asian Americans and Blacks reported an increase in incidents of discrimination, according to a new survey. To read the full story, click [here](#).

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station To Start Citing People Not Wearing Face Coverings

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station said Wednesday it would start citing people for not wearing face coverings. The Department said it took the step after receiving a number of complaints about people not wearing face coverings in West Hollywood. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Legal Defenses For Employers In COVID-19 Litigation In California

Businesses in California and across the country have been economically decimated by the shelter-in-place orders established to mitigate the health impact from the COVID-19 virus. Now that more businesses are reopening despite persistent detections of COVID-19 throughout the State, we can expect to see more and more lawsuits alleging that operations at a business resulted in employees becoming infected and made sick by the COVID-19 virus. These lawsuits will undoubtedly allege that businesses failed to take sufficient precautions to address the risk posed by the Coronavirus. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Controller Releases Information On Businesses Receiving City COVID-19 Microloans

Los Angeles Controller Ron Galperin released an interactive map today showing recipients of microloan funding from the city intended to help small businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic, including how loans had been distributed in our local areas. "People should know how public dollars are being used to support small businesses in their communities," Galperin said. "This tracker will ensure public accountability and better inform Angelenos about how the city is helping our local economy." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump Administration Releases List Of Companies That Received Most Money From Small Business Bailout Loans

The Treasury Department and Small Business Administration on Monday disclosed the names of businesses to whom it has lent more than \$150,000 as part of the Paycheck Protection Program. The disclosure comes amid demands from Democrats for more transparency around

the funds established as part of the \$2 trillion CARES Act signed into law this spring. Those loans disclosed represent nearly three-fourths of total loan dollars approved, but a far smaller proportion of the of the number of actual loans. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Companies Tied To California Officials Get Us Virus Loans -- Businesses Tied To California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis and two of the State's legislative leaders were among those that received federal loans aimed at keeping small businesses afloat during the coronavirus pandemic, records released Monday showed. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Garcetti: 'No Mask, No Service' Should Be Policy For Businesses Amid Coronavirus -- Los Angeles businesses should refuse service to anyone refusing to wear a mask or adequate face covering amid the COVID-19 pandemic, says Mayor Eric Garcetti. "If there's no mask, there should be no service." To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Strikes 5 Top SoCal Gyms, Prompting Call for Disclosure of Cases

Members and employees at five Southern California branches of Equinox Fitness Clubs have tested positive for COVID-19, but not all members have been told about the infections, according to company emails obtained by the NBC4 I-Team. "If they're not transparent, then people are going to be afraid to go back there. It's all about transparency," said longtime Equinox member Michael Rosenblum. He has worked out at several Equinox branches including Beverly Hills, where a member who was at the club June 20 and 22 has tested positive. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Tesla Employees Accuse Automaker Of Covering Up COVID Outbreak

A workers' rights group took to the streets in downtown Oakland on Thursday, accusing automaker Tesla of covering up a coronavirus outbreak at its assembly plant in nearby Fremont. A group calling itself Workers United Against Covid-19 assembled in front of the Alameda County Public Health Department demanding that county health officer Erica Pan investigate whether Tesla is concealing large numbers of coronavirus cases at the plant. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Google Pushes Back Plan To Reopen Offices

Google is delaying the reopening of its U.S. offices after coronavirus cases surged in several states. C.E.O. Sundar Pichai previously said the search giant would start bringing workers back beginning July 6, but an internal memo said its offices will remain closed until September 7 at the earliest. The memo was previously reported by Bloomberg, and confirmed to CNET by Google. As at many companies, Google employees have been working from home to help slow the spread of the novel Coronavirus. Back in May, Pichai told employees that they'll likely work remotely for the rest of 2020. To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Scam Seeks Your Bank Info, With False Promise Of Cash Deposit

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday warned about scammers pretending to be government officials in order to get victims' bank account information. If people share that information, the scammers claim in an email, they'll get money from a COVID-19 "Global

Empowerment Fund." The F.T.C. says it's all a scam, and that there's no money or fund. The agency urges recipients of messages like this not to respond, and to instead report them to the F.T.C. at ftc.gov/complaint. The F.T.C. says it'll never contact anyone by phone, email, text or social media to ask for financial information or your Social Security number. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The trouble with hot spots: Hard-hit counties send COVID-19 patients to other areas

Imperial County on the Mexican border is some 600 miles away from the state capital. But when its two area hospitals recently began to run out of intensive care unit beds, it had to transport critically ill patients as far north as Sacramento. The remote county of about 180,000 people has California's highest rate of COVID-19 cases. It has also sent at least 500 patients to hospitals outside its county lines, demonstrating that despite the State's emphasis on local control during the pandemic, an outbreak in one county can be felt almost anywhere in the State. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Mask Up Or Pay Up; Cities Impose Fines For Disobeying Orders

Choosing not to wear a mask in parts of California could cost you. Fines for not making the effort to help curb spread of the Coronavirus could set you back \$300 in West Hollywood and \$100 each in the cities of Santa Monica and Monterey as officials statewide scramble to control a surge of cases heading into the July 4 holiday weekend. The firmer approach to impose fines and ramp up enforcement of a rule that previously had carried no penalty reflects a parting from the non-punitive approach of Gov. Gavin Newsom. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Halts Testing Program For Underserved And Rural Areas

The multi-million dollar program intended to provide testing for the Coronavirus in rural areas and disadvantaged communities was brought to a halt due to the overwhelming cost amid record-setting spikes in new cases, according to Kaiser Health News. The program was set into motion by Gov. Gavin Newsom in April in order to make testing more readily available but the State will no longer fund new testing sites, closing down testing in rural areas to relocate them elsewhere, and have also threatened to close testing sites that have been underused, according to health officials. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Newsom Now Owns The COVID-19 Pandemic

Just a few weeks ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom was boasting about California's apparent success in suppressing COVID-19 infections in implicit contrast to other states, such as New York, that were being clobbered by the pandemic. He called it "bending the curve" of the infection rate and decided to reopen vast sections of the economy that he had shuttered in March. "To read the full story, click [here](#).

239 Experts With 1 Big Claim: The Coronavirus Is Airborne

The Coronavirus is finding new victims worldwide, in bars and restaurants, offices, markets and casinos, giving rise to frightening clusters of infection that increasingly confirm what many scientists have been saying for months: The virus lingers in the air indoors, infecting those nearby. If airborne transmission is a significant factor in the pandemic, especially in crowded

spaces with poor ventilation, the consequences for containment will be significant. Masks may be needed indoors, even in socially distant settings. Health care workers may need N95 masks that filter out even the smallest respiratory droplets as they care for coronavirus patients. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump Administration Moves Ahead With Plan To Open New Pandemic Office As Coronavirus Crisis Intensifies

The Trump administration disbanded the National Security Council's pandemic response office in 2018 -- and now, on the defensive after a failed response to the coronavirus pandemic, they are planning to launch a similar office at the State Department. The National Security Council hosted an interagency meeting Thursday to discuss the plans for the office, which will fall under the leadership of a new position: coordinator for pandemics, a senior administration official said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The Trouble With Hot Spots: Hard-Hit Counties Send COVID-19 Patients To Other Areas

Imperial County on the Mexican border is some 600 miles away from the state capital. But when its two area hospitals recently began to run out of intensive care unit beds, it had to transport critically ill patients as far north as Sacramento. The remote county of about 180,000 people has California's highest rate of COVID-19 cases. It has also sent at least 500 patients to hospitals outside its county lines, demonstrating that despite the State's emphasis on local control during the pandemic, an outbreak in one county can be felt almost anywhere in the State. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Forget dining inside, going out to bars: California's new surge restrictions could last for a long while

New state restrictions on bars and restaurants in counties with the worst virus-control numbers are supposed to expire after three weeks. But few public health experts believe the bans on indoor gatherings and outdoor drinking will drop cases low enough for these activities to resume any time soon. To read the full story, click [here](#).

'We'll Be Living With Masks For Years': COVID-19 Through The Eyes Of A Pandemic Expert

Since the summer of 2019, I've been speaking with one of the world's leading pandemic experts about what a global outbreak could look like. Now, as the world enters a grim new phase, he says we're in a whole new ball game. Eric Toner has been planning for a pandemic for years. He's briefed world leaders on outbreaks and how to best prepare entire nations for mass casualties. He's simulated epidemics in real time and studied the world's response to major global health emergencies like SARS and the 1918 influenza pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

F.D.A. Warns Consumers Of Risk Of Methanol Contamination In Certain Hand Sanitizers

F.D.A. is warning consumers and health care providers that the agency has seen a sharp increase in [hand sanitizer products](#) that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-

threatening when ingested. The agency is aware of adults and children ingesting hand sanitizer products contaminated with methanol that has led to recent adverse events including blindness, hospitalizations and death. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The World's Most Accurate Economist Says A Full US Recovery Is Unlikely Before 2022

Christophe Barraud, the chief economist of the broker-dealer Market Securities, has been ranked as Bloomberg's most accurate forecaster of U.S. economic data for eight years in a row. He told Business Insider that the U.S. wouldn't return to its fourth-quarter 2019 real G.D.P. level until at least 2022 and that for some European countries a recovery won't happen until 2023. "It will take a long time for life to return to normal," Barraud told Business Insider. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Calif. Sends 'Strike Teams' To Enforce COVID Rules At Businesses As Worker Complaints Rise

About 200 state inspectors fanned out across California over the July 4 holiday weekend to enforce health orders related to Coronavirus, including about 100 from the Alcohol Beverage Control agency and the rest from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health and other state licensing entities. They are part of new "strike teams" from 10 state agencies that Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday said would focus on counties with the most restrictions, including Riverside and San Bernardino. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Millions Of Americans Could Face Eviction In July—And It Could 'Destabilize Communities For Years To Come'

As many as 6.7 million rent-burdened households could face eviction once enhanced federal unemployment insurance expires at the end of July and eviction bans across the country lift, according to a new analysis from UrbanFootprint, a tech company that makes urban planning software. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The Virus And The Vulnerable: Latino Children Suffer Higher Rates Of COVID-19

Latino children are testing positive at higher rates than other groups of children, accounting for the majority of all California cases among those under 18. Experts say close contact with essential workers and crowded living conditions play a role. To read the full story, click [here](#).

New York City Delays Indoor Dining Indefinitely

Struggling New York City bars and restaurants were dealt a blow Wednesday as officials delayed the start of indoor dining, citing concerns about the spread of the Coronavirus. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said during a press conference that indoor dining will be postponed indefinitely due to rising infection rates in other states, and a lack of compliance and enforcement of social distancing within the city. To read the full story, click [here](#).

I Flew On The 4 Biggest U.S. Airlines During The Pandemic To See Which Is Handling It Best, And Found One Blew The Rest Out Of The Water

Each airline is handling pandemic flying differently, with no two airlines operating under the same policies and procedures. Safety and social distancing, especially, are concepts that vary. While choosing an airline was formerly a matter mostly of price and schedule, health and safety

are now at the forefront. Delta Air Lines and Southwest Airlines are handling this pandemic the best, I found in my travels, while United and American are handling it the worst. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars Goes To COVID-19 Contractors Accused Of Prior Fraud

San Diego ventilator manufacturer agreed to pay more than \$37 million in January to settle a civil lawsuit alleging it defrauded the federal government through illegal kickbacks to suppliers, admitting no guilt. Two months later, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded the same company, ResMed, \$32 million for ventilators made in Australia to fight COVID-19. Despite that track record – and because of the urgent need for the machines – the manufacturer landed the contract with no competition. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California May Expand Unpaid Family Leave Requirements for Small Business

Last week, just before adjourning for a COVID-19-shortened summer recess, the California State Senate passed a measure that, if it becomes law, would significantly expand the availability of unpaid family leave in the State. [SB 1383](#) would extend family leave protections to employers with five or more employees and significantly add to the circumstances in which employees will be entitled to family leave and return rights to the same or a comparable job. Current state law, the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), applies to covered employers with 50 or more employees. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus Deaths To Reach Nearly 210,000 By November, Model Projects

New modeling projects that the coronavirus death toll in the U.S. will exceed 200,000 by November, but more than 45,000 lives could be saved if the vast majority of people wore masks in public. The U.S. will see roughly 78,000 more coronavirus deaths from now until November 1, bringing the death toll to 208,000, according to projections based on a respected model from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. The current death toll sits at 131,000. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Note: While E.K.A. 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.