

## Weekly COVID-19 Update From EKA November 25, 2020

### Coronavirus Deaths Soar

The coronavirus's worldwide outbreak is currently more than 59.3 million confirmed cases across more than 180 countries. Italy, the first Western country to be hit by the epidemic, becomes the sixth nation to surpass 50,000 deaths and the second in Europe after Britain. At the time of this writing, the US has more than 12.4 million confirmed coronavirus cases. More than 257,705 people in the US have died from the virus. The [Safer at Home](#) order has 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 EKA team members.

## OPENING/ CLOSING & RESTRICTIONS

### State Issues Limited Stay at Home Order

Last week, Governor Newsom and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced a [limited Stay at Home Order](#) generally requiring that nonessential work, movement and gatherings stop between 10 pm and 5 am in counties in the purple tier. The order took effect at 10 pm Saturday, November 21 and remain in effect until 5 am December 21. This is the same as the March Stay at Home Order, but applied only between 10 pm and 5 am and only in purple tier counties that are seeing the highest rates of positive cases and hospitalizations. This limited Stay at Home Order is designed to reduce opportunities for disease transmission. Activities conducted during 10 pm to 5 am are often nonessential and more likely related to social activities and gatherings that have a higher likelihood of leading to reduced inhibition and reduced likelihood for adherence to safety measures like wearing a face covering and maintaining a physical distance. Last week, the State pulled an emergency brake in the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) putting more than 94 percent of California's population in the most restrictive tier. The State will reassess data continuously and move more counties back into a more restrictive tier, if necessary. California is also strengthening its [face covering guidance](#) to require individuals to wear a mask whenever outside their home, with limited exceptions. The State also [issued a travel advisory](#), along with Oregon and Washington, urging people entering the State or returning home from travel outside the State to self-quarantine to slow the spread of the virus. The travel advisory urges against nonessential out-of-state travel, asks people to self-quarantine for 14 days after arriving from another state or country, and encourages residents to stay local.

### Coronavirus Closure Debates Get Heated

As reported by KPPC, yesterday's meeting of the LA County Board of Supervisors was Ground Zero for yet another battle over coronavirus-related closures. On Sunday, public health officials announced that [outdoor dining would be banned starting Wednesday](#). Supervisor Kathryn Barger then [penned a motion to overturn the decision](#). Her motion [failed](#), meaning the ban is still in place. Pasadena officials have [decided to disregard the order](#) and allow outdoor dining to continue. Meanwhile, LA County Director of Public Health Barbara Ferrer was on hand at the board's meeting to discuss plans for another safer-at-home order, which was [triggered by a recent five-day average](#) of new coronavirus cases that exceeded 4,500. Ferrer's suggestions include prohibiting gatherings with other households, keeping public spaces like parks and trails open (but requiring social distancing), and reducing maximum occupancy regulations for businesses.

### **Pandemic Restrictions**

As a reminder, Los Angeles County tightened pandemic safeguards and restrictions as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to increase significantly. The first measures that went into effect last week are:

- For nonessential businesses permitted to operate indoors—including retail stores, offices, personal care services—occupancy will be limited to 25% maximum capacity.
- The number of patrons at outdoor restaurants, breweries and wineries will be limited to 50% max outdoor capacity.
- Services at personal care establishments may only be provided by appointment to customers wearing face coverings by staff wearing face coverings.
  - Services that require either the customer or the staff to remove their face covering, such as facials and shaves, are not permitted.
  - Food and drinks cannot be served at these establishments to customers.
- Restaurants, breweries, wineries, bars, and all other nonessential retail establishments must close from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am.
- Outdoor gatherings remain the only gatherings permitted, and they must only include 15 people maximum who are members of no more than 3 households.

To read the full LA County media release, [click here](#).

### **10:00 pm Limits On Nonessential Activities And Other Current Directives**

The County issued a release to clarify that the time limit does apply to Drive-in movies/performances, Drive-through displays, and outdoor museums (all of which can currently continue as long as they are completed by 10 pm). It applies in the following ways:

1. All displays and events must be completed by 10:00 pm, no exceptions.
  - a. This may require earlier starts to events in order to avoid an event running past 10:00 pm.
  - b. Venue operators are responsible for ensuring the scheduling of events precludes an event extending past 10:00 pm.
2. We urge you to clear the venues of all staff by 10:00 pm.

- a. It is understood that production crews may not be able to clear the venues by 10:00 pm as they work to tear down equipment and set ups.
  - b. In these cases, we urge venue operators to minimize the needed crew in order to accomplish load outs and release crew members as soon as they complete the tasks to which they were assigned.
3. Security staff at each venue are considered as essential and may remain on site according to the need set by venue management.
4. As a reminder, food sales and other sales are not permitted at Drive-through events. On-site, permitted food vendors may sell food at a Drive-in event, and must follow all requirements for Restaurants. People may bring their own food. No dining areas are allowed - food must be eaten inside cars.

### **Arrests Not A Priority For Curfew Violations**

Sheriff Villanueva told FOX 11's Bill Melugin that his focus would primarily be on nonessential businesses violating the order. "If we get a complaint, we'll investigate, we'll respond to the location, we'll contact the owner and ask them to comply," Sheriff Villanueva told Melugin. "If they don't, we have the option of doing a citation, we can also prepare a criminal report for violating a health order and we'll turn it over to the Department of Public Health and let them decide what to do with it." Arrests will not be a priority for LASD, Melugin reports after speaking with Sheriff Villanueva.

### **How Other Counties Plan To Enforce**

Over in Orange County, Sheriff Don Barnes is taking a bit of a different stance, saying his department will take an educational approach. "Due to the need to have deputies available for emergency calls, deputies will not be responding to request for face-coverings or social gatherings-only enforcement. Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco appears to follow a similar approach to Orange County. "To ensure constitutional rights are not violated and to limit potential negative interactions and exposure to our deputies, we will not be responding to calls for service based solely on noncompliance with the new order or social distancing and mask guidelines," Sheriff Bianco said. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department told Melugin they are currently reviewing Governor Gavin Newsom's order and will make a decision on how to enforce it on Friday. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department did not respond to FOX 11's request for comment.

## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

### **Dining at Restaurants, Breweries, Wineries and Bars**

The Los Angeles County Health Officer Order was modified effective today at 10:00 pm to restrict dining at restaurants, breweries, wineries and bars as the five-day average of new cases increased to more than 4,000 cases. According to the Health Department, to reduce the possibility of crowding and the potential for exposures in settings where people are not wearing their face coverings, restaurants, breweries, wineries and bars will only offer take-out, drive-thru, and delivery services. Wineries and breweries may continue their retail operations

adhering to current protocols. In person dining will not be allowed, at minimum, for the next three weeks.

### **LA County Cuts Hours Of Some Businesses**

Los Angeles County officials announced last week new limits on hours of operation for some businesses while also limiting the size of outdoor gatherings. Officials also warned that if cases and hospitalizations continue to surge, more extreme measures would be taken in the coming weeks, including limiting restaurants to pick-up orders and some type of return to the "safer at home" order that would "only allow essential workers and those securing essential services to leave their homes." Nonessential retail establishments must close from 10 pm to 6 am. Additionally, outdoor social gatherings — the only type allowed — will be limited to three households, with a maximum of 15 people.

### **LA County Launches Digital Contact Tracing For COVID-19**

As California's counties reach sobering new milestones in COVID-19 cases, LA County and its partner, Healthvana, are taking a bold step to control community spread. Individuals with a positive test are now able to immediately and anonymously notify anyone with whom they have recently come in close contact, using their mobile phones. By reducing COVID-19 exposure notifications from days to hours, officials hope to further reduce community spread by encouraging close contacts to quickly quarantine and obtain a free test. This is only one aspect of the County's extensive effort on contact tracing which is led by the Department of Public Health. Los Angeles County has partnered with Healthvana since April 2020, which already delivers test results for county-operated sites. Test result notifications are sent via text message or email the moment the lab processes the sample. With this added feature, individuals who receive a positive test result can easily click a link within the web-based patient portal to enter contact information for any recent close contacts. These close contacts instantly receive a notification from Healthvana alerting them that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 with links to resources, including locations where they can schedule a free COVID-19 test.

### **Covid-19 Travel Form To Raise Awareness Of Recommended 14-Day Quarantine**

Mayor Garcetti announced that all travelers entering the City from another state or country will be required to fill out an online form to acknowledge and spread awareness of California's recommended 14-day quarantine upon arrival. Starting today, passengers arriving at LAX and Van Nuys Airport will see signs and messages reminding them to fill out the required form. Travelers can complete the form in under a minute, and the form is now available at [travel.lacity.org](https://travel.lacity.org) or by scanning the QR code that is posted on signage throughout LAX and Van Nuys Airport. Starting Wednesday, November 25, anyone over the age of 16 must submit this form prior to or upon arrival at the airports. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to \$500. For a full list of the measures LAX is taking to help curb the spread of COVID-19, click [here](#).

## **LONG BEACH**

### **Small Business Transition and Technology Grant**

Applications and program materials are available for the City's [Small Business Transition and Technology \(SBTT\) grants](#), which provides financial relief to Long Beach businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City is also hosting a series of small business pop-ups to provide in-person assistance with grant applications and other resources for business owners. In July 2020, the Long Beach City Council [approved a spending plan](#) for the City's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, which allocates funding for business recovery and resiliency efforts, including small business grants. The SBTT grants will support small businesses citywide that have been most impacted by the pandemic. To qualify for the SBTT Grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must have active City of Long Beach business license
- Must have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic and be able to provide supporting documentation to verify the financial loss
- Must not operate one of the following businesses:
  - Bail bonds
  - Cannabis-related business
  - Check cashing businesses, payday loan and other short-term loan businesses or similar types of businesses
  - Insurance companies
  - National franchises (except for franchises individually owned)
  - Non-profit organizations (eligible for Non-Profit Relief Grant - coming soon)
  - Pyramid sale distribution plans
  - Real Estate Companies including short-term rental operators
  - Start-up Businesses/Ventures
  - A business not located in Long Beach, California

To learn more and access the application click [here](#)

### **Long Beach Implements New COVID-19 Safeguards**

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services issued an updated Health Order that uses science and data to minimize the risk of COVID-19 while allowing for safe operations of business and individuals. A brief summary of the changes are below.

- Nonessential businesses, including retail stores and personal care services, and offices for essential businesses, healthcare operations, or essential infrastructure may operate at no more than 25% maximum occupancy.
- Restaurants, breweries, wineries and distilleries that offer in-person outdoor dining should achieve no more than 50% maximum occupancy by separating different tables by eight feet. This requirement is to ensure that a physical distance of six feet between customers and workers is achieved while customers are seated.
- Outdoor family entertainment centers such as those located in public parks, batting cages and mini-golf courses may operate at no more than 50% maximum occupancy to ensure a minimum six-foot distance between members of different households.

### **Changes to Personal Care Services**

- Services may only be performed by appointment.

- Customers and staff both must wear face coverings for the duration of the service.
- Services that require either the customer or staff to remove face coverings, such as facials and shaves, are not permitted.
- Customers may not be offered or consume food or drinks onsite.

#### **Limited Hours for Certain Businesses**

- Restaurants, breweries, wineries and bars that serve sit-down dine-meals and nonessential retail businesses must close from 10 pm to 6 am every day. The last customer must be seated and finish their meal in time for the business to be closed entirely by 10 pm.

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

### **LADWP CARES Utility Grant Assistance Program**

LADWP and the City of Los Angeles are here to help LA City residents who may be experiencing income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Low-income residents may be eligible to receive a one-time \$500 check in the mail to help pay bills such as gas, cellular phone, wi-fi, internet and cable television services. You may qualify for the LADWP CARES Utility Grant Assistance program if ALL of the following conditions are true:

- You have an active residential LADWP account for an address within the City of Los Angeles.
- You provide proof that you (or a member of your household) have experienced a "loss of income" related to COVID-19 or the city's or State's safer-at-home order, AND either of the following:

Your LADWP account is currently enrolled in one of the following:

- Low Income Discount Program,
- Lifeline Program,
- Life Support Equipment Discount, or
- Physicians Certified Allowance Discount (PCAD) program

OR your current income meets LADWP's Low Income Discount Program qualifications.

For more information about the program, click [here](#).

## **ORANGE COUNTY**

### **Anaheim, Dana Point Among Cities Hardest-Hit by COVID-19 Tax Losses**

Anaheim and Dana Point are among the cities most affected by COVID-19 tax revenue-related losses, according to a California State Auditor report issued today. The state auditor's analysis showed that cities that rely on tourism and entertainment are among the most affected by the pandemic. The auditor said economic forecasts indicate that "these cities will lose general fund revenues exceeding 20 percent of their expenditures through the end of fiscal year 2020-21. Anaheim's hotel revenue is down 24% from last year, but it has been cut in half going back 18 months.

## SACRAMENTO

### **Cal/OSHA Requires Sick Pay In New COVID-19 Worker Protections**

The Orange County Register [reported](#) that Cal/OSHA approved temporary new standards that require employers to establish stronger workplace protections against COVID-19 and make it easier for the State to pursue those who do not comply. Though several guidelines have been released in the past, including from Cal/OSHA, the [new standards](#) streamline and strengthen the agency's enforcement efforts by establishing more specific mandates, according to an analysis by Cal/OSHA. Many of the existing regulations for protecting workers from the infectious disease did not cover certain industries affected by significant outbreaks, officials said. Some requirements drew criticism from industry associations. In particular, businesses employing migrant workers argued rules for social distancing on shared transportation and in employer-provided housing would create a financial burden. One of the criticized rules requires employers to space beds at least 6 feet apart in all directions. Others feared a requirement to test all potentially impacted employees could cripple California's supply chain if several distribution centers had to shut down for testing. To read the FAQ on COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave, click [here](#). To view a **chart that provides a snapshot of paid leave laws that may cover California workers affected by COVID-19**, click [here](#).

### **Newsom Ends California Economic Task Force Despite Widespread Pandemic Closures**

Despite a Covid-19 resurgence that is forcing widespread business closures, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Friday that he has dissolved his star-studded economic task force co-chaired by former Democratic presidential candidate Tom Steyer. The group of more than 100 leaders concluded its work with a final report that outlines general principles and findings — but no specific new initiatives to protect California businesses in the pandemic. Newsom later announced the launch of a California Rebuilding Fund intended to help small businesses obtain loans to restart their operations when possible, which he said was one product of task force discussions. Read the Task Force's full report [here](#)

### **Stronger Face Covering Guidance from the State**

The State issued [guidance that mandates that individuals are required to wear a face-covering](#) over their mouth and nose at all times when outside of the home, with some exceptions. Individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings in the following specific settings:

- Persons in a car alone or solely with members of their own household.
- Persons who are working in an office or in a room alone.
- Persons who are actively eating or drinking provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are outdoors and maintaining at least 6 feet of social distancing from others not in their household. Such persons must have a face covering with them at all times and must put it on if they are within 6 feet of others who are not in their household.

- Workers who are required to wear respiratory protection.
- Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face coverings by other California Department of Public Health guidance.

The following individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings at all times:

- Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face-covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. Such conditions are rare.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

[The expanded order](#) announced means Californians must mask up unless they are alone in a car or only with those in their household; working alone in an office or room; outdoors and staying at least six feet away from others not in their household; are obtaining a service involving their nose or face; or are actively eating or drinking, so long as they maintain physical distance.

### **Governor Releases Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery Report**

Culminating months of work to put California on the path forward amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Gavin Newsom today released "Recovery for All," the final report by the Co-Chairs of his Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery. The report outlines key priorities and challenges in the State's fight against COVID-19 and ongoing work to rebuild a more equitable, sustainable and resilient economy in its wake. With cases on the rise globally, nationally and in California, the report reaffirms the importance of the State's health-first approach as the foundation for a safe and sustainable reopening. The Task Force, launched by the Governor in [April](#), leveraged input from a diverse group of more than 100 leaders from business, unions, academia and philanthropy, as well as advocates for racial and economic justice and legislative leaders. They advised the administration on rebuilding as quickly and safely as possible from the pandemic-induced recession while working towards an equitable, clean and prosperous future. With deep insights into the economic recovery needs of various industries and communities, the Task Force has helped shape the State's reopening guidelines; spearheaded proposals to address a host of pandemic impacts; informed the Governor's economic development package and expanded worker protections; worked with the Legislature; lobbied for critical federal relief to state, local and tribal governments; and advocated for the urgent need to take action on climate change and the long-standing racial and economic inequities across society that undermine the resiliency of the economy.



## NATIONAL

### **CDC's New Guidance: Do Not Travel For Thanksgiving**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officially recommended against traveling for Thanksgiving. "CDC is recommending against travel during the Thanksgiving period," Dr. Henry Walke, the CDC's COVID-19 incident manager, said during a rare press briefing. "For Americans who decide to travel, CDC recommends doing so as safely as possible by following the same recommendations for everyday living." Walke added that, with more than 48 states seeing increases in cases, there is "no more important time than now for each and every American to redouble our efforts to watch our distance, wash our hands and, most importantly, wear a mask." The CDC, which has not held a briefing since August, said that the new guidelines are "strong recommendations" rather than a mandate. The [recommendations](#) suggest Americans should gather for Thanksgiving only with those in the same household, defined as anyone who has been in the same house for the past 14 days. That definition of "household" doesn't include college students who wish to come home for the holidays, Walke said. For those who insist on traveling to another home, the CDC recommends people wear masks inside the home.

### **IRS Reiterates PPP-Paid Expenses Not Deductible If Loan Forgiven**

If you took out a paycheck protection program (PPP) loan from the federal government and expect it to be forgiven, you can't deduct business expenses you paid using the loan proceeds, the IRS [said in guidance](#) it released this week. The IRS's position isn't new. It [released guidance](#) in May prohibiting the deductibility of expenses using forgiven loan proceeds. This week's guidance updates the previous release by having the prohibition apply before you know whether your loan will be forgiven. As long as you believe you meet the criteria for forgiveness, you're not to deduct your expenses in your tax filing. The IRS has said it must prohibit deductibility of expenses using forgivable loan proceeds to prevent companies from receiving two tax benefits from the same proceeds. The forgiven loan, the IRS has said, amounts to a tax benefit — tax-exempt income. Allowing businesses to deduct the expenses that were paid using the loan proceeds would amount to a second benefit for the same money. "This treatment prevents a double tax benefit," the agency said in its earlier notice. The American Institute of CPAs [has said](#) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the law enacted in March creating PPP loans, made clear forgiven loan funds were not to be counted as income. If that's the case, then there's no rationale for the IRS to disallow deductions for the expenses businesses paid using the loan funds.

### **Unemployment Claims Increase**

According to the AP, the number of Americans seeking unemployment aid rose last week to 742,000, the first increase in five weeks and a sign that the resurgent viral outbreak is likely slowing the economy and forcing more companies to cut jobs. The Labor Department's report showed that applications for benefits rose from 711,000 in the previous week. Claims had soared to 6.9 million in March when the pandemic first intensified. Before the pandemic, applications typically hovered about 225,000 a week. The economy's modest recovery is increasingly at risk, with newly confirmed daily infections in the United States having exploded 80% over the past two weeks to the highest levels on record. More states and cities are issuing

mask mandates, limiting the size of gatherings, restricting restaurant dining, closing gyms or reducing the hours and capacity of bars, stores and other businesses. At least 15 states have tightened curbs on businesses to try to slow infections.

## LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

### **Courts Deny LA Apartment Owners' Challenge To City Eviction Moratorium**

An attempt by apartment owners to [overturn the city of Los Angeles' coronavirus pandemic-prompted protections](#) for renters has failed. US District Court Judge Dean Pregerson denied the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles' motion for a preliminary injunction against the city's protections for renters during the public health emergency. AAGLA filed a lawsuit against the city in June over renter protections, but it also filed a motion for an injunction in September. In the motion, AAGLA argued that, through its safeguards for renters against evictions, the city had fundamentally changed the landlord-tenant relationship and violated AAGLA's constitutional rights in the process. Pregerson disagreed. "Although it appears at this stage of proceedings that the city moratorium substantially affects landlords' contract rights, the manner in and extent to which it does so appears reasonable under the circumstances," Pregerson wrote in his [ruling](#). "AAGLA has not, therefore, demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits of its constitutional claims." In order to get the injunction, AAGLA needed to convince the court that without it, AAGLA would suffer irreparable harm and that an injunction was in the public interest. Pregerson said AAGLA did not succeed in demonstrating either.

### **Appeals Court Grants Stay In Lawsuit Over Use Of Executive Power**

A California appellate court stayed an injunction from a lower court that barred Gov. Gavin Newsom from issuing executive orders that create new law, the latest development in a legal challenge to the governor's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The stay granted by the 3rd District Court of Appeal prevents an order by a Sutter County judge from being enforced until the appeal from the governor's office can be considered by the higher court. Sutter County Superior Court Judge Sarah Heckman issued an injunction barring the governor from taking executive action that "changes existing statutory law or makes new statutory law or legislative policy," rebuking a governor who has relied heavily on executive orders to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Court Dismisses MLB Ticket Purchasers' Action for Reimbursement After Shortened Season**

Recently, Judge Dale Fischer of the US District Court for the Central District of California entered three orders that largely granted the motions to dismiss of various defendants, including Major League Baseball (MLB), all 30 baseball teams that comprise the MLB association (Team Defendants), and authorized ticket resellers including Ticketmaster, Live Nation, StubHub, and various affiliates of the resale companies (Ticket Merchants). Although the dismissals were predicated on different grounds relating to the myriad defendant groups, Judge Fischer's orders taken together will be instructive for defendants across all sectors sued for their failure to reimburse consumers for COVID-19-related cancellations and other restrictions on business activity. In April a group of plaintiffs who purchased tickets for 2020 regular season MLB games commenced a putative class action against MLB, its teams, and authorized resellers of MLB

tickets. The Ticket Merchants moved to dismiss all claims asserted against them by the plaintiffs who did not purchase tickets from the Ticket Merchants, arguing that the non-purchasing plaintiffs failed to allege that they suffered an injury fairly traceable to the Ticket Merchants' conduct. (In separate orders, the court previously compelled the plaintiffs who purchased tickets from the Ticket Merchants to arbitrate their claims against the Ticket Merchants.) Judge Fischer granted the Ticket Merchants' motion to dismiss. The court held that, by asserting "everyone did everything" type allegations, the plaintiffs failed to allege a conspiracy with particularity. The court further found that the non-purchasing plaintiffs' conspiracy theory—that the postponement rather than cancellation of MLB games would not have worked absent agreement of all defendants—was not alleged in the complaint and was implausible on its face because the Ticket Merchants lacked the power to cancel MLB games. The court permitted the plaintiffs leave to amend.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **CalChamber Poll Shows Voters Want Sensible Policies, No New Taxes**

Last week [the California Chamber of Commerce reported](#) that Californians are taking the COVID-19 pandemic seriously, and expect their elected leaders to do the same. But the pandemic isn't the only issue troubling Californians. The cost of living remains a profound concern. When asked if their family would have a better future if they left California, a stunning 54% agreed—27% strongly. Of those agreeing with this statement, two-thirds cited "cost of living" or "cost of housing" as the main reason, while another 3 in 10 cited, "California values are not my values." To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Ski Resorts Are Still Opening - With Or Without COVID Guidance From California**

California's COVID guidelines are comprehensive, covering everything from amusement parks to schools. But there's one very large gap that state public health officials haven't covered yet: ski resorts. Mammoth Mountain and several Southern California ski resorts have already opened for the season. Tahoe's ski resorts are gearing up for their respective opening days — lifts may start spinning as soon as this weekend. A storm just delivered nearly a foot of snow to the Sierra Nevada. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **AstraZeneca's Covid Vaccine Might Seem Less Effective Than Its Peers — But It Has Some Advantages**

An interim analysis of clinical trials showed the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine had an average efficacy of 70% in protecting against the virus. Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna reported preliminary results showing that their respective Covid vaccines were around 95% effective. AstraZeneca's vaccine appears to have an advantage when it comes to storage, affordability and distribution, Jefferies analysts said.

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

### **OC Pandemic: Angry Residents Speak Out At Board Of Supervisors Meeting, Demand That COVID Closures Be Lifted**

Residents who were angry about Orange County's coronavirus restrictions spoke out at a Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday morning, after the County was among 40 in California that reverted back into the most restrictive purple tier of the State's four-tier reopening roadmap. The supervisors' meeting agenda included a discussion of continuing their mitigation efforts and health emergency order. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Riverside County will offer no-cost, self-administered coronavirus tests**

Coronavirus tests conducted by a person swabbing their own mouth will soon be offered throughout Riverside County as public health officials hope to replicate the program's successful launch in the city of Riverside. The County has a contract with San Dimas-based Curative for the self-administered tests. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Pfizer Says Vaccine Is 95% Effective in Final Data, Will Seek Authorization**

An experimental Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE was 95% effective in final results from a pivotal study and is showing signs of being safe, key pieces of data as the companies prepare to ask health regulators to authorize use. Pfizer plans to seek authorization for the vaccine within days, the companies said Wednesday, leaving the shot on track to go into distribution by the end of the year if health regulators permit. Out of 170 adult volunteers in the nearly 44,000-subject trial who developed Covid-19 with at least one symptom, 162 received a placebo, while eight got the vaccine, Pfizer and BioNTech said. The resulting 95% effectiveness rate puts the shot's performance on par with shingles and measles vaccines. It is also consistent with the vaccine's showing in a peek last week at how it did in an analysis of the first 94 subjects to fall sick. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Orange County To Provide Thousands Of Free In-Home Kits To Test Spit For Coronavirus**

Orange County leaders announced a new initiative Tuesday, November 17, to hand out do-it-yourself kits to test saliva for the coronavirus in a push to curb spread at inevitable holiday gatherings. Starting next week, the County, in partnership with Aliso Viejo-based testing lab Ambry Genetics, will make 11,000 spit testing kits available for Orange County residents to do themselves at home, which officials say are just as accurate as the ubiquitous nasal swab tests. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **As Pandemic Balloons Statewide, Some Rural Counties Explore Making Their Own Rules**

El Dorado County was among the first in Northern California to consider asserting more local power over pandemic-related policies at the advice of some state lawmakers. This week, at the County's Board of Supervisors meeting, elected officials considered a resolution pushing for more flexibility for the County to respond to its own needs, rather than heed statewide mandates and guidelines. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California to Distribute Vaccine to Most Affected First**

Take a look at California's COVID-19 caseload maps, and it's easy to spot where rates are highest: in some of the State's most diverse and low-income communities. The virus has ravaged urban centers like Los Angeles, infiltrated rural Imperial County and flooded the farmlands of the Central Valley. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Could California's Psych Hospitals Be Ordered To Admit Inmates With COVID?**

The Department of State Hospitals is facing pressure in federal court to speed up admissions of mentally ill inmates from the COVID-riddled state prison system. ... Chief U.S. District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller could rule as early as Thursday on the matter — the latest to stem from a decades-old settlement overseen by a special master. Hospital officials fear a victory for the plaintiffs could be devastating, due to what Medical Director Katherine Warburton called in her testimony "the unique and exquisite risk of this virus once it's introduced into our patient population." To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **US Cases Continue to Climb as States Restrict Activity**

The number of newly reported Covid-19 cases climbed to nearly 162,000, and hospitalizations set yet another record, as more states and municipalities imposed new restrictions. ... With cases on the rise, more states are implementing new restrictions on people's activity. Ohio imposed on Tuesday a statewide curfew, requiring residents to stay at home from 10 pm to 5 am. Governors in Maryland, Delaware, Iowa and California have also announced new mitigation measures this week. Hospitalizations continue to surge, straining healthcare systems in some places. There were 76,823 people admitted as of Tuesday, according to the Covid Tracking Project, a record and the eighth consecutive day above 60,000. Deaths, another lagging indicator of the virus's spread, are also rising. The US recorded 1,707 fatalities on Tuesday, the most single-day deaths since May 14, as the death toll from the pandemic approaches 250,000. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **FDA Authorizes First At-Home Coronavirus Test**

The test, developed by Lucira Health, can be used by people who are at least 14 years old when their health provider suspects they have Covid-19, the FDA said late Tuesday. The test can be used on younger people, but in that case a health care provider must collect the sample. The test involves swabbing the inside of the nose, placing the swab in a vial and swirling it before putting the vial in a "test unit." The process gives results in 30 minutes or less. FDA medical device director Jeff Shuren said the test, which can be fully run outside a lab or health care settings, represents a significant step forward. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Biden COVID Advisor Says He's Becoming 'More Concerned' With Delays In Transition**

America's coronavirus crisis continues to worsen. The US seven-day average of daily new Covid infections surpassed 150,000 for the first time on Monday, according to a CNBC analysis of Johns Hopkins data. The current record of nearly 155,000 new infections per day marks the 10th straight day of about 30% growth or higher in that seven-day trend. As cases and hospitalizations climb, more mayors and governors are tightening restrictions on businesses and residents in an effort to slow the spread. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Pfizer: Covid-19 Shot 95% Effective, Seeking Clearance Soon**

After millions of infections and nearly nine months of a global pandemic pharmaceutical giant Pfizer on Wednesday announced a viable vaccine candidate is 95% effective and on the path to quick federal approval. Pfizer and German biotechnology company BioNTech announced the

vaccine candidate's success on Wednesday, just as large swaths of the United States are seeing a surge in new cases and the world braces for flu season. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **What Are The Side Effects Of Pfizer's, Moderna's Vaccines? Your Questions Answered**

Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna both announced in November that their vaccine candidates against the novel coronavirus have shown promising results so far in Phase 3 clinical trials. The two vaccines are among several that have been preordered by the Canadian government. So how close are we to getting the vaccine? What needs to happen first? And what kind of vaccine is this anyway? CBC readers have also written to us with some of their own questions, such as what are the side effects of these vaccines? How long does the protection last? And when can Canadians expect to get access? Here are the answers. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **The Fed Could Act If COVID Hits the Economy. Stocks Would be the Winner**

The Federal Reserve could ease its monetary policy further as the economy faces renewed pressure from surging Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations in the near term even amid more good news on vaccines and record closes for the major stock averages, say a growing number of officials and Fed watchers. The central bank could announce an extension in the maturities of its monthly purchases of \$80 billion Treasury securities at the next scheduled meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee Dec. 15-16, writes Michael Feroli, JPMorgan's chief domestic economist. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Newsom Says He Made 'Bad Mistake' Attending Pricey Party**

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday apologized for what he called "a bad mistake" in attending a birthday party that broke the very rules that he has been preaching to slow the spread of the coronavirus. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Lawmakers Defend Hawaiian Trip As Criticism Mounts**

The California lawmakers criticized for agreeing to attend a week-long policy conference on the sandy beaches of Maui may have had to put down their mai tais for a moment to deal with the blistering criticism that has continued at home. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Dollar Slips On Report That US Stimulus Talks To Resume**

The dollar slid for a sixth straight session after trading higher for most of the day, on reports that US Senate Republican leaders have agreed to resume negotiations on another coronavirus stimulus package. CNBC reported that top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said on Thursday that Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has agreed to resume COVID-19 relief talks as cases surge across the country. The report led to a bounce in stocks, pushed the euro to a session high versus the dollar, and pared losses in currencies that benefit from higher risk appetite such as the Australian dollar and the Norwegian crown. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Travel Businesses Won't Recover From COVID Until 2023-24: Marriott CEO**

The travel industry won't fully recover from the coronavirus for three or four years, the head of one of the world's largest hotel companies said Wednesday. Arne M. Sorenson, CEO of

Marriott International Inc., predicted the number of business trips and major vacations will not return to pre-pandemic levels until COVID-19 vaccines are widely used. His company operates more than 7,000 hotels in 131 countries under the Marriott, Sheraton, Westin and Ritz-Carlton names, among others. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Struggles With How To Enforce Coronavirus Orders**

Health inspectors fanned out to 29 businesses across San Diego County, threatening criminal prosecution and \$1,000 fines for ignoring orders to avoid indoor activity during the coronavirus pandemic. Not just that, the businesses' names appeared on the County's website — unwelcome publicity as officials push companies to comply with tightening restrictions. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **US Mortgage Rates Fall to New Lows; 30-Year Loan at 2.72%**

US long-term mortgage rates fell this week, reaching record lows for the 13th time this year amid fresh signs of weakness in the pandemic-ravaged economy. Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average rate on the 30-year benchmark loan declined to 2.72% from 2.84% last week. By contrast, the rate averaged 3.66% a year ago. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Coronavirus Immunity Can Last More Than Six Months, Study Suggests**

Early research suggests immunity to the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 can last for at least six months -- and possibly much longer, perhaps even years, when all components of the body's immune memory are taken into consideration. The pre-print paper, posted on Monday to the online server biorxiv.org, adds to the body of research on immunity to the novel coronavirus. Several studies have focused on antibodies, or protein components of the immune system, and some suggested immunity could wane over just a few months. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California's EDD May Have Exposed 38M Social Security Numbers Despite Being Told Year Before To Stop**

California's unemployment benefits agency has sent out at least 38 million pieces of mail containing Social Security numbers since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, putting residents at risk of identity theft, according to a state audit released Thursday. The Employment Development Department continued mailing forms without concealing sensitive information despite being told a year ago to stop the practice, California Auditor Elaine Howle said in a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Huntington Beach Protest Targets California's Coronavirus Curfew**

Videos and photos posted on social media late Saturday in California showed a strong turnout for what was billed as a "Curfew Breakers" protest against Gov. Gavin Newsom's latest coronavirus mitigation orders. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Businesses Owners Frustrated About California's New Coronavirus Curfew**

Some business owners are frustrated about California's decision to put a daily curfew into place from 10 pm to 6 am. Laurie Perez reports. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **As Nighttime Curfew Begins, Sheriffs Across SoCal Vow No Enforcement — But To Varying Degrees**

The nighttime curfew going into effect in most of California's 58 counties Saturday night will not be strictly enforced by any Southern California sheriffs — a vow made individually by each agency in the region. From Ventura to San Diego counties, sheriffs have said deputies will not be patrolling the streets, looking for people violating the public health order. Rather, they are hoping for voluntary compliance and don't plan to actively enforce the new, state-issued, coronavirus-related restrictions.

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

### **Many Americans Flying For Holiday Despite CDC Pleas**

Millions of Americans bought tickets to fly somewhere for Thanksgiving before the nation's top public health agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pleaded with them not to travel for the holiday. So what are they doing now? In many cases, they're still crowding airports and boarding planes. That's despite relatively lenient cancellation policies by major airlines, Matt O'Brien reports.

The crowding at airports has the nation's top infectious disease expert worried. Dr. Anthony Fauci says new infections from Thanksgiving travel won't show up for weeks but could hit at the worst time: during the December holiday season as the weather grows cold. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Daily California Coronavirus Cases Triple As Pandemic Dramatically Worsens**

The coronavirus is now infecting more Californians daily than at any previous point in the COVID-19 pandemic, raising concerns about a new peak in coronavirus-related deaths by Christmas. As of Saturday night, California was averaging more than 11,500 new coronavirus cases a day over the last seven days, more than triple the number a month earlier, on October 21, which was nearly 3,200, according to a Times analysis. Even during the summertime surge, which led to the season with California's worst COVID-19 death toll, the average daily number of coronavirus cases over a seven-day period never exceeded 10,000. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Gov. Gavin Newsom In Quarantine After Children Exposed To COVID-19**

Gov. Gavin Newsom is quarantining for two weeks after three of his children were exposed to a California Highway Patrol officer with COVID-19, Newsom's office announced Sunday night. His office says he will continue to act as governor while he quarantines. He and his wife, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, learned late Friday evening that three of their four children were exposed. Although the parents did not have direct contact with the officer, the whole family is now quarantining. All of them tested negative Sunday and will continue to be tested regularly, according to Newsom's office. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Experts, California Residents Question Curfew Effectiveness**

The combination of lax enforcement, a lack of county uniformity and the limited nature of the curfew has experts questioning its effectiveness. Dr. Mark Cullen, an infectious disease expert



who recently retired from Stanford University, said the underlying goal is based on a reasonable interpretation of data blaming gatherings for surging infections. "Large numbers of people getting together oblivious of controls — no masks, no social distancing, often indoors — a lot of those things are in fact occurring at night," he said. But the point will be lost on most, he fears, partially because California is allowing many exemptions for things like getting groceries, filling prescriptions, picking up take-out, and even walking dogs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Employers Bring Back Workers, But Recovery Worries Linger**

October's unemployment rate dipped to 9.3% last month, down from 11% in September, as the State added 145,500 payroll jobs, for a total of 16.13 million, state officials reported. Many were in the most severely affected leisure and hospitality sector. A year earlier, California unemployment stood at 3.9%. It rose to an unprecedented 16.4% in April and May. Attesting to the roller-coaster nature of the virus' labor impact, California jobs last month grew at twice the rate of the nation's. It was the State's third-highest single-month gain in at least three decades. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Here's How The US Government Plans To Distribute The First Covid-19 Vaccines**

Even if the first vaccine is authorized in mid-December, officials and company representatives have estimated that there will only be enough doses available to treat about 22.5 million Americans by January. Each vaccine requires two doses, separated by several weeks. Dr. Slaoui, head of the administration's Operation Warp Speed, said vaccines would be shipped to states, proportioned according to their population, and that states would decide how and where to distribute the doses. He said that likely within a day after a vaccine receives FDA authorization, a committee at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would issue recommendations for which groups should be first to receive a vaccine. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Newsom Ends California Economic Task Force Despite Widespread Pandemic Closures**

Despite a Covid-19 resurgence that is forcing widespread business closures, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Friday that he has dissolved his star-studded economic task force co-chaired by former Democratic presidential candidate Tom Steyer. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **CDC says mask mandates can slow Covid-19 spread**

Government mandates that require people to wear masks in public can slow the spread of Covid-19, a new report published Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds, and communities that don't enact such orders may face dramatic increases in new cases. The report explored the striking differences among counties in Kansas during the summer: Some adopted mask mandates, while others did not. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Pennsylvania Faces Full ICUs as Virus Surges**

The Keystone State is in danger of running out of beds in intensive care units within a week, its top health official warned, as the State experiences double-digit positivity rates and an increase in hospitalizations. The State's positivity rate jumped from 9.6% to more than 11% in a week. 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 note the email addresses to be removed.