

## Weekly COVID-19 Update From EKA – November 4, 2020

### Nine Months of Coronavirus

The [Safer at Home](#) order has been in place in Los Angeles since March 19. An American is testing positive for COVID-19 every 1.2 seconds. One is dying from the virus [every 107 seconds](#). The worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus currently is more than 45.1 million confirmed cases across more than 180 countries. At the time of this writing, the US has more than 8.9 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus. More than 228,670 people in the US have died from the virus.

### 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

### Permitted Re-Openings of Personal Care Establishments

The infographic features a blue background with white text and icons. At the top left, there are two line-art icons: a hand holding a flower and a hand holding a tattoo needle. Below these icons, the text reads 'Personal Care Services' in a large, bold font, followed by 'With physical distancing & infection control protocols' in a smaller font. At the bottom left, the LA County logo and 'Roadmap to Recovery' are displayed. On the right side, a list of four items is presented, each with a checkmark icon. The items are: 'Effective October 23<sup>rd</sup>, personal care services (massage, hair removal, electrology, piercing and tattoo parlors) can reopen with safety modifications.', 'Reservations are required.', 'Face coverings must be worn by customers and employees for the entire visit.', and 'Piercing and tattoo services for the mouth/nose area are not allowed.' At the bottom right, the County of Los Angeles Public Health logo and the website 'covid19.lacounty.gov/recovery' are shown.

- ✓ Effective October 23<sup>rd</sup>, personal care services (massage, hair removal, electrology, piercing and tattoo parlors) can reopen with safety modifications.
- ✓ Reservations are required.
- ✓ Face coverings must be worn by customers and employees for the entire visit.
- ✓ Piercing and tattoo services for the mouth/nose area are not allowed.

LA County Roadmap to Recovery

County of Los Angeles Public Health covid19.lacounty.gov/recovery

The Department of Public Health made additional updates to the [Health Officer Order](#). All personal care establishments, including massage therapists, tanning salons, electrologists, waxing, and body art studios, can now operate indoors with modifications. In addition, recreational activities such as batting cages, mini-golf and go-cart racing can now operate outdoors, also with modifications. As for breweries and wineries, reservations will no longer be required; however, it is strongly recommended that these businesses continue to operate with

reservations only to prevent crowding. At wineries, tastings will no longer require a meal being served. There have also been updates to the school reopening protocols.

# Additional Sector Reopenings

**Businesses are required to implement the protocols prior to reopening to ensure they are in compliance with the Health Officer Order, and to avoid citations, fines, and closure. Protocols are available at [ph.lacounty.gov/coronavirus](http://ph.lacounty.gov/coronavirus)**

SECTOR	DATE OF REOPENING	RESTRICTIONS
<b>Personal care, hair salons, nail salons</b>	Effective Immediately	Can operate indoors with infection control protocols - physical distancing, face coverings, contact details of customers, etc.
<b>Go-carts, mini-golf, batting cages</b>	Effective Immediately	Outdoor only with infection control protocols
<b>Schools TK-12</b>	Effective Immediately	TK-12 schools that are open for high-needs, specialized services can increase student capacity from 10% to 25%. Cohorts are still required.
<b>Breweries and Wineries</b>	Effective Immediately	Outdoors only, reservations are no longer required but are strongly recommended.

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus)



### California Counties Get OK to Reopen Further Despite COVID Uptick

California officials gave seven counties the green light to further their reopening efforts. In a weekly update of the state's four-tiered reopening system, the state's top doctor and Governor Gavin Newsom announced that while several San Francisco Bay Area counties continued to make progress, Los Angeles has yet to see sufficient improvement in its battle with the novel coronavirus. While 29 counties have been able to advance out of the purple — "widespread" — tier since the system debuted eight weeks ago, the state's most populous will remain mired in the most restrictive zone until at least mid-November. California Health and Human Services chief Mark Ghaly noted [the latest update](#) leaves just 15% of the state's 58 counties in the bottom tier and claimed the reopening scheme is undoubtedly working. Though counties like

Marin, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Mendocino improved their standing and overall no counties were downgraded, there are growing signs the coronavirus could be making another surge in the state. Statewide hospitalizations have increased nearly 5% over the last two weeks and the state's seven-day positivity rate — the number of positive cases among residents receiving COVID-19 tests, a key indicator of community spread of the virus — crept above 3% over the weekend for the first time in nearly a month. California — the nation's most populous state — has held the title of most confirmed cases since overtaking New York in July.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### **Motel 6 To Be Converted Into Homeless Housing**

A Motel 6 in East Long Beach will soon become permanent supportive housing for those who are homeless. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to purchase the 43-room motel at 5665 E. Seventh St. for \$5.6 million as a part of Project Homekey, a state program that funds the conversion of hotels, motels and other properties into long-term homeless housing. The state is funding the purchase and operation of the properties with money it received through the federal CARES Act, which must be spent on coronavirus response; Gov. Gavin Newsom launched Project Homekey over the summer as part of an effort to stem the spread of the virus among people who are homeless. The site will be run by the Department of Health Services' Housing for Health program and will have 24/7 security along with case management, medical and mental health support services. The Motel 6 isn't the only property in Long Beach being converted into homeless housing through Project Homekey. The county is also set to finalize the purchase of [a Holiday Inn in Central Long Beach](#), at 1133 Atlantic Ave. Supervisor Hahn said she was glad to be able to help offer more housing to those who need it, particularly in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. "We are in the middle of dual crises — an ongoing homeless crisis and a pandemic that threatens the lives of people living on our streets," she said. "We need to act with the urgency that both crises demand."

### **LA County COVID-19 Case Numbers Continue To Rise**

Health officials have said the county had been averaging about 940 new cases a day at the beginning of October, but is now averaging about 1,200 a day. Los Angeles County remains entrenched in the most restrictive "purple" tier of the state's coronavirus economic-reopening matrix. Until the daily case numbers drop to a steady average of about 700 per day, the county will be unable to substantially lift business restrictions or allow school campuses to reopen. The county had reached that benchmark in September, raising hope it might advance to the less-restrictive "red" tier, but it was unable to maintain those case levels. Health officials have said younger residents represent the bulk of new cases being reported, and they pointed directly to public gatherings -- particularly groups of people coming together to watch sporting events either in private settings or at outdoor restaurants -- as responsible for the case increases. Beyond just the recent Lakers and Dodgers championship playoff runs, health officials pointed to the start of the football season as another factor attracting larger crowds at eateries with television sets.

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES

### **\$20 Discount For Certain Citations Paid Within 48 Hours**

The City of Los Angeles announced a new economic relief program that will provide motorists with an early payment discount on certain citations paid within 48 hours. The program, Early Pay LA, will award a \$20 discount and remain in effect until June 30, 2021. Starting Monday, November 2, the new program will award discounts for early payment on citations for residential street sweeping, overnight and oversized parking districts, and vehicles displaying recently expired permits within preferential parking districts. In addition to this new program, the Department of Transportation (LADOT) offers several economic relief programs to assist low-income individuals and individuals experiencing homelessness with outstanding parking citation debts and citation amnesty. The Department's existing programs to include:

- [Community Assistance Parking Program \(CAPP\)](#): Allows individuals experiencing homelessness to pay their parking citations through volunteer community service or through enrollment in a homeless service program.
- [Low-Income Payment Plans](#): Creates a payment structure for eligible low-income motorists to waive late fees and allow up to 18 months to pay off base citation fines.
- [Citation Amnesty Program](#): Grants a one-time opportunity for those with citations over three years delinquent the chance to waive all late fees and pay the base citation amount(s) over a period of time.
- [Unemployment Citation Amnesty Program](#): Assists those experiencing unemployment during the pandemic by waiving late fees and creating payment plans.

For more information on the Early Pay LA program and parking regulations, please visit the [Parking Violations Bureau website](#).

### **Low-Income Utility Assistance**

Low-income Los Angeles residents can now apply for assistance to pay utility bills under a program to provide federal financial relief amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, L.A. City Council voted to use \$50 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds toward helping low-income residents pay their Department of Water and Power bills. The COVID-19 Utility Grant Program, operated in partnership with the Department of Water and Power, will distribute funding by a lottery system but will prioritize funding for people affected by the pandemic who are already enrolled in the DWP's low-income assistance program. Los Angeles city residents who are DWP customers making 50% of the area median income or less will be eligible to receive \$500 to assist with utility costs, which includes gas, cellular phone, Wi-Fi and internet/cable services. Applicants for the funding must be a DWP residential customer with an online account during the enrollment period, which ends November 15. More information about applications and the Utility Grant Project can be found [here](#).

## RIVERSIDE

### **Riverside County Health Officials Urge Residents To Get COVID-19 Tests**

Riverside County took a big step back when the California Department of Public Health reclassified the county into the purple tier, the most restrictive under the state's color-coded coronavirus regulatory scheme, meaning some businesses that had reopened in recent weeks were required to close again. According to county staff, CDPH administrators decided that, based largely on low testing volumes, the county should be reduced from the red tier to the purple tier for at least three weeks. That move prompted Riverside County leaders to issue a news release urging residents to get tested with PCR swab tests for active infections. According to the county, they help to slow the spread of the disease by identifying infected individuals who can then be isolated as well as their close contacts. This process disrupts the virus and slows its spread. Riverside County's case rate is also worsened by the state's upward adjustment for not reaching the statewide median of PCR swab tests. More Riverside County residents this week are getting tested for the virus at approximately 200 people a day per 100,000 residents, up from 139 in early September. The statewide testing median is 239 people a day per 100,000 residents. Based on the state's criteria, if Riverside County tests a higher rate than the statewide median, the case rate will be adjusted down instead of up. Testing is free at a county or state-run site and available for anyone.

## SACRAMENTO

### **Tentative Ruling Declares Governor's Abuse of Power Unconstitutional**

According to Chris Micheli, a State Superior Court judge tentatively ruled in favor of Assemblymembers James Gallagher and Kevin Kiley in their abuse of power lawsuit against Governor Gavin Newsom. [In the tentative ruling](#), Judge Sarah Heckman declared the Governor's recent [Executive Order N-67-20](#) unconstitutional. More importantly, Judge Heckman's tentative ruling places a permanent injunction against the Governor which prevents him from unilaterally making or changing state law moving forward. [Click here to read the tentative ruling.](#) The Court's decision does not impact any of the election protocols for the 2020 election.

### **New Executive Order on Actions in Response to COVID-19**

Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order addressing a variety of issues in response to the pandemic. The order directs the California Department of Transportation to create a process for issuing temporary encroachment permits enabling commercial activities in the state highway right-of-way, allowing businesses located along state highways to expand their outdoor dining options onto sidewalks and parking areas, where safety permits. In addition, the order allows people 70 years of age or older to renew their drivers' licenses by mail, further limiting in-person transactions at the Department of Motor Vehicles and helping this COVID-19 vulnerable population isolate at home. The order also extends provisions related to deadlines for the payment of real estate license application and renewal fees and continuing education requirements for licensees. The text of the Governor's executive order can be found [here](#) , and a copy can be found [here](#).

### **COVID-19 New Exposure Notice Requirements**

Governor Newsom signed, which is effective January 1, 2021. This new law requires:

- Employers to notify employees who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and notify public health departments of workplace COVID-19 outbreaks,
- Requires California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to publicly report information on workplace outbreaks, and
- Authorizes Cal/OSHA to enforce COVID-19 hazards.

Employers are to provide notices and information upon identifying a COVID-19 case in the workplace within one (1) business day to 1) employees and subcontracted workers who were at the worksite where a potentially sick employee or member of the public was; 2) information about benefits, and 3) disinfection and safety plan. The employer must determine which employees are to receive this information, the type of notice those employees will receive, and how the information will be delivered to the employee. The notice can be hand delivered or given by email and should be in English or any other language understood by the majority of employees. Additional guidance has been published by CDPH to assist employers prepare to implement the requirements, you can click on the following links [here](#) and [here](#). The guidance outlines the new law requirements, information required to provide employees, what to report to local health departments and COVID-19 case and outbreak definitions, etc. Also, CDPH has updated the Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace for Employers guidance (originally released June 16, 2020); click [here](#) for the update dated September 18, 2020. The Cal/OSHA guidance document, which is enforceable via citation to enforce COVID-19 hazards as an imminent hazard to provide immediate protection for workers, click on the following link [here](#).

#### **Temporary Fee Relief Extension for November ABC Renewals**

ABC announced that ABC licensees paying annual renewal fees have been given a 30-day grace period. The announcement comes after Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order that will provide tax, regulatory, and licensing extensions for businesses. ABC's announcement encompasses ABC licensees whose annual renewal payment is due by November 30. Get the latest ABC information [here](#).

#### **Vaccine**

Last week [Newsom hinted](#) a potential vaccine wouldn't be available by the end of the year and that the first batch would be reserved for first responders and at-risk residents. California has [submitted its own distribution plan](#) to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Newsom said the state is reviewing vaccines being developed by Pfizer and Moderna. Newsom said the goal isn't to delay distribution but rather to engage the world's brightest doctors and scientists before handing out a new vaccine to millions of people. He said the state is continuing to collaborate with the CDC in the meantime.

## **NATIONAL**

#### **IRS Extends Deadline For Non-Filers To Register For Economic Stimulus Payment**

The Economic Impact Payment (EIP) registration deadline for Non-Filers has been extended to November 21. Providers and advocates are asked to participate in EIP Registration Day on

November 10 to help ensure hard-to-reach Non-Filers are signed up [here](#). Please share this information throughout your networks and be sure to include the hashtag #EIPbyNov21.

### **SBA Provides PPP Borrowers of less than \$50,000**

Last month the SBA published a one-page application for borrowers seeking forgiveness under the Paycheck Protection Program. The application may be used by borrowers that received PPP loans in the amount of \$50,000 or less. In conjunction with the release of the application, the SBA published revisions to the rules and regulations governing loan forgiveness for PPP borrowers of less than \$50,000. Those revisions provide that borrowers of less than \$50,000 who use the new one-page application are "exempt from any reductions in the borrower's loan forgiveness amount based on reductions in full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (section 1106(d)(2) of the CARES Act) or reductions in employee salary or wages (section 1106(d)(3) of the CARES Act) that would otherwise apply." The simplicity of the one-page application reflects these exemptions. Unlike the previously published forgiveness applications, the new application does not require forgiveness calculations or worksheets. Even so, borrowers must continue to use the SBA's rules and regulations to determine the forgiven amount of their PPP loan. The new application requires the borrower to certify that the PPP loan proceeds were used in accordance with the rules and regulations and that the borrower is eligible for forgiveness. The new application and revised rules and regulations also reduce the documentation required to be submitted to and reviewed by lenders. While borrowers must maintain all documents otherwise required under the PPP, a borrower using the one-page application only needs to submit the following documentation to their lender.

**Payroll:** Documentation verifying the eligible cash compensation and non-cash benefit payments from the Covered Period or the Alternative Payroll Covered Period consisting of each of the following:

- Bank account statements or third-party payroll service provider reports documenting the amount of cash compensation paid to employees.
- Tax forms (or equivalent third-party payroll service provider reports) for the periods that overlap with the Covered Period or the Alternative Payroll Covered Period: i. Payroll tax filings reported, or that will be reported, to the IRS (typically, Form 941); and ii. State quarterly business and individual employee wage reporting and unemployment insurance tax filings reported, or that will be reported, to the relevant state.
- Payment receipts, cancelled checks, or account statements documenting the amount of any employer contributions to employee health insurance and retirement plans that the Borrower included in the forgiveness amount.

**Nonpayroll:** Documentation verifying existence of the obligations/services prior to February 15, 2020 and eligible payments from the Covered Period.

- Business mortgage interest payments: Copy of lender amortization schedule and receipts or cancelled checks verifying eligible payments from the Covered Period; or lender account statements from February 2020 and the months of the Covered Period

through one month after the end of the Covered Period verifying interest amounts and eligible payments.

- Business rent or lease payments: Copy of current lease agreement and receipts or cancelled checks verifying eligible payments from the Covered Period; or lessor account statements from February 2020 and from the Covered Period through one month after the end of the Covered Period verifying eligible payments.
- Business utility payments: Copy of invoices from February 2020 and those paid during the Covered Period and receipts, cancelled checks, or account statements verifying those eligible payments.

The one page application is available on the SBA's website [here](#), application instructions are available [here](#), and the pertinent revisions to the SBA's rules and regulations are available [here](#).

## LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

### **Judge Finds Ventura Gym In Contempt Of Court For Violating Injunction**

A Ventura County Judge found BSF Fitness in contempt of Court for 19 violations of an injunction issued September 4 which prohibited BSF Fitness from operating an indoor gym facility, according to state and local health orders related to COVID-19. Judge Walsh found BSF Fitness in contempt for having violated the injunction by operating indoors on September 8, 9, and 10. Judge Walsh denied the demurrer of BSF Fitness today. A demurrer tests the legal sufficiency of a complaint. The gym argued that no valid cause of action was stated. By denying and overruling the demurrer, BSF Fitness now must file an answer to the complaints. At the hearing, the Court ordered BSF Fitness to pay \$10,500 in contempt fines and awarded attorney fees to the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit had previously filed a civil complaint against the gym, alleging unfair business practices due its operation of a gym facility indoors. This happened while similar businesses in Ventura County either ceased or modified their operations in compliance with state and local health orders related to COVID-19. Local officials made numerous requests that BSF Fitness comply with the health orders. Despite these requests, they continued to operate indoors in violation of emergency health orders and the injunction.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **Unhappy with rules for reopening, Riverside County looks to pressure Sacramento**

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a report that called on the county "to work in a collaborative fashion with our colleagues in other Southern California counties to engage the state in a truly meaningful conversation of the devastating impacts that the state tier system, as currently configured, is having on our counties." Supervisor Karen Spiegel, who introduced the motion, and others on the board criticized California's four-tier, color-coded system for deciding how far each of the state's 58 counties can go toward reopening as overly broad and unequally applied. To read the full story, click [here](#).



## **The 'Dose' Of Coronavirus A Person Gets May Determine How Sick They Get; Masks Could Help**

The dose makes the poison" is an adage credited to Paracelsus, a Swiss physician-philosopher from the early Renaissance. Basically, it means that any substance can become toxic if given at a high enough concentration. Even too much water can throw off your electrolytes and be potentially fatal. Viewing the coronavirus through that lens -- that the "dose" of the virus you receive might make the difference between being asymptomatic, getting mildly sick or becoming critically ill -- may be helpful when thinking about protection against Covid-19 as the colder temperatures arrive and cases spike. To read the full story, click [here](#).

## **Travelers from California to NY, NJ or Connecticut required to quarantine**

The Golden State joins 45 other states and territories on the Tri-State Travel Advisory's quarantine list, an agreement hatched by the governors of the three states in the early months of the coronavirus pandemic. States that experience a positive test rate exceeding 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day average, or states with a 10% or higher positivity rate over the same amount of time, are added to the list. To read the full story, click [here](#).

## **CVS Health Expands COVID-19 Testing Services with Plans to Add Nearly 1,000 Rapid-result Test Sites at Select CVS Pharmacy Locations**

As part of CVS Health's ongoing effort to increase access to COVID-19 testing and help slow the spread of the virus, the company today announced plans to expand COVID-19 testing services currently offered at select CVS Pharmacy locations to include rapid-result testing at nearly 1,000 sites by the end of the year. To read the full story, click [here](#).

## **Doctors Begin to Crack COVID'S Mysterious Long-Term Effects**

Nearly a year into the global coronavirus pandemic, scientists, doctors and patients are beginning to unlock a puzzling phenomenon: For many patients, including young ones who never required hospitalization, Covid-19 has a devastating second act. Many are dealing with symptoms weeks or months after they were expected to recover, often with puzzling new complications that can affect the entire body—severe fatigue, cognitive issues and memory lapses, digestive problems, erratic heart rates, headaches, dizziness, fluctuating blood pressure, even hair loss. To read the full story, click [here](#).

## **As Lockdowns Multiply, Europe's Cumulative Coronavirus Cases Pass 10 Million**

After a weekend of staggering coronavirus numbers — Europe surpassed 10 million confirmed cases and 268,000 Covid-19 deaths on Sunday — Germany on Monday entered what had been labeled a "lockdown light," restricting mixing between households and closing restaurants, bars, gyms and more. France began a national lockdown on Saturday, and Britain is set to enter a second national lockdown on Thursday. To read the full story, click [here](#).

**PM announces second lockdown to avoid 'medical and moral disaster': Non-essential shops will shut and travel is banned under restrictions that start on THURSDAY and run for a month with furlough scheme EXTENDED - but schools can still open**

Boris Johnson has announced blanket restrictions for England after bleak Sage modelling on rising threat. It projected the virus could kill 85,000 this winter, while separate model showed peak at 4,000 daily deaths. Non-essential shops, along with bars and restaurants, are to shut from Thursday morning until December 2. Hairdressers, leisure centres and sporting venues will be closed but professional sport allowed to carry on. Furlough scheme will be extended for another month as hospitality industry warns that it faces 'disaster'. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Lakers, Dodgers Fans Helping Drive Uptick In LA Virus Cases**

The success of the Los Angeles Lakers and Dodgers are bringing fans together in the LA area and that may be helping drive an uptick in coronavirus cases, Los Angeles County's top health official said Monday. The Lakers won the NBA championship two weeks ago and the Dodgers are one game away from winning the World Series. Their run through the playoffs has prompted watch parties and celebrations. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Privacy and Security Considerations for Employers Grappling with Introducing Social Distancing and Contact Tracing Technologies in the Workplace**

As employers continue their efforts to safely bring employees back to the workplace, many have moved beyond initial pre-entry wellness checks or questionnaires and are considering technology solutions that monitor social distancing and conduct contact tracing in real-time. Along with introducing these enhanced capabilities, the question of the privacy and security of employee personally identifiable information ("PII") and protected health information ("PHI") continues to loom. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Biden Faces Challenges In Quickly Combating The Pandemic**

If Joe Biden wins election, he says he'll immediately call Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert. He'll work with governors and local officials to institute a nationwide mask-wearing mandate and ask Congress to pass a sweeping spending bill by the end of January to address the coronavirus and its fallout. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Frustrated By Continued School Closures, Health Officials Have Few Answers Other Than Patience**

Los Angeles City Councilman Bob Blumenfield called two of the county's most influential people related to public health and schools before the City Council on Wednesday to answer questions he's received from many constituents confused and frustrated that schools are still not open. The answers provided from Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer and Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner differed little from the consistent message both have put forward since campuses first closed back in March: The decisions would be guided by science. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **2021 Boston Marathon Won't Be Held In April, Moved To Fall Due To COVID-19**

The 2021 Boston Marathon will not be held on its originally scheduled date in April as organizers announced it will be postponed to at least the fall of 2021. The announcement was made by the Boston Athletic Association on Wednesday afternoon after months of consulting

with city and state officials and as well as a COVID-19 medical and event operations advisory board. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Stubborn Coronavirus Leads To Homelessness As Top Concern For LA County Businesses**

The Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) released data from its annual survey and produced a surprise in businesses' top concern. Knocking taxes and fee as the top concern after nine consecutive years was the problem of homelessness. Three-quarters of the 371 businesses responding to the survey said that homelessness was an extremely critical concern. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **This Is A National Tragedy': Doctors Respond To The US COVID Surge In What They're Seeing Right Now**

Doctors from New York City, San Francisco, and El Paso talk about the seriousness of the current Covid-19 pandemic as daily cases surge to over 71,000 heading into the fall. Dr. Dara Kass, ER physician, Dr. Ogechika Alozie, Del Sol Medical chief medical officer, and Dr. Andre Campbell, trauma surgeon and intensive care doctor join Shep Smith to discuss the situation. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Bay Area counties reopening more services even as case counts inch upward**

The three Bay Area counties that moved into the less-restrictive orange tier on Tuesday said they are allowing all businesses and other activities permitted by the state to resume operations. That includes outdoor bars, nonessential offices and small amusement parks, plus expanded capacity for restaurants, gyms, retail stores and places of worship. Santa Cruz County, which also advanced to the orange tier on Tuesday, said it was allowing the Beach Boardwalk to reopen with limitations, and to county residents only. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Death Rates Have Dropped for Seriously Ill COVID Patients**

Were the lower death rates simply a function of the demographic changes, or a reflection of real progress and medical advances in treatment that blunted the impact of the new pathogen? Researchers at NYU Langone Health who zeroed in on this question, analyzing the outcomes of more than 5,000 patients hospitalized at the system's three hospitals from March through August, concluded the improvement was real, not just a function of changing demographics. Even when they controlled for differences in the patients' age, sex, race, underlying health problems and severity of COVID symptoms — like blood oxygen levels at admission — they found that death rates had dropped significantly, to 7.6 percent in August, down from 25.6 percent in March. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **How Sacramento's Worst-Rated Nursing Home Nearly Outsmarted The Pandemic**

The Sacramento nursing home is now part of a tragic national story as cases of the new coronavirus are again surging. Nursing homes, largely corporately owned and many of them chronically mismanaged, have borne the brunt of the pandemic, home to some 38% of more than 220,000 coronavirus deaths in the US. Front-line employees working in facilities like Saint Claire's have had to confront state-level edicts intended to address the country's failure to

control this public health crisis. Calkins and Young have spoken with The Sacramento Bee since early May about how they kept COVID-19 away from their nursing home, which had been all-but-written off early in the pandemic. The picture that emerged through hours of interviews and late-night text messages is a mosaic of front-line employees struggling against a remorseless virus and navigating confusing state mandates with little support from the outside world. It was a lonely fight. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **San Diego Unified's Phase Two reopening may happen in January**

At the earliest, San Diego Unified students will likely return to school campuses in January, after the winter break, district officials announced Tuesday. The earliest that elementary students will be allowed to return is January 4, and the earliest that middle and high school students could return is January 25. This will be what is being called the district's Phase Two of reopening. During Phase Two, students will be learning in person only part of the time. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Economy Surges but Hasn't Recouped All Pandemic Losses**

The economy grew at a record pace in the third quarter—increasing 7.4% over the prior quarter and at a 33.1% annual rate—recovering about two-thirds of the ground it lost earlier in the coronavirus pandemic. Gross domestic product—the value of all goods and services produced across the economy—jumped following a record decline from earlier in the pandemic when the virus and related shutdowns disrupted business activity across the country. That puts the economy about 3.5% smaller than at the end of last year, adjusted for inflation and seasonal fluctuations. The third-quarter increase followed a 9% quarter-to-quarter decline in the second quarter, or a 31.4% annualized drop. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **UPS Executive Granted Special Ministerial Exemption From Canada's Covid-19 Quarantine**

The president of US operations for global shipping giant UPS was granted a special ministerial exemption from Canada's mandatory 14-day COVID-19 quarantine, a CBC News investigation has learned, which he used to lobby Ontario employees to accept the company's new contract offer. Nando Cesarone travelled from Atlanta to Toronto for three days of meetings starting October 19. The company says Cesarone sought and received an authorization for a conditional exemption from mandatory quarantine from Global Affairs Canada. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Coronavirus Crisis In The Arts: What If Concerts, Theater And Other Live Events Don't Come Back In 2021?**

Theaters from San Diego to Broadway are closed until at least next fall. Festivals have been pushed back to 2021, including Wonderfront and KAABOO in San Diego and Coachella and Stagecoach in Indio, California. The San Diego Symphony and other orchestras across the nation have been largely silenced. Cirque du Soleil has filed for bankruptcy protection and closed down all but one of its 40-plus worldwide productions. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Wisconsin Faces Covid-19 Crisis As Coronavirus Cases Continue To Rise, Governor Says**

Wisconsin's Governor on Tuesday warned of an impending crisis as the state continues to see coronavirus cases rise and its hospitals overwhelmed. There is no way to sugarcoat it, we are facing an urgent crisis and there is an imminent risk to you and your family," Gov. Tony Evers said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **US COVID-19 Vaccines Could Ship Late December**

If all goes well, the first doses of a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine will likely become available to some high-risk Americans in late December or early January, according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious diseases expert. Moderna and Pfizer started the final stage of clinical testing in late July for a vaccine, with tens of thousands of people taking part in each trial. Pfizer, which was expected to announce interim data in October, is now unlikely to release data before November. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Nearly 40% Of Hawaiians Worry About Pandemic-Related Income Loss**

About 23% of Americans believe they'll lose their job or see their wages fall by mid-November, researchers with the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey found. While that figure has gradually declined since August, it remains stubbornly high in the Aloha State, where 39.5% of adults worry they'll soon lose income. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Michigan Tightens Social Gathering Limits After Virus Spike**

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration on Thursday tightened restrictions on indoor social gatherings and shifted the Traverse City region backward in [Michigan's](#) reopening plan, saying coronavirus hospitalizations have doubled in three weeks and the statewide death rate has risen for five straight weeks. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Is COVID-19 Credit Relief Going Away?**

When spring's COVID-19 shutdowns put millions out of work, lenders and credit card issuers stepped up with payment relief and other special programs for struggling Americans. About seven months into the coronavirus pandemic, your options may be more limited, which could make for a frightening financial situation. If you've lost income and wonder what you'll do when COVID-19 relief runs out – especially as stimulus talks remain stalled – here's how you can get through this nightmare. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **What Do Waning COVID-19 Antibodies Tell Us?**

Specialists in immunology and viruses warned against reading too much into studies of antibody levels in the blood of people previously infected with COVID-19, cautioning that antibody readings do not translate directly into levels of protective immunity. "The concentration of antibodies in your blood does not equal immunity," one expert says. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **COVID-19: Triggering Event For Reassessing Risk And Adequacy Of Data Privacy And Security Controls**

COVID-19 measures have driven workplace operations beyond what most businesses ever planned. The constructs of a remote workforce and virtual interactions between teams and

customers are going to be major components for how business is conducted for the foreseeable future. Many businesses are even seeing potential benefits from these scenarios, like savings in physical office needs and reduced lost productivity from travel—and looking to make these permanent. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **[County Medical Officer: Coronavirus Linked To Various Long-Term Health Issues](#)**

The virus has also been linked to problems in the circulatory system, including blood clots that can potentially lead to a stroke and impact organs such as the lungs, liver and kidneys. It can also affect neurological systems and cause heart conditions. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **COVID-19 Altered College Plans for Most Students**

The pandemic has caused major disruptions for college students. The impact has been especially large for low-income students, African Americans and Latinos, and students who are the first generation in their families to attend college. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **What Cal/OSHA Has — And Hasn't — Been Doing For Workers?**

As the pandemic grinds on in California, patterns have emerged: The people who contract COVID-19 tend less wealthy and less white, and many get sick at work. From senior nursing facilities to meatpacking plants to motel rooms of farmworkers brought from other countries to Amazon warehouses, the coronavirus has appeared in many workplaces. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Federal Court Provides Insight On The Viability Of Class Waivers In The Era Of COVID-19**

In a recent decision from the US District Court for the Central District of California, the Court examined the viability of class action waivers in the face of claims that the defendants' negligence led to an outbreak of COVID-19. Ultimately holding that the class waivers previously signed by the plaintiffs were enforceable, the Court's analysis gives some hope to employers that class action waivers signed by employees may be enforceable even against claims involving COVID-19. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Hartford Says It's Just 'A Name,' Not A Calif. Salon's Insurer**

The [Hartford Financial Services Group Inc.](#) is urging a California federal court to drop it from a waxing salon's COVID-19-related loss suit, arguing it was just the holding company of the insurer that issued the policy and therefore has no legal liability toward the salon whatsoever. Hartford said Tuesday that it was Sentinel Insurance Co. that issued the policy to Franklin EWC Inc. and it was not a party involved in the insurance contract. Hartford said it is not an insurer entity itself, but rather owns carriers that write policies. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **San Francisco Halts Reopenings as Virus Cases Rise**

San Francisco will temporarily halt the reopening of additional activities and businesses planned for next week because of an increase in coronavirus case rates and hospitalizations, the City's mayor and health director said Friday. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Church: California city violated its rights during pandemic**

When other church leaders protested coronavirus shutdown orders, saying they were following the word of the Lord, pastor Joe Garcia said he followed the word of the law. He held services online for months during coronavirus restrictions and later his Pentecostal flock socially distanced outside the Word Aflame Tabernacle when worship could resume in person. Despite that, he said he's continuously been harassed by a Southern California city official and a church neighbor who have made false claims that he's made. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **O.C. Bishop Sues Charity Administrator Who Accused Catholic Leader Of Wrongdoing**

The Roman Catholic bishop of Orange County is suing a former charity administrator for libel, an escalation in the prelate's dispute with influential church philanthropists who have complained to the Vatican about his firing of a nonprofit board. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California Unemployment Agency Director To Retire After Months Of Delayed Jobless Benefits**

Under fire for delays in paying unemployment benefits to more than 1 million Californians during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sharon Hilliard said Friday that she is retiring as director of the state Employment Development Department. Hilliard, 56, has received strong criticism from jobless Californians and state lawmakers in recent months as technology problems and bureaucratic tangles caused a backlog of 1.6 million claims for unemployment benefits, many months old. She said she will retire effective December 31 after nearly four decades in state government. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Rent Prices Drop Again In SF And Other Bay Area Cities, But 'Freefall' May Be Slowing**

In October, San Francisco once again topped the US list for biggest rental price decreases, according to listing websites Zumper and Apartment List. Zumper reported that the average one-bedroom rent in the City was \$2,800, a decline of 1.1% from the previous month and a 20.7% decline year over year. ... "Despite these record-breaking year-over-year decreases, there are some signs that drops could be slowing down in some expensive cities," Zumper analyst Neil Gerstein said. "San Francisco, which has been in a rental price freefall, experienced its lowest monthly decrease since April at -1.1%." The previous month, that decrease was 6.9% in San Francisco. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **After Reopening, San Diego-Area Districts Say They've Proven Schools Can Open Safely**

Poway Unified, the county's third-largest school district which is serving about 12,500 elementary students in person, has had 11 COVID-19 cases after one month of being open. Grossmont Union High, which serves only secondary students, has been open for a month and has seen 18 student cases and 27 employee cases, with 10,570 students attending in-person. The number of cases detected in local schools so far is showing a mixed pattern, with some districts appearing to have higher rates than the countywide average, but others' rates appear lower. It's hard to draw conclusions based on the small sample sizes involved. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **States Undercount Positive Rapid Tests, Masking The Spread Of Disease**

Public health officials say that antigen tests, which are faster than polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests but less able to detect low levels of the virus, are an important tool for limiting the spread of the coronavirus. But they caution that with inconsistent public reporting, the case undercount may worsen as more "point-of-care" antigen tests, as well as DIY. and home test kits, come on the market. ... Despite CDC guidance to report cases based on PCR and antigen testing, Washington, DC and seven states don't publicly share case counts for those with antigen positive tests, including California, New Jersey and Texas. Another six states keep these tallies separate from their total case counts, and most of these report them less frequently. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Factories Bounce Back as Consumers Snap Up Goods**

Fresh surveys of purchasing managers for manufacturers showed a continuing divide between companies that are making products—from cars to electronics—and companies providing face-to-face services that people are shunning. The surveys released Monday indicated that the manufacturing sector continued to revive as the fourth quarter began, especially in global powerhouses such as the US and Germany. The Institute for Supply Management said its purchasing managers index rose to 59.3 in October from 55.4 in September, the sixth straight month of expansion. Firms reported a surge in new orders as customer inventories shrank. Supply-chain problems continued to constrain production but at a slower rate, the report said. Firms also reported increased hiring for the first time in 14 months. To read the full story, click [here](#). To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **OSHA's Role in Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Workplaces are a significant source of infection for COVID-19, as shown not only by the illnesses of health care [workers](#), but also by the tens of thousands of positive cases and roughly 200 deaths at meatpacking [plants](#). The [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) has responsibilities for keeping employees safe at work, but it has [played](#) a fairly limited role in addressing COVID-19. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Fauci Is Tough to Fire Despite Trump Crowd's Pleas**

As a career civil servant, Anthony Fauci is not an easy man to fire, despite the pleas of a crowd of Donald Trump supporters chanting at a weekend rally. The latest tiff between Fauci and the president came following Trump's campaign statements that the US has "turned the corner" on the pandemic. Fauci, in a Washington Post interview on Saturday, said America "could not possibly be positioned more poorly" as it heads into the winter. The US recorded nearly 100,000 new cases Friday, the most at any point in the pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Virus Widens U.S. Mortality Rate**

A new analysis suggests the pandemic will likely widen the gap in mortality rates between the U.S. and peer countries. The U.S. has among the highest COVID-19 deaths per capita and resulting excess mortality. The U.S. has had a higher mortality rate than other comparable countries since 2006, according to the analysis. While the mortality rate has steadily decreased



over time, the gap between the U.S. and its peers has now grown. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Germany Launches 4-Week Partial Shutdown To Curb Virus**

A four-week partial shutdown has started in Germany, with restaurants, bars, theaters, cinemas and other leisure facilities closing down until the end of the month in a drive to flatten a rapid rise in coronavirus infections. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Crushed by the Virus, 2 Mall Operators File for Bankruptcy**

Two mall operators filed for bankruptcy protection Monday, hurt by the coronavirus pandemic that has forced their tenants to permanently close stores or not pay rent. Two mall operators filed for bankruptcy protection Monday, hurt by the coronavirus pandemic that has forced their tenants to permanently close stores or not pay rent. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **California COVID-19 Rates Were Already On Rise Before Halloween**

In about the last two weeks, the state's coronavirus numbers have risen sharply. The rate of new infections increased by 36%, from a rolling 14-day average of about 3,100 new daily cases as of October 17 to more than 4,200 by Halloween, according to the California Department of Public Health. The average stands at about 4,275 as of a Monday morning update from CDPH, which saw the state's all-time, lab-confirmed infection total tick past 930,000. For comparison, California's summer surge started to show up in state data around June 16. From then to June 30, the daily infection average basically doubled, going from 2,800 to 5,650 a day. But during that time, the rate of testing also grew by 50%; in the last two weeks of October, it only increased by about 7%. The statewide test positivity rate grew from 2.5% to 3.2% in the last two weeks of October, which is about a 28% boost. From June 16 to June 30, it jumped from 4.4% to 6.3%, an increase of roughly 43%. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Union Membership Rates Drop Among California State Workers During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Union membership among California state workers declined slightly this year as recruitment has gone remote due to the coronavirus, according to state data and interviews with union leaders. In August, the most recent month for which data is available, 67% of state workers were dues-paying union members, according to State Controller's Office data. That's down 2% from February, the month before the virus began to spread in California. The slight decline came amid pay cuts for state workers and momentous changes in working conditions, including risks of COVID-19 infection and rapid shifts to remote work. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **LAUSD, Long Beach Unified Join Larger Districts In Calling For Statewide Standard To Reopen Schools**

As more school districts plan for students and staff to eventually return to campus following months of distance learning, some of California's largest K-12 systems are asking Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state Legislature to adopt a set of statewide reopening standards and to provide funding to ensure schools have the means to resume in-person classes safely. On Monday, November 2, the superintendents of the Los Angeles, Long Beach, Santa Ana, San Diego, Fresno, Oakland and Sacramento unified school districts sent a letter to Newsom, urging

him to support a so-called "Common Standard." The letter also stated the need for "collective action" on the part of various government agencies for schools to reopen successfully. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Texas Ranks Highest In Total Number Of COVID-19 Cases In US**

Texas has surpassed California in recording the highest number of positive coronavirus tests in the U.S. so far, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. As the coronavirus pandemic surges across the nation, the data from Sunday — the most recent available — says that there have been 938,503 cases in Texas, the nation's second-most populous state. California, the most populous state, has had 938,119 cases, followed by Florida with 812,063. The true number of infections is likely higher because many people haven't been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick. More than 29 million people live in Texas. The state's cases per 100,000 population is 3,269.84. By comparison, California — home to more than 39 million people — has a rate of 2,371.56 cases per 100,000. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Hospitals Competing For Nurses As US Coronavirus Cases Surge**

As the coronavirus pandemic surges across the nation and infections and hospitalizations rise, medical administrators are scrambling to find enough nursing help — especially in rural areas and at small hospitals. Nurses are being trained to provide care in fields where they have limited experience. Hospitals are scaling back services to ensure enough staff to handle critically ill patients. And health systems are turning to short-term travel nurses to help fill the gaps. Adding to the strain, experienced nurses are "burned out with this whole (pandemic)" and some are quitting, said Kevin Fitzpatrick, an emergency room nurse at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Michigan, where several left just in the past month to work in hospice or home care or at outpatient clinics. To read the full story, click [here](#).

### **Evolving Considerations For Multinational Employers: COVID-19 Contact Tracing Applications**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect workplaces throughout the world, employers are considering new ways to ensure a safe workplace when employees return to the office. Outside the US, employers must balance their duty of care to protect the health and safety of all their employees with safeguarding employees' privacy and complying with data protection regulations. Many employers already have analyzed whether they may require or request employees to (i) submit to COVID-19 testing at the workplace, (ii) certify certain health information regarding exposure to COVID-19 and (iii) wear a face covering in the workplace. Another relatively recent development employers outside the US may wish to consider is whether they may require or request employees to download a COVID-19 contact tracing application to their smartphones to track employees' movements and contacts to enable employers to alert employees if they have been exposed to a co-worker with COVID-19. 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

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