

Weekly COVID-19 Update From EKA December 2, 2020

Coronavirus Deaths Soar

The US has reported more than 13.5 million cases and 268,000 deaths. Globally, there have been 63 million cases and 1.47 million fatalities. In November alone, one of every 76 Americans tested positive for COVID-19, and the country reported 36,918 deaths – a toll greater than American losses in the Korean War. 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.

Confirmed Or Suspected Cases Of COVID-19 At Work – What Do You Need To Do

The Health Department has created a document that updates the close contact definition and requirements around who must quarantine and isolate. Also provided is additional updated information on the management of symptomatic staff or visitors. Click [here](#) to view FAQs for Managers Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) from the Los Angeles County Department of Public. Click [here](#) to view Protocols for Office Worksites. Click [here](#) to view some of the protections that employers are **required** to put in place. Click [here](#) to view the office worksite toolkit.

OPENING/ CLOSING & RESTRICTIONS

New LA County Order

The Los Angeles County Health Officer Safer at Home Health Officer Order took effect on Monday and ends on December 20, 2020. In the new Order, residents are advised to stay home as much as possible and always wear a face-covering over their nose and mouth when they are outside their household and around others. Restaurants, bars, breweries and wineries remain closed for in-person dining and drinking. Restaurants, wineries and breweries remain open for pick-up, delivery, and take-out. Breweries and wineries remain open for retail sales at 20% occupancy. A [summary document](#) of the changes is also available on Public Health's [website](#).

The new temporary Order aims to reduce the risk of transmission several ways, including by:

- Asking individuals to remain in their homes and with their immediate households as much as possible;
- Reducing mingling with others not in your household;
- Requiring everyone to wear a face covering whenever they are engaging in activities outside their homes where they are, or can be, in contact with others not in their households;

- Reducing capacity at sites where non-household members mingle to avoid crowding.

The additional safety modifications in the Order include the following changes to the existing Health Officer Order:

- Gatherings: All public and private gatherings with individuals not in your household are prohibited, except for faith-based services and protests, which are constitutionally protected rights.
- Occupancy limits at various businesses; all individuals at these sites are required to wear face coverings and keep at least 6 feet of distance:
 - Essential retail – 35% maximum occupancy
 - Non-essential retail (includes indoor malls) – 20% maximum occupancy
 - Personal care services – 20% maximum occupancy
 - Libraries – 20% maximum occupancy
 - Fitness centers operating outdoors – 50% maximum occupancy
 - Museums galleries, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens operating outdoors – 50% maximum occupancy
 - Mini-golf, batting cages, go-kart racing operating outdoors – 50% maximum occupancy
- **Outdoor recreation activities all which require face coverings (except for swimming) and distancing:**
 - Beaches, trails, and parks remain open; gatherings at these sites with members outside your household are prohibited.
 - Golf courses, tennis courts, pickleball, archery ranges, skate parks, bike parks, and community gardens remain open for individuals or members of a single household. Pools that serve more than one household may open only for regulated lap swimming with one person per lane.
 - Drive-in movies/events/car parades are permitted provided occupants in each car are members of one household.
- **Schools:**
 - Schools and day camps that are open may remain open, adhering to reopening protocols. TK-12 Schools and Day Camps with an outbreak (3 cases or more over 14 days) must close for 14 days.
- **Closed non-essential businesses/activities:**
 - Playgrounds (with the exception of playgrounds at childcare and schools)
 - Cardrooms

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grant Opportunity: Keep L.A. County Dining

In an effort to assist restaurants affected by the COVID-19 restrictions, Los Angeles County will launch the Keep L.A. County Dining Grant Program on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 12:00 a.m. The Keep L.A. County Dining Grant will provide \$30,000 to use as working capital for employee payroll expenses, capital to continue operations, payment of outstanding business

expenses, and adaptive business practices needed to remain open. Preference will be given to restaurants that provided outdoor dining as of November 24, 2020. To learn more, click [here](#) or call (626) 943-3833. Questions regarding the grant program can be sent to keeplacountydining@lacda.org.

Parks And Recreation On Closures

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) is providing an update on temporary closures in accordance with the County of Los Angeles Safer At Home Health Officer Order to stop the spread of COVID-19. All playgrounds will be closed. Fitness zones and exercise equipment will be closed. Parks and trails remain open for outdoor, passive use for individuals or members of the same household. Masks and physical distancing are required. No group gatherings are permitted.

Coronavirus Hospitalizations In LA County Again Soar Past 2,000; New Cases Top 5,000

New coronavirus cases in Los Angeles County again topped 5,000 and hospitalizations climbed over 2,000. The county's five-day average for new cases climbed to 4,420, the number continuing to hover at more than 4,000, the threshold that spurred county officials to launch its first wave of tightened "Safer at Home" restrictions last week. The current number of people hospitalized in the county, 2,049 — with 24% percent in intensive-care units — a statistic that is growing. The current positivity rate, based on a seven-day average, is 8.1%. According to current county estimates, every COVID-19 patient in the county is passing the virus to an average of 1.27 people — the highest transmission rate the county has seen since March, before any safety protocols such as face coverings and social distancing were in place. Based on that transmission rate, health officials estimate one of every 145 people in the county are now infected with the virus and transmitting it to others.

CITY OF PASADENA

The city of Pasadena is allowing outdoor dining to continue even as restaurants across LA County were forced to shut down to comply with the new local health orders. The city of Pasadena has its own health department, which makes it possible for it to issue different health orders than those issues by the county.

LONG BEACH

Hospitalizations Are Rising Quickly

According to the [Long Beach Post](#) After a surge in coronavirus cases over the past 10 days, health officials are beginning to see what they feared was coming: A sharp rise in hospitalizations. In a statement late Saturday, Long Beach officials said the five hospitals that serve the city now have 116 people with COVID in their care, a 364% increase from November 1. Mayor Robert Garcia tweeted that COVID hospitalizations rose sharply again just 24 hours later, with 141 people now in need of medical care. That represents a 386% increase from November 1, he said.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles City Council Approves \$5.61 Million For Food Assistance Program

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to use \$5.61 million to fund the FEED LA program, which will provide more than 1 million meals to families in need through the YMCA amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Council President Nury Martinez proposed the program as chair of the council's Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19. The program will authorize the Housing and Community Investment Department to work with the YMCA to create 16 Community Empowerment Hubs citywide that will provide the contactless grab-and-go meals. FEED LA will also work with nonprofit partners to provide food assistance to homebound seniors, people with disabilities and others, according to Martinez' office.

"LA Optimized" To Strengthen Local Small Businesses

Mayor Garcetti today launched [LA Optimized](#), an initiative to help local small businesses recover from the pandemic by expanding their e-commerce capabilities and growing their online presence. The project will be overseen by the Mayor's newly appointed 2021 Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR), Roberto Martinez. This program will also partner with the ArtCenter College of Design and [verynice](#) to deliver up to \$500,000 in total to vetted creative professionals to provide \$500 worth of business and digital content services including branding, video, photography, and graphic design to struggling small businesses. In its first year, up to 1,000 small businesses will be able to access these services to increase their online visibility and engagement, and help them adapt to digital marketing platforms in the wake of pandemic-related challenges. While the pandemic has accelerated the surge of online sales this year, small and medium businesses have long faced digital challenges to compete with larger corporations. This year, California's small business revenue dropped by 29.3%, and a September 2020 [report](#) found that Los Angeles has seen 15,000 closures, half of which are permanent. LA Optimized will be open to active small businesses in the City of Los Angeles, with priority given to brick-and-mortar establishments located in or serving residents of low-income communities. Click [here](#) to enroll.

ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County's COVID-19 Hospitalizations Jump Nearly 12%

Orange County reported 1,058 new cases of COVID-19 but no additional deaths Sunday, bringing the county's totals to 77,819 cases with 1,577 fatalities. The number of county residents hospitalized with the virus jumped sharply, from 534 on Saturday to 597, with the number of patients in intensive care rising from 138 to 148, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency. The change in the three-day average of hospitalized patients went from 12.3% to 13.6%. The county has 25% of its intensive care unit beds and 63% of its ventilators available. The mounting numbers over the holiday weekend seem to confirm officials' fears of a Thanksgiving-fueled surge. Orange County CEO Frank Kim said earlier this week that he was

"very concerned" about the rise in cases and hospitalizations. "And even though the various hospital (executives) I have conversations with seem more confident today than they were early on in the disease in how to treat it, I'm not taking any of it lightly," Kim said. "Any rise in hospitalizations and ICU rates is a significant concern for our community." Officials recommend waiting at least two days after an event or gathering to get tested because the infection might not be detected right away.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

No Plans for County to Follow LA County's Lead and Shut Down Outdoor Dining, For Now

Governor Gavin Newsom placed almost every county in California in the restrictive purple tier in the state's reopening plan and issued a curfew because of the alarming rise in COVID cases. But Riverside County has been in the most restrictive tier for weeks, forcing many businesses to modify operations and others to shut down again. Last month, after a lot of push back, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approach neighboring counties and form a coalition to petition the governor to revise the state's reopening plan. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (Chair, District 4) says he's not sure if they will still pursue this plan, "Obviously at that time the numbers weren't as spiking as they are now we will be having these conversations, I do not know if we're going to continuously move in that direction but it's about balance and that's what makes this very difficult." County officials are urging everyone to follow the CDC guidelines and also avoid gatherings this Thanksgiving holiday. But for those who will gather despite the growing numbers, they ask that the gatherings are smaller, shorter and safer.

SACRAMENTO

Governor Newsom Announces Immediate Assistance for Businesses

Billions in immediate, temporary tax relief will support businesses impacted by COVID-19, including an automatic three-month extension for taxpayers filing less than \$1 million in sales tax and interest-free payment agreements to larger companies with up to \$5 million in sales tax and expanded interest-free payment options for larger businesses particularly affected by significant restrictions on operations based on COVID-19 transmissions. In partnership with the Legislature, California will provide \$500 million in new COVID-19 Relief Grant funding for small businesses. Additional \$12.5 million added to the [California Rebuilding Fund](#) launched last week. The announcements build on the state's ongoing business support throughout the pandemic, including the Main Street Hiring Tax Credit, which authorizes \$100 million in hiring tax credit for qualified small businesses. The credit is equal to \$1,000 per qualified employee, up to \$100,000 for each small business employer. The application opened December 1. A full list of existing state support for businesses can be found [here](#).

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

On November 19, 2020, Governor Newsom announced that a Limited Stay At Home Order would go into effect in counties in the purple tier (Tier 1, [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#)) The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued further directions and guidance regarding

the implementation of the [Limited Stay At Home Order](#). ABC issued an Industry Advisory summarizes the impact of this Order on businesses holding alcoholic beverage licenses. The restrictions on businesses, including licensed businesses, are detailed in the Blueprint based upon the county in which the business is located. The purple tier is the most restrictive. In the purple tier, bars, breweries, and distilleries in which no meals are served are required to be closed to both indoor and outdoor operations. Wineries (including tasting rooms) and restaurants (which also includes bars, breweries, and distilleries that do serve bona fide meals) are required to close indoor operations but may operate outdoors with certain modifications. These restrictions and operational directives are detailed more fully in the Blueprint and in prior advisories issued by the Department. The Order limits permitted operations further and applies to all ABC licensed businesses with respect to the exercise of on-sale privileges (meaning permitted customers to consume alcoholic beverages on the premises).

Potential for additional stay-at-home orders

Meghan Loper with Capitol Strategies Group alerted us that orders in his Monday press conference, Governor Newsom warned of potential forthcoming regional stay-at-home orders for the areas of the state most seriously impacted by COVID-19. Although details have not yet been released, both the Governor and Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Ghaly said that the orders will be regional rather than statewide. Governor Newsom indicated that the orders will be similar to the stay-at-home Order that was issued in March; however, the orders may be more surgical than before, leaving open the possibility that there may be carve outs for activities that weren't permitted earlier this year. As of this time, the administration hasn't announced anything further. Orders may be issued as soon as sometime this week.

As of Tuesday afternoon, 52 of California's 58 counties are in the Purple Tier – the most restrictive tier under the state's reopening system.¹ Governor Newsom and Dr. Ghaly spoke about the state's projected hospitalization rates and ICU usage when discussing the need for more restrictive action, and referred to the attached slides when making their points. It is possible that these numbers may provide some sense of the regions in which stay-at-home orders may be issued. As a reminder, any county in the purple tier is currently under the November 19th limited stay-at-home order, which imposed curfew-like restrictions during the hours of 10:00pm to 5:00am.² Also, all Californians are recommended, but not mandated, to self-quarantine after travelling outside the state per the November 13th travel advisory.³

Certain counties have imposed additional restrictions above and beyond those required by the state, including banning outdoor dining, placing additional restrictions on retail businesses, and instituting quarantines for travelers. Most notably, Santa Clara County has ordered a

¹ "Current tier assignments as of December 1, 2020." <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#county-status>

² "Limited Stay At Home Order." California Department of Public Health. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/limited-stay-at-home-order.aspx>

³ "Travel Advisory." California Department of Public Health. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Travel-Advisory.aspx>

mandatory 14-day quarantine for people travelling into the county from distances of more than 150 miles.⁴

CA Health System Projections		
Region	Current total % beds occupied	Projected total % beds occupied on 12/24
California	59%	78%
Bay Area	58%	62%
Greater Sacramento	71%	80%
Northern California	49%	64%
San Joaquin Valley	63%	83%
Southern California	66%	79%

CA Health System Projections			
Region	Current % ICU beds occupied	Projected total % ICU beds occupied on 12/24	Date Meeting ICU Capacity
California	75%	112%	Mid December
Bay Area	72%	91%	Early January
Greater Sacramento	76%	103%	Late December
Northern California	85%	134%	Early December
San Joaquin Valley	78%	120%	Mid December
Southern California	74%	107%	Mid-Late December

⁴ "Mandatory Directive on Travel." Santa Clara County Public Health Department. <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/travel-directive.aspx>

California Approves Sweeping Cal/OSHA Emergency COVID-19 Regulation

Just one week after the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health made its proposed [COVID-19 Emergency Regulation](#) available, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board responsible for approving such regulations unanimously passed it without revisions. Although employers and workers in California were not provided the ordinary months of time usually associated with rulemakings to review and digest the draft COVID-19 Rule, participation in the OSHSB November 19, 2020 public meeting was significant. The COVID-19 Rule requirements include:

- Employers must implement a written COVID-19 prevention program, which must include the following elements:
 - System for communicating information to employees;
 - Identification/evaluation of hazards, including a screening and response process;
 - Investigating and responding to cases, which requires employers to contact trace and provide testing free of charge;
 - Correction of hazards;
 - Training and instruction;
 - Physical distancing;
 - Face coverings, which employers must provide;
 - Other engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment ("PPE"), which addresses partitions, ventilation, handwashing facilities, and cleaning and disinfecting procedures;
 - Reporting, recordkeeping, and access, including reporting to local health departments ("LHD");
 - Exclusion of COVID-19 cases from the workplace; and
 - Return to work criteria.
- Employers must implement certain protocols if there is an outbreak in the workplace of three (3) or more COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period until there are no new cases for a 14-day period. These include:
 - Mandatory testing of all employees in the exposed workplace, immediately and one (1) week later;
 - Exclusion of positive cases and exposed employees;
 - Investigation of possible workplace-related factors that contributed to the outbreak;
 - Review of COVID-19 policies, procedures, and controls and implement changes as needed, including documentation of those actions; and
 - Notification of the LHD immediately, but not later than 48 hours.
 - Employers must implement additional protocols if there is an outbreak of 20 or more COVID-19 cases within a 30-day period until there are no new cases for a 14-day period, including twice-weekly testing, evaluation of whether respiratory protection should be required, and evaluation of whether operations should cease.

- Employers providing housing or transportation to employees must implement physical distancing, face covering, cleaning, ventilation, and sanitizer requirements.

The [emergency standards](#) apply to most workers in California not covered by Cal/OSHA's [Aerosol Transmissible Diseases standard](#). The regulations require that employers implement a site-specific written COVID-19 prevention program to address COVID-19 health hazards, correct unsafe or unhealthy conditions and provide face coverings. When there are multiple COVID-19 infections or outbreaks at the worksite, employers must provide COVID-19 testing and notify public health departments. The regulations also require accurate recordkeeping and reporting of COVID-19 cases. As emergency standards, these regulations become effective immediately.

NATIONAL

Vaccines

White House coronavirus task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx [told CBS](#) that if you traveled for Thanksgiving, assume you were infected with coronavirus and get tested soon. People should avoid seeing grandparents, other elderly relatives or anyone with pre-existing conditions, Birx said. "We know people may have made mistakes over the Thanksgiving time period," she said. "To every American, this is the moment to protect yourself and your family. So if your governor or your mayor isn't doing the policies that we know are critical ... you need to take it upon yourself to be restricted." More than 13.5 million people in the United States have contracted Covid and more than 268,000 have died since the pandemic began, according to [the Johns Hopkins coronavirus tracker](#).

New stimulus plan

A bipartisan group of senators announced a \$908 billion stimulus proposal today that they hope will break the logjam in DC, The Washington Post reports. The stimulus would include \$300 a week in federal unemployment benefits for up to four months, \$160 billion in funding for state and local governments and a temporary moratorium on some coronavirus-related lawsuits—a mix of Democratic and Republican priorities. But congressional aides said they are skeptical that even this compromise stands a chance.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

At US Supreme Court, California Defends COVID-19 Capacity Restrictions

Lawyers for California are defending temporary restrictions on large indoor worship services, telling the US Supreme Court in a filing that the state has appropriately balanced pandemic rules with religious freedoms. [Writing in opposition](#) to a legal challenge brought by Pasadena-based Harvest Rock Church, Attorney General Xavier Becerra and his legal team acknowledged the high court's ruling last Wednesday in [Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo](#), which blocked a New York state order capping the number of people who could attend houses of

worship. California and its capacity rules are "tailored" and "proportional," lawyers for the state argued in their new filing.

Judge Denies San Diego Businesses' Request To Issue Order To Allow Indoor Operations

A judge denied a request from four San Diego County businesses seeking to resume indoor operations following the county's recent slide into the purple tier of the state's coronavirus reopening plan. San Diego Superior Court Judge Kenneth J. Medel denied issuing a temporary restraining order that would halt the prohibition on indoor operations in San Diego County. The businesses argued that San Diego County's increased case numbers are not a result of exposures at restaurants, gyms and other types of businesses impacted by the closures and that they would greatly suffer due to the closure of indoor operations. "In the Court's mind, the impact on public health of dismantling a portion of the state's COVID-19 response designed to reduce community spread outweighs the economic harm to Plaintiffs at least pending further examination of these issues in any upcoming hearing on preliminary injunction," Medel wrote in his decision. The court also ruled that California Gov. Gavin Newsom is not outside his authority to shut down businesses when the California Emergency Services Act is being utilized.

Judge Rejects Plea By Restaurant Group To Block LA County Ban On Outdoor Dining

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge declined to block a ban on outdoor dining from going into effect in Los Angeles County, rejecting an 11th-hour plea by the state's leading restaurant group. With outdoor dining across LA County set to shut down Wednesday night amid a continuing surge in new cases of the coronavirus, the California Restaurant Assn. filed a lawsuit challenging the ban by county health officials and, as a first step, sought an emergency order from a judge halting the new rules from taking effect. Attorneys for the association asked Judge James Chalfant to issue an order to stop the closures from going forward unless health officials can provide scientific evidence backing their decision to impose the dining ban. Chalfant denied the request, calling the evidence the association presented "insufficient" to overturn the ban or to require the county to provide the data in his ruling. The judge also said that in the absence of "solid evidence" from the association showing the dining ban was inappropriate, he would not schedule further hearings to consider whether the ban should be overturned. If new evidence comes to light, Chalfant said the association is free to bring it to him.

WHAT WE'RE READING

LA County Supervisor Dines At Restaurant Hours After Voting To Ban Outdoor Dining

Just hours after Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl voted to ban outdoor dining at LA County's 31,000 restaurants over COVID-19 safety concerns, she visited a restaurant in Santa Monica, where she dined outdoors, FOX 11 has learned on Monday. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Backlash Against More Covid-19 Restrictions Growing As Pandemic Fatigue Rises

On the eve of yet another Los Angeles curtailment of public assemblies and mandatory business rules related to the Covid-19 pandemic, a growing number of people are questioning, and in some cases defying, the orders. An increasingly restive group of business and religious leaders

are leading the charge. But citizens are also protesting the curfew imposed by government, as [recently seen in Orange County](#). To read the full story, click [here](#).

Stay-At-Home Order Protestors Descend On Echo Park Home Of Public Health Director

As many as 100 protestors opposed to Stay-at-Home orders staged a noisy demonstration this afternoon outside the home of LA County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer. After marching from Echo Park Lake, the crowd filled a narrow hillside street, waving American and Trump flags while chanting "Open LA" and "No Science, No Data, No Shut Downs." Some protestors yelled epithets in the direction of Ferrer's home while others said "No more communism, no more masks." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Secret packed parties happening in LA, across the country amid tightening COVID-19 restrictions

With the coronavirus pandemic raging across the country and cases going up, there are still underground parties, packed secret night clubs and more happening across the country. Los Angeles is not immune to the secret partying. Young people especially tend to believe they're invincible and are having a hard time not holding underground parties. The phenomenon isn't unique to the City of Angels either. To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA County's New Health Order Draws Opposition From Some Local Officials

Tightened restrictions imposed by Los Angeles County amid soaring COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are prompting pushback from some residents, business owners and elected officials, including the Lancaster City Council, which will hold a special meeting this week to consider a "no-confidence" vote in county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer and discuss creating a municipal health department. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Type O blood linked to lower COVID risk, taking Vitamin D unlikely to help

The following is a roundup of some of the latest scientific studies on the novel coronavirus and efforts to find treatments and vaccines for COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. Certain blood groups less likely to get COVID-19. To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA Public Health Unable To Provide Data To Support Outdoor Dining Restrictions When Pressed By County Leader

Officials with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health were unable to provide any of their own data or evidence in support of their Order to restrict outdoor dining at restaurants beginning Wednesday night. DPH announced the new restrictions in a tweet on Sunday, without first discussing it with the Board of Supervisors. DPH cited a record surge of COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles as a reason for the Order. To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA'S Outdoor Dining Ban Came From The County. Garcetti Is Still Facing Heat For It

Mayor Eric Garcetti has long celebrated the Los Angeles restaurant industry, appearing alongside big-name chefs at ribbon-cuttings and promoting neighborhood spots. Now he finds himself caught up in the anger over the county order to temporarily halt outdoor dining, a directive that followed a surge in coronavirus cases. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Outdoor Dining Ban Is Bad Policy: Kathryn Barger And Janice Hahn

Since it was announced, our phones have not stopped ringing with calls and texts from people opposing the ban on outdoor dining at restaurants that took effect this last week. So many of the shutdowns during this pandemic have been devastating to industries but this one has generated such a backlash because it feels like a betrayal. Restaurants had already been hit hard by COVID-19. When they were finally allowed to reopen, they invested what little they had left into the infrastructure for outdoor dining — following the guidance set by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health itself. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Beverly Hills City Council Votes To Oppose LA County Dining Ban

The Beverly Hills City Council on Tuesday approved a resolution opposing Los Angeles County's outdoor dining ban. The resolution was unanimously approved and calls on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors to vote on repealing the current health order. Citing "a detrimental impact on local businesses and lack of scientific evidence used by the County," the resolution calls for a motion to be placed on the board's agenda on December 8 to repeal it. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus In California: Map Shows Which Counties Can, Can't Reopen Under Newsom's New 4-Tier System

Nine counties are changing tiers on California's reopening map Saturday. Calaveras, Lake, Plumas, San Francisco and San Mateo counties were moved from the red to the purple tier. Modoc County was moved backward two tiers, from orange to purple. Alpine, Inyo and Mariposa counties were moved from orange to red. That leaves zero counties in California in the least restrictive yellow tier. One county is still orange and six are still red. The remaining 41 counties are in the most restrictive purple tier with widespread coronavirus transmission. To read the full story, click [here](#).

School Districts Try Out Different Strategies To Boost Immunization Rates For Non-Covid Diseases

Even as public health officials face the challenge of how to vaccinate all or most people to protect them from the Covid-19 virus, school administrators are having to come up with innovative ways to ensure that students get immunized against more familiar diseases like measles and whooping cough. To the alarm of school district officials, immunization rates have plummeted in California during the pandemic. To read the full story, click [here](#).

When Might A COVID-19 Vaccine Be Authorized? FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn Answers Common Questions

A COVID-19 vaccine could come within weeks – at least a limited supply to front-line medical workers. Drug companies Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca have the leading vaccine candidates. Several others remain in development. The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for authorizing and approving all vaccines in the USA. Widespread vaccine use once one is given the green light could provide a way to end the coronavirus pandemic. USA TODAY interviewed FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn about how the approval process works, how

quickly it could go, and how the agency will encourage Americans to take the vaccine. To read the full story, click [here](#).

New LA County' Safer At Home' Restrictions Revealed As COVID-19 Surge Worsens

With coronavirus cases and COVID-19 deaths surging at an alarming rate, Los Angeles County officials Tuesday began to outline a new limited Safer at Home order aimed at slowing the virus spread while sticking with an outdoor dining ban amid a growing outcry. The new restrictions are looking increasingly likely as daily coronavirus infections spike to unprecedented levels, increasing stress on hospitals amid concern more people will be infected during the Thanksgiving holiday. But it also appears that a new stay-at-home order that had been suggested as a possibility last week would fall far short of the one imposed during the first months of the pandemic in the spring. To read the full story, click [here](#).

SF Remains In California's Red Tier, Even As Other Bay Area Counties Clamp Down Due To Coronavirus Surge

San Francisco did not move into the most restrictive purple tier of California's economic reopening plan as expected on Tuesday. But public health officials said coronavirus cases and hospitalizations are climbing dramatically and they expect to land there later in the week. ... A number of counties in California fell back to more restrictive tiers when state health officials announced the new tier assignments in the state's reopening Blueprint on Tuesday. Falling into the purple, most restrictive, category were Colusa, Del Norte, Humboldt and Lassen counties. Dropping back to red, the second most restrictive level, was Calaveras County. Reassigned to the orange, moderate, tier were Alpine and Mariposa counties. To read the full story, click [here](#).

As Pandemic Aid Ends, California Families Brace For Brutal New Year

Absent last-minute federal and state legislation, Californians counting on pandemic assistance dollars to stay fed, and an eviction moratorium to stay housed, will be in for a rough new year. The day-after-Christmas expiration of federal benefits will affect more than 750,000 of them, according to a study by the California Policy Lab at UCLA. Little more than a month later, California's eviction moratorium lifts, meaning people who have been paying less than 25% of their rent after September 1 can be evicted for non-payment. A separate analysis of Census survey data from the UC Berkeley found that more than 2.1 million Californians in more than 700,000 households could face eviction when the statewide moratorium lifts. To read the full story, click [here](#).

COVID Vaccines Coming Soon To California

Initial vaccine supply will be limited. To help decide who gets a vaccine first, the state is adopting a three-phase plan from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The state's plan will guide counties, which will be in charge of on-the-ground coordination. So far, we know that health workers and first responders who are likely to treat or be exposed to COVID-19 patients will go first. On Monday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said the state would first target 2.4 million health care workers. Those workers are also being divided into subgroups, in case of a shortage in the first rounds. Health workers will be followed by those living in congregate settings, such as nursing homes, along with other essential workers and people who

are at higher risk of falling severely ill, including people 65 and over. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Declining Immunization Rates For Non-Covid Illnesses Means Some Students Won't Be Able To Return To Campuses Whenever They Reopen

In May the California Department of Public Health rang the alarm about falling immunization rates statewide, reporting that the number of children who were vaccinated in the month of April fell by more than 40%, compared to the same month the previous year. State officials have not yet compiled data for this school year. Although most students in California are currently learning at home via distance learning, they will have to be immunized before attending schools for in-person instruction. School districts are boosting their efforts to make sure that happens, including at West Contra Costa Unified, which handed out 244 free Thanksgiving turkeys to families who brought students to a vaccination clinic in the parking lot of district headquarters last week. To read the full story, click [here](#).

A US Record: Two Million New Virus Cases in Two Weeks

For the first time since the coronavirus outbreak hit the United States, the country has added more than one million cases in each of the past two consecutive weeks. Covid deaths, which lag reported cases by weeks, are also at a level not seen since the spring. Some epidemiologists project that the number of deaths in the coming weeks could exceed the spring peak, in spite of improved treatment. In the past week, the United States added an average of 173,000 new daily cases. If this growth pattern holds, the total number of cases reported for the full month of November is likely to hit 4.5 million. That would be more than double the number of any previous month. With several days still left in the month, about 3.3 million people in the United States had already tested positive for the coronavirus as of November 23. To read the full story, click [here](#).

US Unemployment Claims Rose to 778,000 Last Week

Jobless claims rose for the second straight week, to 778,000, a sign the nationwide surge in virus cases was starting to weigh on the labor-market recovery. Claims haven't risen for two consecutive weeks since July. Worker filings for unemployment insurance are down sharply from a peak of nearly seven million in late March. But they remain higher than in any previous recession—the pre-pandemic peak was 695,000 in 1982—for records tracing back to 1967. Unemployment filings can be more volatile around the holidays, due to workweek changes that can cause seasonal-adjustment anomalies. The four-week moving average, which smooths out weekly variation, increased by 5,000 to 748,500, the Labor Department said Wednesday. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How 9 Governors Are Handling The Next Coronavirus Wave

Governors are balancing rising case numbers and pressure to keep schools, restaurants and bars at least partially open. They're employing loosely defined "curfews" on all but essential workers, admonishments over holding Thanksgiving dinners and reductions in capacity limits on indoor spaces — and a growing number of Republicans are mandating masks. What they're not

doing: Returning to the all-or-nothing approach of the pandemic's earliest month, sparing a disease-weary public another round of lockdowns. To read the full story, click [here](#).

As Coronavirus Cases Surge Again, ICE Leaders Push To Detain More Immigrants

At a federal court hearing last week, Moises Becerra, a top official with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, discussed a plan to safely repopulate the Mesa Verde immigrant detention facility in Bakersfield. Last summer, a COVID-19 outbreak spread to more than half of the detainees and a quarter of the staff. Now, against the backdrop of the latest and potentially most difficult wave of COVID-19 cases across the state and country, ICE officials are pushing to increase the number of immigrants detained in California. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Teeth Grinding Has Increased During The Pandemic. Because Of Course It Has

When City Park resident Olu Longe first woke up with a stiff jaw, he assumed it would go away. But the pain only grew. Although Longe was worried about going to the dentist during the pandemic, his jaw hurt so much that he went anyway. "It was one of those situations where I really didn't have an option," Longe said. "I couldn't live with the pain." He learned that grinding his teeth at night was the root of the problem. "Because you're sleeping, you don't know that you're doing it," he said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

New IRS Restrictions on PPP Loans

The latest IRS guidance on expenses paid with Paycheck Protection Program loan funds is still contrary to Congressional intent, write Bruce Hendrick, David Heidenreich, and Kylie Jennings of Carrington Coleman. According to the IRS, businesses can't deduct the eligible expenses paid with the proceeds of PPP loans. Businesses now face the choice of a greater tax burden or foregoing forgiveness of their PPP loans. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Some COVID-19 Survivors Report Issues With Oral Health

People are sharing stories of how their teeth or gums weakened, fell out, became discolored or broke. Dentists say it's too early to establish a well-linked connection between the coronavirus and oral health, though. "We are now beginning to examine some of the bewildering and sometimes disabling symptoms that patients are suffering months after they've recovered from COVID," Dr. William W. Li, president and medical director of the Angiogenesis Foundation, a nonprofit that studies the health and disease of blood vessels, told the Times. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Coronavirus Lockdowns By State: What You Need To Know

Numerous governors throughout the country have reinstated safety precautions in recent weeks to combat the rapid spike in coronavirus cases just weeks before large family gatherings and getaway trips traditionally planned for the holidays. More than 11.5 million cases have been reported in the United States since the COVID-19 pandemic started in early 2020, and public health officials fear holiday travel will exacerbate its spread. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Police Cracking Down On Underground Bars, Illegal Parties In New York, Los Angeles Amid COVID-19

As COVID-19 cases skyrocket, it's hard to imagine anyone wanting to crowd into a jam-packed bar, but police say it's happening in secret. From a fight club called "The Rumble in the Bronx" to a warehouse shooting in Los Angeles. "These activities were illegal and sometimes deadly before COVID-19," said New York City Sheriff Joseph Fucito. Coast to coast, secret parties busted by cops like an alleged illegal bottle club with 120 people inside last weekend in New York City. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Moderna Becomes Second Company To Request Emergency FDA Authorization For COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate

Biotech company Moderna applied Monday for an emergency use authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration after receiving more good news about the safety and effectiveness of its candidate COVID-19 vaccine. Moderna will be the second vaccine maker to request authorization from the federal government after similarly positive results for Pfizer and its German collaborator BioNTech's candidate vaccine. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How to Select and Use Hand Sanitizer

To prevent the spread of germs, including COVID-19, CDC recommends washing hands with soap and water whenever possible because it reduces the amount of many types of germs and chemicals on hands. But if soap and water are not readily available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can help you avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Labor Laws Should Be Updated to Reflect Shift Towards Telecommuting

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many employees have been working from home since March with no end in sight. This has led some to speculate whether a permanent work from home model makes sense for employers going forward, even after the pandemic is over. In the [2021-22 Budget: California's Fiscal Outlook](#) published two weeks ago, the Legislative Analyst's Office ("LAO") posed an interesting question worth exploring: "Could the pandemic create a permanent shift toward remote work and, if so, will this shift change people's and businesses' decisions about locating in California?" To read the full story, click [here](#).

LA Parents Sue State Over Remote Learning Inequities

The parents of a second-grader at a Los Angeles Unified School District magnet school are among seven families suing the state of California for allegedly failing to meet its constitutional obligation to ensure "basic educational equality" during the ongoing period of remote learning stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to court papers obtained Tuesday. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Redondo Beach Restaurant Owner Chooses To Stay Open, Defy Outdoor Dining Ban

Los Angeles County shut down outdoor dining on November 25 for three weeks in response to a rise in coronavirus cases, but one restaurant owner in Redondo Beach says he's not closing up shop.

The patios at Eat at Joe's, a "South Bay landmark" since 1969, were full Monday afternoon with customers supporting the move. "I think this whole thing is a travesty," customer Terry Kane said. "It's killing the small business, small restaurants, it's killing the employees. They have no other way to make income. There's no stimulus. There's no relief from California on restaurants." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Cal/OSHA Emergency Workplace COVID-19 Regulation: 10 Frequently Asked Questions

On November 19, 2020, the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board [voted and approved an emergency COVID-19 regulation](#) governing employers and workplaces. That regulation is scheduled for adoption and implementation on November 30, 2020. Below are answers to some frequently asked questions that employers have expressed about the new emergency regulation. To read the full story, click [here](#).

First responders? Long-term care patients? CDC committee considering who's in group '1a' for COVID-19 vaccine.

The committee that decides who gets the coronavirus vaccine first meets virtually Tuesday as officials prepare for distribution that could potentially come within two weeks. Look for discussion of two questions: Where should people in long-term care facilities be in the vaccine line and the power of states and governors to shift priorities for who gets immunized first. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Comedian Began Chronicling His COVID-19 'Journey' Online. He Died Two Days Later

Joe Luna, an East LA comedian who called himself Joe El Cholo onstage, just wanted his friends and family to understand the dangers of COVID-19. "When I would hear people talk about what COVID did to them, I always thought to myself, man, you know what, [I doubted it](#) was that bad," he says in a 35-minute video posted November 21 to his Instagram, revealing his own ongoing battle with the coronavirus. To read the full story, click [here](#).

US. Health Officials Warn Thanksgiving Travelers They Could Seed A Coronavirus Surge On Top Of A Surge

Top federal health officials on Sunday forecast a post-Thanksgiving spike in coronavirus infections, deaths and stress on hospitals and medical staff. At the same time, they said that it was still possible to blunt the deadly rise with the tried and true measures of mask wearing and social distancing. Dr. Deborah L. Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, urged Americans to take it upon themselves to "protect yourself and your family," even in states and cities where authorities had not required any such measures. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Newsom Warns Of Regional Stay-At-Home Order As COVID-19 Hospitalizations Hit Record

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday warned that California is again on the brink of a wider coronavirus stay-at-home order as public health officials work desperately to shore up a state hospital system that's contending with record numbers of COVID-19 patients. Should recent trends continue, officials warn, there's a chance that the viciously resurgent pandemic could overwhelm aspects of the state healthcare system. Of particular concern is California's intensive care unit capacity. Currently, about 75% of the state's 7,733 ICU beds are occupied — with

1,812 of them filled by coronavirus patients. Unless things change, the state could exhaust its existing ICU capacity by mid-December, according to projections Newsom presented. The rural counties of Northern California could exceed ICU capacity by early December; Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley by mid-December, the Sacramento area by late December and the Bay Area by early January. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California To Receive 327,000 Doses Of Pfizer Coronavirus Vaccine In December

It will be the state's first tranche of coronavirus vaccines, developed by Pfizer and the German firm BioNTech. Pfizer applied for Food and Drug Administration authorization last month and is widely expected to receive approval in December. The 327,000 doses will go to health care workers, but the state's vaccine committee is still determining which health care workers will go first, Newsom said. There are about 2.4 million health care workers in California, so the first round of vaccine distribution will not provide enough doses for all of them. Details about which health care workers will get priority for the first doses will be announced this week, he said. If the state hews closely to recommendations from the influential National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, it will be health care workers at hospitals, nursing homes and in-home care, and first responders. The state's Community Vaccine Advisory Committee met Monday and decided to recommend that the first phase of vaccine distribution go to health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Families Sue State Over Distance Learning Inequities

Seven families took California to court Monday, accusing the state of failing to ensure "basic educational equality" during a prolonged period of remote learning brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. The plaintiffs say the state isn't providing the equipment, training and support that low-income families desperately need and that it has left it up to districts and teachers to navigate the challenges on their own, providing scant guidance or oversight. Meanwhile, they say, families have been forced to pay for basic school supplies or make do without a computer for each child or reliable internet access. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Early Data On Learning Loss Show Big Drop In Math, But Not Reading Skills

A national testing organization that predicted school closures last spring would leave students far behind where they should be academically as they entered schools this fall released data Tuesday showing the reality, while worrisome, was less dire. The test results from the Portland-based nonprofit organization NWEA is one of the first large-scale efforts documenting the actual "learning loss" caused by the disruptions of Covid-19 that educators fear could set back a generation of students. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Bipartisan Senate group introduces \$900 billion coronavirus relief plan

The legislation would provide \$908 billion in aid and also shield businesses from coronavirus lawsuits for a few months to allow states to develop their own liability reforms. The proposal includes \$160 billion in state and local aid, \$180 billion in additional unemployment insurance and \$288 billion for small businesses. It also has \$82 billion for schools as well as \$45 billion for transportation, according to a draft reviewed by POLITICO. It also includes money for health care. To read the full story, click [here](#).

The CDC. Will Discuss Who Should Get Vaccinated First, But The Decision Will Fall To States

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory committee will meet on Tuesday afternoon to decide what its advice will be about who should get access to coronavirus vaccines first. But much like its recommendations about masks and travel restrictions, the CDC's guidance about vaccine distribution will only inform states, which will ultimately need to devise their own plans. Alex M. Azar II, the health and human services secretary, said on Monday that vaccine doses will be distributed through normal processes for vaccines, with governors acting as "air traffic controllers" to determine which hospitals or pharmacies receive shipments. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Dr. Scott Atlas Resigns As Special Adviser To Trump On Coronavirus

Dr. Scott Atlas, President Trump's special adviser on the coronavirus pandemic, formally resigned from his post on Monday, Fox News has learned. Atlas, who spoke with the president on Monday, joined the administration in August, and was considered a Special Government Employee (SGE), serving a 130-day detail. Atlas' role is set to expire this 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.