

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Monday, May 18, 2020

This is a summary of today's events based on various media briefings by federal, state, county and city officials.

Cases – Reported as of Summary Time

Location	Confirmed/Reported Cases	Deaths
United States	1,543,765	91,683
California	80,265	3,289
Los Angeles County	38,451 1.26% increase over 5/16; note Monday totals are lower due to weekend lab closures.	1,839
Claremont	32	0
Hotspots (Top 3)		
New York	360,309	28,443
New Jersey	149,776	10,436
Illinois	96,485	4,234

Good sources for tracking data and updated a couple of times of day:

<https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://covid19.ca.gov/>

Federal Government/White House/National Coverage

- The drug maker Moderna said on Monday that the first coronavirus vaccine to be tested in people appeared to be safe and able to stimulate an immune response against the virus.
- Those people, healthy volunteers ages 18 to 55, made antibodies that were then tested in human cells in the lab and were able to stop the virus from replicating — the key requirement for an effective vaccine. The levels of those so-called neutralizing antibodies matched the levels found in patients who had recovered after contracting the virus in the community. Two more age groups — 55 to 70, and 71 and over — are now being enrolled to test the vaccine.
- Though encouraging, the findings do not prove that the vaccine works. Only larger, longer studies can determine whether it can prevent people in the real world from getting sick.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

12:00 p.m.

- Governor Gavin Newsom announced that 53 of California's 58 counties can now move into the second of four stages toward reopening if they so choose.

- Most notable in Monday's announcement is that counties will no longer be kept from loosening the shutdown rules if there have been COVID-19 deaths in the previous two weeks.
- The new standard removes all death rate requirements and creates a more generous threshold on rates of newly confirmed cases. Counties will now be able to move toward a more expansive reopening if they can show no more than 25 coronavirus cases per 100,000 residents in the last 14 days before taking action — a standard that was originally one new case per 10,000 residents.
- Counties could, instead, show that less than 8% of residents tested for the virus over a seven-day period were positive.
- Counties also must show that hospitalizations for COVID-19 patients have stabilized, meaning they can't increase by more than 5% over a seven-day period or that a county can't have more than 20 hospitalizations on any single day over a seven-day period.
- Amid the pushback from counties, Newsom also adopted a [framework to allow some areas to move ahead](#) of his administration's pace. If local governments want to open more businesses, the plan allows counties to submit an application declaring that the presence of the virus is limited or nonexistent in their jurisdictions and they've met certain requirements to prepare for a future surge in infections.
- Even after the governor announced Monday, he was rescinding the requirement that counties have no coronavirus-related deaths in two weeks in order to move ahead of the state, it's still unlikely that Los Angeles County will meet the standards. Local officials say the infection rate in the county is falling, but they remain concerned about the potential spread of the disease.
- The Governor also announced that pro sports could return in that first week or so of June without spectators and modifications and very prescriptive conditions also can begin to move forward... "if we hold these trend lines in the next number of weeks," Newsom said. Sports were previously referenced in Stage 4 of the reopening plan.
- If current trendlines continue, Newsom said, statewide announcements are expected for opening up:
 - in-store retail (not just curbside pickup)
 - getting a haircut
 - churches within weeks, not months
 - sporting events without spectators in the first week of June
 - other parts of the economy

L.A. Department of Public Health/County of Los Angeles

1:00 p.m.

- 18 new deaths and 477 new cases reported today. As a reminder, Monday totals are always lower due to weekend closures at reporting laboratories.
- More than 350,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 and had the results reported to county health officials. Of those tests, 9% have been positive.
- 1,570 individuals are currently hospitalized; 5,835 total ever hospitalized.
- Regarding health care workers in LA County: 4,298 individuals have confirmed cases of COVID-19. The cases identified include 26 different occupations. Skilled nursing facilities count for 44% of all cases, hospitals have 27% cases. Nurses continue to account for most positive case results — 46%.

- 58% of positive tests, the source of exposure is known; 79% of confirmed cases were exposed in a health care facility.
- 86% of those tested positive for COVID-19 at nursing facilities were asymptomatic.
- L.A. County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer reminded “Masks are, in fact, mandatory across the entire county when you’re outside of your home, not with members of your household and in any kind of contact with other people.” Even when on a solitary walk or run, Ferrer said, “you now need to have a face covering with you, because if you came by other people, you were walking by other people, you tried to go into a grocery store, you absolutely have to have that face covering on.”
- County will be reviewing the Governor’s new guidance for application to the County of Los Angeles.
- [Metrics to Guide Reopening LA County](#) is online.

Higher Education Status by School

- Harvard Medical School announced that all of its fall courses for entering classes of medical, dental and graduate students will be conducted remotely. The school said it hopes to hold in-person research and clinical experiences for returning medical and graduate students. Academic program leaders will soon communicate details and preparations for the fall with students and faculty and staff members, according to the announcement.
- Students at Chapman University in Orange, Cal Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks and [Pepperdine University](#) in Malibu will return to their classrooms, with safety measures in place.
- [University of South Carolina](#) will end its fall quarter at Thanksgiving break and transition to remote learning following the break.