

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Wednesday, May 20, 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	1,591,252	94,918
California	85,763	3,512
Los Angeles County	40,857 3.24% increase over 5/19	1,970
Claremont	33	0
Hotspots (Top 3)		
New York	363,517	28,816
New Jersey	152,096	10,747
Illinois	100,418	4,525

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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidance on Tuesday for colleges on slowing the spread of coronavirus.
- The guidance describes behaviors colleges can promote to reduce spread and outlines steps they should take to isolate and transport sick individuals. It also includes suggestions for maintaining healthier campus environments by promoting social distancing, ensuring proper operation of ventilation and water systems, increasing cleaning and disinfection practices, closing or staggering use of communal spaces, and changing food services protocols. It recommends encouraging telework “for as many faculty and staff as possible” and putting in place protections for staff, faculty and students at higher risk of severe illness due to age or underlying medical conditions.
- The guidance notes that institutions of higher education “vary considerably in geographic location, size, and structure. As such, institutions of higher education (IHE) officials can determine, in collaboration with state and local health officials, whether and how to implement these considerations while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the IHE and local community. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community.”
- Summer enrollment at Arizona State University is at an all-time high, the university reported yesterday.
 - More than 56,000 students have signed up to take summer classes, a 16.5 percent increase from 2019. Of these, 1,300 are newly admitted fall 2020 students, a 74 percent increase from last summer.

- ASU expanded its summer course offerings in anticipation of students wanting to study while confined to their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The institution is offering over 5,200 courses -- a mixture of native online courses and courses that will be offered remotely using videoconferencing tools.
- Several leaders of colleges in New Jersey have asked the state for immunity from lawsuits as they consider reopening for in-person instruction in the fall (NJ.com). Those requests, made by higher education officials during a New Jersey Senate committee hearing yesterday on the impact of COVID-19 on colleges, were the same requests made by some college and university leaders during a call last week with Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released more detailed guidance for schools, businesses, transit systems and other industries hoping to reopen safely amid the pandemic after the White House had signaled that it did not want to release the guidelines.
- The guidance adds great detail to [six charts that the C.D.C. had released last week](#). The guidance provides specific instructions for different sectors to detect and trace the virus based on exposure and risk after the pandemic.
- For K-12 schools, it provided guidance that if a person in a school building tests positive, [schools should evaluate](#) the risk and **consider a brief dismissal of about two to five days, to clean and disinfect** the building, coordinate with local health officials and contact trace. The C.D.C. offers different measures based on the level of community spread.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

12:00 p.m.

- University of California campuses will open in the fall, per Janet Napolitano, President.
- Hybrid style of learning expected to become the normal system-wide. The question will be how much of that instruction is in-person versus how much is done remotely.
- Napolitano indicated that each UC campus would be required to “meet system-wide thresholds” for Covid-19 testing, contact tracing and isolation before being allowed to open.
- Once the standards are met, campuses “can consider whether to maintain fully remote instruction in the fall or return some portion of their students to campus.” A decision is expected in the middle of June.
- Three months into California’s battle with the coronavirus, there are growing signs that the outbreak is receding. The number of newly identified coronavirus cases across California has declined last week from the previous week, dropping to 12,229 cases from 13,041 the previous week. This is especially telling given the level of increased testing.
- Across California, hospitalizations have dropped more than 15% from its peak six weeks ago.
- University of California President Janet Napolitano announced that she and all 10 campus chancellors will take a 10% pay cut in the coming fiscal year.
- Napolitano also announced salary freezes for nonunionized staff and nonstudent academic employees, along with efforts to cut costs in such areas as nonessential travel and service agreements.

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

1:00 p.m.

- 57 new deaths and 1,324 new cases reported today.
- More than 370,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 and had the results reported to county health officials. Of those tests, 9% have been positive.

- Preliminary findings from the second community prevalence study done in partnership with the University of Southern California and the LRW Group suggests there was not much spread of the virus in the general community population during the time between this study and the study conducted in April.
- 1,014 LA County adults were tested between May 8 and May 12 using serology testing. Based on results of the second round of testing, the research team estimates that approximately 2.1% of the County's adult population has antibody to the virus. This compares to 4.1% among the 863 adults tested in the April study.
- The difference between the two results was not statistically significant and could be due to random variation. However, other factors could have contributed to the lower prevalence including different test site locations and recruitment efforts for a higher number of Latinos, Asians, and African Americans.
- Similar to the previous study, men were more likely than women to have been infected; 2.8% among men and 1.4% among women.
- Dr. Christina Ghaly, Director of LA County Department of Health Services, gave an update on the data modeling of transmission rates in L.A. County, which shows "an increasing downturn in the daily number of new cases."
 - While that's promising news, she cautioned it will only continue to go down if residents keep following public health guidelines on physical distancing, mask-wearing and sanitation. Why is that important? She explained that we might not immediately know that transmission is increasing again because:
 - People who are infected today will not be ill enough to seek medical care for two to four weeks.
 - By the time we notice an increase in cases, there will have been increased spread for a number of weeks
 - That would be causing higher rates of infection and put a strain on our healthcare system and workers.

Higher Education Status by School

- [Rice University](#) plans to reopen for the fall semester in mid-August with its full population on campus, but there will be significant modifications to class and campus operations. All classes will be delivered in dual-mode, available both in-person and remotely. Due to the risk of a second COVID-19 wave, the fall semester will be shorter than usual with classes ending before Thanksgiving break. Faculty must also make it possible for all final exams and papers to be completed remotely. However, undergraduates will be allowed to stay in their residential colleges until the end of finals in mid-December.
- [Creighton University](#) plans to reopen its Omaha and Phoenix campuses and return to in-person courses for the fall semester. The University looks to begin the semester early, forgo fall break, and complete most in-person, on-campus learning for the fall 2020 semester by Nov. 25, the day before Thanksgiving.
- The University of California system will be open in the fall with a hybrid instruction plan.