

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Friday, May 22, 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	1,643,154	97,554
California	90,202	3,684
Los Angeles County	43,052 2.41% increase over 5/21	2,049
Claremont	33	0
Hotspots (Top 3)		
New York	367,909	29,005
New Jersey	154,349	10,986
Illinois	105,444	4,715

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

- Trump urges governors to let houses of worship reopen as the C.D.C. suggests limits.
- The president threatened to "override" the governors if they did not follow his order, though it was not immediately clear what powers he was claiming. "I call upon governors to allow our churches and places of worship to open right now," he said. "If there's any question, they're going to have to call me, but they're not going to be successful in that call."
- Today, the C.D.C.'s new guidelines for religious communities suggested that they consider a number of limitations to keep congregations safe. Among them:
 - "Take steps to limit the size of gatherings in accordance with the guidance and directives of state and local authorities."
 - "Consider suspending or at least decreasing use of a choir/musical ensembles and congregant singing, chanting, or reciting during services or other programming, if appropriate within the faith tradition. The act of singing may contribute to transmission of Covid-19, possibly through emission of aerosols."
 - "Consider temporarily limiting the sharing of frequently touched objects that cannot be easily cleaned between persons, such as worship aids, prayer rugs, prayer books, hymnals, religious texts and other bulletins, books, shared cups, or other items received, passed or shared among congregants."

- The malaria drugs hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, which Trump has promoted, did not help coronavirus patients and may have done harm, according to a new study based on the records of nearly 15,000 patients who received the drugs and 81,000 who did not.
- People who received the drugs were more likely to have abnormal heart rhythms, according to the study, which was published in the *The Lancet*. They were also more likely to die.
- The study was observational, meaning that the patients were not picked at random to receive the drug or not. It is based on data from 96,032 coronavirus patients from 671 hospitals around the world. Observational studies like this one cannot provide definitive evidence about drug safety and effectiveness.
- Even so, the authors of the study recommended that the drugs not be used outside clinical trials, and they said carefully controlled trials were urgently needed. Several clinical trials are underway around the world.
- A vaccine developed in China appears to be safe and may offer protection against the virus, scientists say.
- The early-stage trial, [published in the Lancet](#), was conducted by researchers at several laboratories and included 108 participants. Subjects who got the vaccine mounted a moderate immune response to the virus, which peaked 28 days after the inoculation, the researchers found.
- The COVID-19 virus still does not spread easily on surfaces, the C.D.C. says. This information is not new; the agency has been using similar language for months (however, it was a news story catching traction this week as if it was new information). Already known: the virus is thought to spread mainly from one person to another, typically through droplets when an infected person sneezes, coughs or talks at close range — even if that person is not showing symptoms.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

12:00 p.m.

- After receiving a formal warning from the United States Justice Department over church closures, Gov. Newsom said that California is "weeks away" from allowing in-person religious services to resume. Guidelines for churches will be issued on Monday.
- More than 40 California counties have been given the OK from the state to scale back some parts of the stay-at-home orders that went into effect in March.
- Governor Newsom launched California Connected, the state's comprehensive contact tracing program and public awareness campaign. As part of California Connected, public health workers from communities across the state will connect with individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and work with them, and people they have been in close contact with, to ensure they have access to confidential testing, as well as medical care and other services to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- To prevent the spread of this virus, public health workers will connect Californians with confidential testing. They may also recommend medical care, and that individuals who could be infectious separate themselves from others in their home to protect those around them. Information provided to local public health departments is confidential under California law. Public health authorities will not share that information with outside entities. That information will be used for public health purposes only. Contact tracers will not ask for financial information, social security numbers or immigration status.

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

1:00 p.m.

- 35 new deaths and 1,072 new cases reported today.
- More than 412,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 and had the results reported to county health officials. Of those tests, 9% have been positive.
- A new Health Officer Order is being issued today that replaces the previous Health Officer Order and allows for the reopening of beach bike paths and parking lots, indoor mall curbside service, and select vehicle parades. Retailers remain closed to public entry along with beach piers, and public and private gatherings of any number of people outside of a single household unit are still not permitted.
- The Health Officer Order also continues to require specific higher-risk businesses to remain closed. Everyone must continue to follow distancing and infection control protocols, stay at least six feet apart and wear a clean cloth face covering that securely covers both your nose and mouth when in contact with other people not in your household.
- High schools will be allowed to organize "vehicle parades" as a way to celebrate graduation, without holding a traditional ceremony. Cars will of course have to be mindful of traffic laws and physical distancing requirements.
- LA County unemployment rate is 20.3%.