Tuesday, May 26, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Confirmed/Reported Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1,719,565</td>
<td>100,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>97,133</td>
<td>3,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>47,822</td>
<td>2,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claremont</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hotspots (Top 3)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Confirmed/Reported Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>373,445</td>
<td>29,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>157,168</td>
<td>11,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>113,195</td>
<td>4,923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/
https://covid19.ca.gov/

**Federal Government/White House/National Coverage**

- About a dozen states are seeing an uptick in new virus cases, opposite the national trend of staying steady or seeing decreases — and at least half of the states seeing more infections were part of an early wave of reopenings in late April and early May.
- Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee are among the states that have seen recent increases in newly reported cases, several weeks after moving to reopen. Arkansas, North Dakota and Oklahoma, which did not have statewide stay-at-home orders but began reopening businesses, are also reporting increases in new cases.
- Some of the hardest hit states, like New York and New Jersey, have reported steep downward trendlines. Other states, from Oregon to Pennsylvania, are also showing signs of progress.
- The Trump administration appears to be backing off steps to prohibit colleges from granting emergency assistance to undocumented students, even those under federal protection, telling a court this week that it is not enforcing Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’s initial order.
- Responding to a lawsuit filed this month by the California community college system, Justice Department attorneys argued in a filing Monday that an emergency injunction to block the Department of Education
from enforcing the secretary’s guidance was unnecessary because it was only “preliminary” and did not have the force of law. That guidance limited virus relief approved by Congress for college students to U.S. citizens.

• The following comments are highlights from an interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

  o “... one of the things that I have heard — and I’m not necessarily saying I’m advocating it because I think it’ll be appropriate variably depending on where you are — is to get at least a baseline and intermittently survey the students. By baseline, meaning you know when you start on Day 1 what you’re dealing with and intermittently do random surveillance every couple of weeks or what have you. You have to have the capability when students get infected, which they will, to then get them to a situation where they would be able to be comfortably isolated if in fact, they’re just waiting out a relatively mild infection. Or, if they get ill, to have the health care available for them.”

  o Regarding testing of all students, faculty and staff before coming on to campus: “...with the newer tests coming online this summer, particularly the antigen test, you could literally test thousands of thousands of people reasonably expeditiously. I’m not sure you could do that today or tomorrow, but we’re told that as we get into the late spring, early summer, that those types of tests would be available. Now I don’t want to give you the impression that everyone should be doing that or that’s the best way to do it. I’m just giving you some models that have been suggested by some of the leadership in some universities.

  o On the topic of the amount of baseline testing that should be done once everyone is back on campus: “...I think you get the first baseline and then you do what’s called surveillance testing where you don’t test every single person, but every week or two you selectively test a representative sampling to determine if there is a below-the-radar-screen amount of transmission that you’re not detecting, because the chances of there being asymptomatic infection in a cohort of young, healthy individuals is much greater than the chance in the general population. We know, for example, for the outbreak on the aircraft carrier Teddy Roosevelt, where over 1,000 sailors were infected, an overwhelming percentage were really asymptomatic infections. You can get a modeler to help you with that, to say what fraction of the sampling of the student body do you need to do and how often do you need to do it. I can’t give you a percentage now; I can’t give you a number now. But those are things that can be worked out. But some things are definite. For example, you need to shield the vulnerable people. So, if you have students with underlying conditions, you’ve got to do the best you possibly can to protect them.

  o Thoughts on colleges planning their fall schedules around the expectation that there will be a second wave this winter. Is that a reasonable strategy? “There likely will be infections as you get into the fall and to the winter. What you need to do is to be able to identify, isolate, and contact trace them to the point where those little blips you might see don’t turn into substantial outbreaks. I’ve heard of one model, which is getting people back to school at the end of August and keeping them there until Thanksgiving break. Instead of having Thanksgiving and then coming back, which would increase the chances of spreading an infection, have them get to Thanksgiving and go home until the New Year. Whether that model works or not, what it does is it prevents the back and forth, which would be enhancing
transmission at a time of the season when you would likely see a considerable amount of respiratory-borne illness.

**State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage**

1:00 p.m.

- On Monday, state public health officials announced that houses of worship could reopen across the state under restrictions that officials said would be re-evaluated next month.
- The California Department of Public Health released 12 pages of guidelines for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies. While these guidelines are for places of worship, there are some similarities to high education with regards to congregation sizes and protocols.
- The new guidelines say that religious or cultural ceremonies—including funerals—can take place with county health department approval, and in buildings limited to 25 percent capacity or 100 people, whichever is lower.
- The guidance also requires that places of worship establish an infection prevention plan and try to minimize or eliminate, if possible, singing or group recitations, which can spread coronavirus droplets, increasing others’ risk.
- Retail stores were also allowed to open their doors to customers statewide, under the same guidelines that public health officials previously released for the counties moving more quickly through the reopening process (LA County not included).
- Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the 47 of California’s 58 counties (LA County is NOT included) that have provided attestations and were allowed to move faster with reopening can now also open barbershops and hair salons — but with modifications. Salons that reopen must only provide services that allow for both the worker and customer to wear face coverings for the entirety of the service.
- The state’s coronavirus positivity rate is staying steady, Newsom said. Over the past week, 4.2%; 4.1% over the past two weeks.
- Hospitalizations and ICU numbers went up slightly over the past 24 hours, Newsom said, but over a 14-day average, hospitalizations are slightly declining, down 6.7%. ICU numbers are staying steady and not going down, but capacity has been significantly increased.
- The state has distributed 41.2 million procedure masks over the past two weeks, Newsom said. There are 11,000 ventilators available, and the state has more that can be made available.
- He said over the weekend, more than 178,000 people were tested: 67,000 on Saturday, 61,000 on Sunday, and a little more than 50,000 on Monday.

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

1:00 p.m.

- 27 new deaths and 1,843 new cases reported today.
- More than 514,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 and had the results reported to county health officials. Of those tests, 8% have been positive.
- The City of Los Angeles opened its largest coronavirus testing site Tuesday at Dodger Stadium, where up to 6,000 people can be tested daily.
• Although this is the highest number of new cases reported in a day, some of these cases are from a backlog of test results.
• Of the 2,143 total deaths in LA County, 47% were in skilled nursing facilities.
• The governor said he's open to some parts of L.A. County opening sooner than others, given its size, and that the state was working with the county to make that possible.