

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Monday, June 15, 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	2,175,547	118,151
California	152,882	5,089
Los Angeles County	73,791 4.7% increase over 6/12	2,926
Claremont	72	1
Hotspots (Top 2) – Note – California is #3		
New York	405,048	30,943
New Jersey	169,686	12,778

Federal Government/White House/National Coverage

- The Food and Drug Administration said Monday that it was [revoking emergency authorization](#) of two malaria drugs to treat COVID-19, saying that they are “unlikely to be effective.”
- The drugs, [hydroxychloroquine and a related drug, chloroquine](#), were heavily promoted by President Trump after a handful of small, poorly controlled studies showed that they could work in treating the disease.
- A section of Beijing was locked down on Monday as the government rushed to contain a new outbreak of coronavirus infections.
- City officials said they had tracked down 79 infections in Beijing over the previous four days, including 36 confirmed on Sunday. All appeared ultimately traceable to the vast, bustling Xinfadi food market in the south of Beijing.
- The World Health Organization on Monday called the outbreak a “significant event” and said that Chinese government has shown an appropriate level of concern.
- CDC issued guidance on Friday for those participating in large outdoor protests of racial injustice and police brutality, and as President Trump prepares to resume large political rallies. It advises that staff members at large events be required to wear face coverings, and that attendees be encouraged to do so — in keeping with previous C.D.C. guidance on wearing face coverings in public.
- CDC [released results](#) of a survey of 2,200 adults around the country, particularly in New York City and Los Angeles, that found broad support for stay-at-home orders, nonessential business closures, and other measures that were taken in recent months to slow the virus's spread including the following results:
 - 88% - agree people should always keep at least 6' apart
 - 82% - agree that groups of 10 or more people should not be allowed

- 80% - support stay-at-home orders and nonessential business closures

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

- California passed 5,000 COVID-19 deaths over the weekend.
- There has been a revolt against face masks in some parts of California, and that alarms health officials. Masks are one of the only tools we have against the spread of the coronavirus until a vaccine is available.
- "It's the only way we get back to work — it's to mask," said Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, chair of UC San Francisco's Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. "All of the data tells us ... it's pretty clear that masking is the element that changes the trajectories of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Of California's 15 most populous counties, those requiring the wearing of masks in public are: Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, Alameda, Sacramento, Contra Costa, San Francisco and San Mateo. Those that do not require masks in public are Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Fresno, Kern, Ventura and San Joaquin.
- When asked about whether the state was putting the economy ahead of health concerns in reopening, Newsom said that social concerns also needed to be considered. He cited poverty rates, unemployment rates, people without access to preventative health care, and those suffering with mental health issues.
- "This is not an economic question — it's a health question, broadly defined," Newsom said. He added that officials believe that California being the first state to impose a stay-at-home order saved lives.
- "There's a certain point where you have to recognize, you can't be in a permanent state where people are locked away for months, and months, and months, and months on end," Newsom said, "to see lives and livelihoods completely destroyed, without considering the health impact of those decisions as well."
- Newsom emphasized the importance of continuing to wear masks. He pointed to the 1918 flu pandemic, which had a much larger second wave, and a third wave that was still larger than the first. That second wave included people no longer feeling the need to wear masks, Newsom said.
- The governor encouraged people to be smart by wearing a face covering, physically distancing, and washing their hands. These activities are particularly important when mixing with people outside of your household. He noted that being outside is one thing, while being inside without air circulation is of greater concern.
- The state has a dashboard it's using to monitor coronavirus in different counties, Ghaly noted. The numbers they're watching:
 - Average tests per day
 - Case rate per 100,000
 - Testing positivity
 - Change in 3-day avg. COVID+ hospitalizations
 - Available % ICU beds
 - Available % ventilators
 - Los Angeles County has received checkmarks in all of these areas except one: case rate. The county currently has 162.5 cases per 100,000 residents. The goal: 25 per 100,000 people.
- While testing has increased, the COVID-19 positivity rate has dropped since testing began in early April, Newsom said. It peaked at 40.8% positive in the early days of the virus, while testing was more restricted — it is currently at 4.5% over the past 14 days. Newsom noted that it was at 4.6% in the last 7 days, following recent protests.

- Officials are closely monitoring the positivity rate, which is the proportion of people who have tested positive out of all those who have been tested, and the daily number of hospitalizations. The latter is a number that officials worry may increase amid the state's continued reopening.

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

- 19 new deaths and 1,071 new cases reported today.
- More than 825,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 and had the results reported to county health officials. Of those tests, 8% have been positive.
- As of today, 7,250 people who tested positive for COVID-19 (11% of positive cases) have been hospitalized at some point during their illness. There are 1,389 people who are currently hospitalized, 29% of these people are in the ICU and 20% are on ventilators.
- At this time, Public Health has over 1500 persons working as contact tracers for the COVID-19 response. Public Health interviews persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are residents of Los Angeles County, excluding Long Beach and Pasadena, to provide information about how to protect themselves and others, to find out where they may have been, and who they were in close contact with while infectious. This involves identifying and interviewing every person who has been in close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in order to quarantine those exposed (contacts) and monitor them for signs and symptoms of the disease. This process is confidential and depends on the timeliness of the testing laboratory to report positive COVID-19 test results to Public Health, whether the report contains the individual's complete and correct contact information, as well as whether individuals respond timely to Public Health's case interview and contact tracer calls and emails.
- Los Angeles County officials visited roughly 2,000 restaurants over the weekend and found that 50% were not in compliance with the county's requirements to reopen.
- "There should be no places where tables are right next to each other," Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Monday.
- Protesters and anyone who has attended a large gathering in recent weeks, especially those who came into contact with a person not wearing a face mask for more than 15 minutes, have been encouraged to [get tested for the virus](#). Though many protesters have worn face masks, it is nearly impossible to avoid coming in contact with crowds.
- LA DPH release a new Public Health Officer Order related to LA County's COVID-19 guideline's reopening (phase 3):
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/HO_Order_COVID-19_Safer_at_Work_and_in_the_Community_-_Phase%203_06112020_WITH%20APPENDICES.pdf