

# THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

## CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Wednesday, June 17, 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	2,233,854	119,940
California	163,115	5,286
Los Angeles County	77,189 2.80% increase over 6/16	2,991
LA County Hospitalizations	1,420 10.24% increase over 6/16 (1,288)	
Claremont	71	1
<b>Hotspots (Top 2) – Note – California is #3</b>		
New York	406,362	31,045
New Jersey	170,599	12,891

### International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- The federal government's leadership in the coronavirus crisis has so faded that state and local health officials have been left to figure out on their own how to handle rising infections and to navigate conflicting signals from the White House.
- About 800 Americans a day are still dying of Covid-19, a pace that, if sustained over the next few months, would yield more than 200,000 dead by the end of September. Arizona, Florida, Nevada, Oregon and Texas all reported their largest one-day increases in new cases on Tuesday.

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

- Statewide, hospitalizations among COVID-19 patients have been relatively flat for the last six weeks, even as officials have allowed myriad businesses to open their doors and a number of residents have resumed daily routines. But in Orange and Ventura counties, hospitalizations are again on the rise, prompting health experts to warn that if the trend continues, it could cause officials to slow the pace of reopening.
- Ventura's growth is 75% increase in two weeks and Orange County is experiencing a 76% jump in coronavirus intensive care unit hospitalizations in the last six weeks.

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

- 34 new deaths and 2,129 new cases reported today.

- This is the highest number of new cases reported in a day, however about 600 cases are from a backlog of test results.
- There are 1,420 people who are currently hospitalized, 28% of these people are in the ICU and 22% are on ventilators.
- More than 854,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 and had the results reported to county health officials. Of those tests, 8% have been positive.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and the City of Los Angeles completed testing of all residents and staff in all 315 skilled nursing facilities in LA County, not including Long Beach and Pasadena. This includes facilities that have had outbreaks and facilities that have not yet had outbreaks. Of the over 30,000 tests results currently available from among both residents and staff, 6% tested positive for COVID-19 and 78% of the people testing positive were asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic.
- LA County Fact Checks on COVID-19:
  - An increase in reported cases isn't solely due to increased testing — **the virus is still continuing to spread**. According to Dr. Christina Ghaly (Director of County Health Services), "more people are becoming infected and also, at the same time, we are identifying a greater fraction of those who are infected through the county's expansion of testing capacity to understand the actual... effective transmission rate in the county."
  - **The number of new cases is not the most important metric** health officials are looking at. The hospitalization rate is a more helpful metric, Ghaly said, because it helps health officials better understand how the transmission rate is changing and the impact on the county's health care system.
  - **Just because restrictions are being lifted does not mean COVID-19 is under control in L.A. County.** L.A. County's safer-at-home order helped slow the spread of the virus, but was also a "very crude measure," Ghaly said. "Reopening is just as important for the health of our society as closing was, but given that the vast majority of those living in Los Angeles County are still susceptible to COVID-19 and the infection, we need to rely on a refined set of practices that allow us to get back to work and back to living our lives safely."
  - **This is not an overreaction** to a virus that's basically the flu. COVID-19 is killing far more Americans than the seasonal flu typically does, Ghaly explained. "During mid-April, the counted deaths for COVID-19 in the United States were **15,000 per week**," she said. "During a typical peak week of seasonal influenza, the count of deaths are **more like 750**." Ghaly added that the long-term health effects of COVID-19 are not yet fully understood but said health officials are learning "that the long-term health consequences on many who survive are significant."
  - **Masks and other basic health measures make a difference.** Keeping distance, avoiding gatherings, washing your hands and wearing face coverings have all been shown to limit the risk of spreading the virus, Ghaly said, despite what some on social media or at public meetings in Orange County are screaming. "I know it's a long road and I know it's longer than many of us would have predicted and certainly longer than many of us would have hoped for," Ghaly said, "but we can go on it safely if each and every one of us commits to doing the simple things that we know will make a difference."