

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Friday, June 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

Location	Confirmed/ Reported Cases	Deaths	Total Tests
United States	2,547,869	127,362	31,275,716
California	204,278 3.08% increase over 6/25	5,828	3,771,314
Los Angeles County	93,232 1.93% increase over 6/25	3,267	1,020,000
LA County Hospitalizations	1,676 .78% increase over 6/25		
Claremont	95	1	
Current Records – Note – California is #2			
New York	415,205	31,420	3,681,317
California	204,278	5,828	3,771,314
New Jersey	175,759	15,057	1,346,672

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- Today the White House Coronavirus Task Force had a press conference for the first time in nearly two months.
- The United States on Thursday reported more than 41,000 new cases, a record total for the second straight day and an all-time high, as a nationwide sense of urgency grew and five states — Alabama, Alaska, Montana, Missouri and Utah — reported their largest daily totals.
- As cases rise around the United States, Florida reported more than 8,900 new coronavirus cases on Friday, after counting more than 10,000 new cases over the previous two days, pushing its total cases past 120,000.
- Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, has said that Florida has the capacity to deal with more sick people for now. Across the state, long lines have returned at testing sites that just a few weeks ago were seeing limited demand.
- Dr. Deborah L. Birx, the White House's coronavirus response coordinator, said that rising positive test rates in states across the South, including in Texas, Arizona, Florida and Mississippi, were causing significant concern among health officials, and that they had created an "alert system" to track them.
- Dr. Birx singled out Texas as a state where higher positive test rates indicated a more complicated kind of spread that could not be explained by higher rates of testing. Texas, she said, was part of a group of states

with test positive rates above 10 percent, a threshold the White House has used to identify areas of particular concern.”

- Throughout May, after opening, Texas’ test positivity continued to decline as their testing increased. It was in the last two and a half weeks that we saw this inflection of rising test positivity along with rising testing.”
- Communities with increasing cases but declining positive test rates, Dr. Birx said on Friday, were examples of greater asymptomatic spread of the virus, typically among people under the age of 40.
- People 18 to 44 have represented nearly half of the total cases in the U.S. since the start, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of 2 million people who have tested positive, 1.6 million were under 65.
- Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas went a step further than Florida, ordering all bars to close on Friday and telling restaurants to reduce operating capacity (75% to 50%). It was an abrupt reversal of his previous policy.
- The percent of positive tests in Texas are exceeding 10%.
- Dr. Fauci said that officials are having “intense discussions” about a possible shift to “pool testing,” in which samples from many people are tested all at once in an effort to quickly find the infected and isolate them.
- If the pooled sample tests negative for the coronavirus, all the individuals who provided samples are considered to be virus-free. But if a certain pool comes back with a positive result, each patient who provided a sample can be tested individually.
- The strategy can be particularly effective when the prevalence of infection in a population is less than 30 percent, according to some reports.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that Latinos make up 34 percent of cases nationwide, a much higher proportion than the group’s 18 percent share of the population.
- “We thought this was only a respiratory virus. [Turns out, it goes after the pancreas. It goes after the heart. It goes after the liver, the brain, the kidney and other organs.](#) We didn’t appreciate that in the beginning,” said Dr. Eric Topol, a cardiologist and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute in La Jolla, California.
- The federal government will ship remdesivir to states including California and Texas with rising COVID-19 cases
- California will receive 464 cases of 40 vials each, Texas will receive 448 cases of 40 vials, Florida will receive 360 cases of 40 vials and Arizona will receive 356 cases of 40 vials, according to the website.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

- Gov. Newsom said that California has paused its efforts to reopen additional sectors of the state's economy by releasing new guidelines, such as the those for reopening theme parks. Disney referenced that information in their announcement delaying the reopening of Disneyland, originally planned for mid-July.
- Exact numbers are not yet available, but state officials believe that protests have been a contributor to increased coronavirus positives, State Public Health Officer Dr. Sonia Angell said. However, she noted that with the economy reopening, the state hasn't been able to determine to what extent demonstrations contributed to the growing case numbers. Angell encouraged people to stay out of large crowds.

- The state is working at the local level to use pooled testing, Newsom. Pooled testing is when samples are tested in a pool to reduce the number of tests needed. If that pool tests positive, those in that pool will need to be individually tested.
- There were 4,890 coronavirus positives in the past 24 hours in California, and 79 deaths. There was what the governor called a modest increase in both hospitalizations and ICU patients. Hospitalizations were up 3.3%, while ICU patients were up 4.4%.
- Over the last 14 days, the state's positivity rate is at 5.3% — and 5.7% over the past 7 days. Governor Newsom noted that it's expected to see more cases as testing increases, but that the positivity rate is the number that becomes more important as that becomes the case. In the past 24 hours, there were 77,000 tests conducted, Newsom said.
- The state is looking to target testing, Newsom said, at communities that have been underserved. While they want to see more testing, the state is also looking to add more specificity to its testing efforts.
- The state is advising Imperial County to pull back and reinstitute stay-at-home orders, Newsom said. Imperial County is an area of particular concern, Newsom said, noting that the state has already been transferring patients out of their hospital system to help decompress the pressure on local resources.
- If the county isn't able to come to a consensus on reinstating restrictions, Newsom said, he will intervene. It's already been a county that hasn't moved as far forward in reopening as other parts of the state.
- Imperial County's positivity rate over the past two weeks is approaching 23%.
- San Bernardino County reported 11,290 confirmed cases of the respiratory illness as of Friday, according to Corwin Porter, interim director of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, with the greatest rate of increase in those between the ages of 18 to 49.
- Dr. Troy Pennington, who works in the emergency room at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, spoke at Friday's news conference to share insight into the county's current concerns about hospitals being very close to "surge capacity."
- Pennington said as of Thursday, all of the countywide hospitalized COVID-19 patients — including those under investigation — are at the point of where the county's peak was on April 10, when slightly more 420 COVID-19 positive patients and patients under investigation were being treated.

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

- 25 new deaths and 1,809 new cases reported today.
- There are 1,676 people who are currently hospitalized.
- The County stated that they are not issuing "Face Mask Exemption" cards, nor is the Department of Justice – these are fake.
- The 7-day average of daily new cases is now 1,979; an increase from the 1,379 average two weeks ago.
- There are 1,676 people who are currently hospitalized. This is higher than 1,350 to 1,450 daily hospitalizations seen in recent weeks.
- Testing results are available for over 1,020,000 individuals with 9% of people testing positive. Both the cumulative positivity rate has increased from 8% to 9%, and the 7-day average of the daily positivity rate has increased to 8.8%.
- Before the COVID-19 pandemic, weekend visits to nightlife spots like bars, breweries, wineries, lounges and dive bars was around 700,000. Once Safer at Home went into effect, weekend visits dropped to

around 200,000. Recent estimated number of visits to nightlife spots in LA county have shown between April 6, when nightlife visits were at their lowest since the Safer at Home order was in effect, and June 20, the weekend after these businesses were permitted to reopen following infection control directives, visits increased 157%. It is estimated that over 500,000 people visited LA County nightlife spots on June 20.