

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Monday, June 29, 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	2,675,052	128,752	33,109,488
California	221,491 8.43% increase over 6/26	5,971	4,061,692
Los Angeles County	100,772 8.09% increase over 6/26	3,326	1,089,000
LA County Hospitalizations	1,710 5.17% increase over 6/26		
Claremont	103	1	
Current Case Leaders by State			
New York	417,318	31,496	3,862,913
California	221,491	5,971	4,061,692
New Jersey	176,399	15,123	1,403,984
Texas	157,385	2,428	2,061,939

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- Travelers from China, initially the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic that has ravaged much of the globe, will be allowed back into Europe beginning Wednesday, according to a Bloomberg report. The European Union is expected to formalize the decision to lift the ban on Chinese visitors Tuesday. At the same time, European leaders are expected to extend the travel ban on U.S. residents by at least another two weeks.
- In Jacksonville, Fl., the new host of the Republican presidential convention in August, imposed a requirement that people wear masks indoors.
- The governors of New York and New Jersey, worried by the surge in coronavirus cases in the South and West, said they were reconsidering plans to allow indoor dining in the coming days.
- Some states are hitting the brakes on reopening. South Florida counties have closed their beaches for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Tennessee governor signed an executive order on Monday extending his state's emergency order and some other pandemic measures until Aug. 29; they were due to expire this week. Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia is expected to extend for another two weeks the state's remaining pandemic restrictions, which are due to expire on Wednesday.

- Case counts have climbed sharply in many of the states that were first to reopen, including Arizona, Florida, and Texas. Florida and Texas recently forced bars to close again.
- Dr. Anne Schuchat, the C.D.C.'s principal deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shared new "worrisome factors of the last week" including: "very discouraging is we clearly are not at a point where there's so little virus being spread that it's going to be easy to snuff out." Regarding warm weather helping, she said "in terms of the weather or the season helping us, I don't think we can count on that."
- Places where social distancing is impossible is where the largest clusters of virus spread.
- One restaurant over nine days has infected 107+ college students. Harper's Restaurant & Brew Pub in East Lansing, Mich., is popular with students at nearby Michigan State University, who flocked to the place after an executive order allowed restaurants and bars in the state to reopen on June 8. At least 95 people who visited Harper's between June 12 and June 20 have now tested positive, and so have 12 more who did not go themselves but caught the virus from someone who did. All are between the ages of 15 and 28.
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York called on Trump to sign an executive order directing everyone to wear a mask. "We know it works, we've proven that it works in the state of New York," he said. But the White House signaled that Mr. Trump would not be mandating such a move. "It's his choice to wear a mask," Ms. McEnany told reporters. "It's the personal choice of any individual as to whether to wear a mask or not."
- The World Health Organization will send a team of experts to China next week to investigate the original source of the coronavirus. While the coronavirus likely originated in bats, how it was transmitted to humans remains unknown.
- After weeks of donating the antiviral drug remdesivir to hospitals with severely ill patients, the drug's maker, Gilead Sciences, announced today that it has settled on a price — \$390 per vial, which works out to \$2,340 per treatment course.
- Gilead also said it would charge more to private insurers in the United States: \$520 per vial, or \$3,120 for a treatment course. Uninsured patients also would be charged that price.
- It is estimated that 44 percent of new infections were a result of transmission from people who were not yet showing symptoms.
- The F.B.I. has issued a warning about scammers who advertise fraudulent Covid-19 antibody tests as way to obtain personal information that can be used for identity theft or medical insurance fraud. The F.B.I. recommends that those looking to take an antibody test — which is used to determine whether a person has had the coronavirus — consult [a list of tests](#) and testing companies that the FDA has approved.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

- Gov. Newsom talked about the decision to call for Imperial County to pull back on its reopening, given the high rate of coronavirus positives in the county — 23% of people tested. That county's board of supervisors is meeting Monday and Tuesday about moving back into a stay-at-home order. Newsom said if they don't move forward with that, the state will step in.
- Newsom discussed the idea he's talked about throughout the reopening process of reopening as a "dimmer switch," which may need to be toggled back and forth based on the data — and by different amounts in different counties. He said that's what happened this weekend in seven counties, including L.A. County, where bars were required to close to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The state also recommended that another eight counties close their bars.

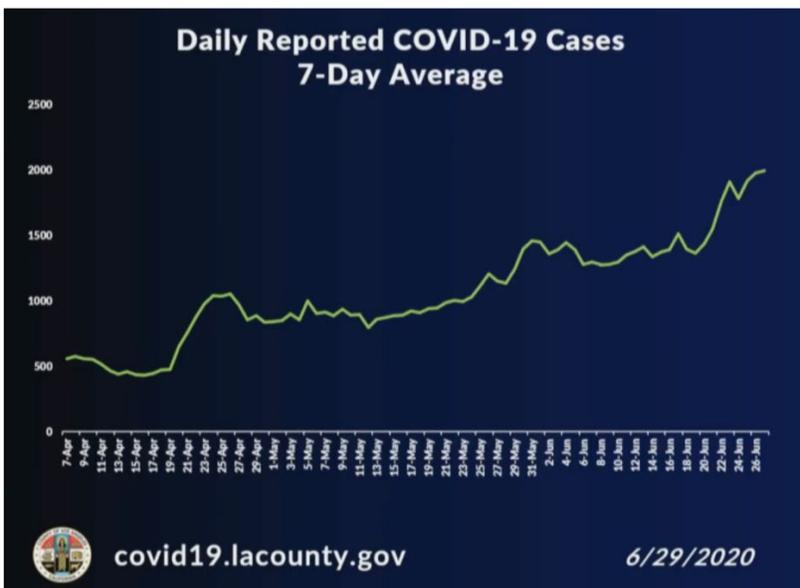
- The state recorded 5,972 new coronavirus cases Friday, 4,810 Saturday, and 5,307 Sunday. Over the last seven days, there has been a 45% increase in the number of positive cases in California.
- The state is at a 5.5% positivity rate over the past two weeks, 5.9% in the past seven days, marking a significant increase in positive cases. Just under 106,000 people were tested yesterday, Newsom said, a record for testing so far. While that does lead to an expected rise in the number of positives since more people are being tested, Newsom pointed to the positivity rate as a reason for concern.
- Two weeks ago, the state was at 4.4% positivity rate. Before the state started reopening, the positivity rate and hospitalization numbers were stable, Newsom said.
- Now, hospitalizations are up 43% in the past two weeks, Newsom said
- ICU admissions are also up, a 37% increase over the last two weeks. That's 13% of the state's total ICU capacity. Of the available ICU beds, 39% have been absorbed due to COVID-19 patients, Newsom said. There are 11,577 ventilators available.
- Four new counties have been added to the state's watchlist, including Orange County. That brings the total to 19 counties that are receiving targeted "technical assistance," as the state describes it. That covers 72% of the state's population, Newsom said.
- Counties that remain on the watchlist are asked to reinstitute anti-coronavirus community measures, the "dimming" that the governor spoke about. So far, seven counties have been asked to do that.
- For counties to remain off the watchlist, they must maintain the following metrics:
 - Less than 25 cases per 100,000 residents over last 14 days
 - Maximum 8% of total testing is positive over last 14 days
 - Average 150 tests per day, per 100,000 residents over the last 7 days
 - Less than a 10% change in 3-day average of COVID+ hospitalized patients
 - More than 20% of total Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available
 - More than 25% of total ventilators available
- Riverside County intensive care unit beds nearly hit capacity Sunday, when patients occupied 99% of the normal number of beds. Suspected and confirmed coronavirus patients account for about 35% of those bed.
- Also concerning is having adequate staff to handle the patients.

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

- 22 new deaths and 2,903 new cases reported today. The single largest one-day case count since the pandemic began.
- Key metrics continue to show steep increases in community spread. The 7-day average of daily reported new cases of COVID-19 is nearly 2,000, an increase from the 1,379 average two weeks ago. There are 1,710 people currently hospitalized, higher than the 1,350 to 1,450 daily hospitalizations seen in recent weeks.
- L.A. County will close its beaches Friday, July 3 through Monday, July 6 due to the alarming spike in cases.
- More than 1 million people have been tested for COVID-19 in Los Angeles County. Testing results are available for over 1,089,000 individuals, with 9% of people testing positive. The cumulative positivity rate has increased from 8% to 9%, and the 7-day average of the daily positivity rate has increased from lowest daily rate of 4.6% positivity in late May to 8.4% today.
- Forty-two percent of cases are now among individuals between the ages of 18 and 40. While cases in this age range typically have lower risk for serious illness or death, Public Health is concerned they may

unknowingly infect parents, grandparents, and friends and family who have underlying health conditions and who are at greater risk for serious illness and death.

- The community spread of the coronavirus and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 has risen sharply since last week — and more quickly than health officials expected. Additionally, the death rate from the virus will also rise.
- County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer characterized the current situation as a train, warning it "can be a runaway train if we don't put the brakes on it."
- She had this advice for county residents: "This is the time to hunker down, back in your home, whenever you can."
- Even though the 4th of July holiday is just around the corner, Ferrer advised county residents against celebrating in person with family and friends outside their households.
- Dr. Ferrer shared the impact of the community spread in this chart:



(Courtesy Los Angeles County)

- More people are being hospitalized, too. In the last two weeks, **daily hospitalizations are up 27%**, Ferrer said, "from 1,319 at the beginning of the month to 1,669 on June 27."
- Last week, officials estimated that one in 400 county residents was infected and not isolated. This week, that estimate is now one in 140, according to Christina Ghaly, who oversees the county's Department of Health Services.
- In response to the question, "why is this happening?" Dr. Ferrer responded "... there are a number of businesses and individuals who have not followed the directives, and they've gone back to living as if COVID-19 is not in our community. So I need to say to all of us — businesses and individuals across the county — that at this point, if you're not part of the solution to slowing the spread, you're ending up being part of the problem."
- Ferrer said too many restaurant and bar operators are not following the health protocols required to stay open. Public complaints have been streaming in, and the most common issues include businesses not

posting their health and sanitation procedures for patrons, employees not wearing face coverings and face shields, and businesses not enforcing physical distancing.

- The number of confirmed cases among people ages 18 to 40 is **up 42%** over the past two weeks, Ferrer said, reminding younger county residents that while they may not suffer serious health issues from COVID-19, they can spread the virus to people who will.