

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Wednesday, July 1, 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	2,772,914	130,734	34,737,848
California	235,742 2.4% increase over 6/30	6,152	4,254,176
Los Angeles County	105,507 1.91% increase over 6/30	3,402	1,120,000
LA County Hospitalizations	1,889 5.95% increase over 6/30		
Claremont	108	1	
Current Case Leaders by State			
New York	418,576	32,139	3,971,648
California	235,742	6,152	4,254,176
New Jersey	176,975	15,203	1,422,937
Texas	172,450	2,521	2,174,548

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday released updated guidance on Covid-19 testing for higher-education administrators. One highlight: **The CDC isn't recommending that colleges test all students, faculty, and staff as they return to campus**, given that it's unclear whether entry testing actually reduces the virus's spread. Institutions that are planning a test-on-arrival approach, the CDC cautions, should be aware of the limited utility of testing people at a single point in time. And residential, isolated campuses, the organization points out, might have less potential exposure to Covid-19 than do those with many commuter students or those whose students live in the local community. [Read more on the CDC website.](#)
- Trump endorsed mask-wearing in order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, saying he is "all for masks" despite resisting wearing one in public himself. "I'm all for masks. I think masks are good," adding that he would wear a face covering if he were in a "tight situation" with other people.
- The nation's top health officials are banking on a new approach to dramatically boost U.S. screening for the coronavirus: combining test samples in batches instead of running them one by one.
- The principle is simple: Instead of running each person's test individually, laboratories would combine parts of nasal swab samples from several people and test them together. A negative result would clear

everyone in the batch. A positive result would require each sample to be individually retested. Pooling works best with lab-run tests, which take hours to process — not the much quicker individual tests used in clinics or doctors' offices.

- It is estimated that pooled testing could save schools and businesses from 50% to 70% on costs. Under [their model](#), a group of 100 employees could be divided into 20 batches of five people. Assuming 5% of people carry the virus, only five pools would test positive, requiring individual testing. Ultimately, 45 tests would be needed for the pooled approach, versus 100 individual tests.
- But pooling won't always be the best option. It won't save time or resources when used in COVID-19 hot spots, such as an outbreak at a nursing home. That's because the logistical and financial benefits of pooling only add up when a small number of pools test positive.
- Experts recommend the technique when fewer than 10% of people are expected to test positive. About 7% of U.S. tests have been positive for the virus in the past week, according to an AP analysis, though rates vary widely from place to place. For example, pooling would not be cost-effective in Arizona, where a surge has pushed positive test results to over 22%. But the approach could make sense in New Jersey, with a positivity rate under 2%.
- Reserving pooled testing for large groups with low rates of infection dovetails with the government's increasing focus on people without symptoms spreading the virus, especially younger people

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

- Effective immediately, California is ordering indoor operations to close in these sectors in counties on its watch list, including Los Angeles County, to reduce the risk of spread:
 - Restaurants
 - Wineries and tasting rooms
 - Movie theaters
 - Family entertainment centers
 - Zoos and museums
 - Cardrooms
- The order applies to [all 19 counties](#) that have been on the state's county monitoring list for at least three days.
- These orders will remain in place for **at least three weeks**.
- The state also orders closure of **all** business at **bars** in those counties.
- All parking facilities at state beaches in Southern California and the Bay Area will be closed this coming weekend. In counties that close local beaches, the state will also close state beaches
- This weekend, the state recommends Californians not gather with people that you don't live with.
- Newsom acknowledged that enforcement is difficult, and that there would be problems if all 40 million Californians turned their backs on following public health orders. He also noted that most of the enforcement won't be done by law enforcement, but by people watching out for each other.
- Counties have the right to choose not to enforce regulations, Newsom said, but that the state plans to withhold their portion of \$2.5 billion that was approved for county funding in the state budget signed yesterday if counties engage in "bad behavior."
- There were **5,898 new cases** of COVID-19 yesterday, with a **positivity rate of 6%** over the past 2 weeks — **6.4%** over the past week. It's also risen from 4.6% to 6% over those 14 days. The positivity rate peaked

at 40.8% early in the state's testing. There were about 87,000 tests in the past day, though Newsom said that the state still needs to do more tests.

- Hospitalizations of COVID-19 positive people are up from 3,439 two weeks ago to 5,196 as of yesterday — a 51% increase. Coronavirus patients are occupying 7% of the state's hospital beds — currently, 60% of the state's beds are being occupied.
- Intensive care unit admissions are also up from 1,119 to **1,617** over the past two weeks — a **47%** increase. They are occupying **15%** of the state's ICU beds. The state has 11,430 ventilators available in its system.
- There have been 10,170 people here in California who will have completed their contact tracer training by the end of this week.

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

- 35 new deaths and 2,002 new cases reported today.
- This is the fourth consecutive day of new cases over 2,000. And today's number is missing lab reports from one of the larger labs.
- Los Angeles County continues to see steep increases in community spread of COVID-19. There are 1,889 people currently hospitalized, 27% of these people are confirmed cases in the ICU and 18% are confirmed cases on ventilators. This is the largest number of people hospitalized since early May.
- Testing results are available for nearly 1,120,000 individuals, with 9% of people testing positive.
- L.A. County will close its beaches Friday, July 3 through Monday, July 6 due to the alarming spike in cases.
- To reduce crowds, the department is also prohibiting fireworks displays in the County this July 4th holiday weekend.
- The Los Angeles County Health Officer Order will be modified today to align with Gov. Gavin Newsom's directives and require the closure of:
 - Indoor, in-person dining at restaurants
 - Indoor museums, indoor children's museums, and indoor operations at zoos and aquariums
 - Cardrooms and satellite wagering facilities
- Also, the Health Officer Order requires businesses with three or more known cases of COVID-19 within the workplace over the span of 14 days, to report the outbreak to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health). Employers who have one known case within the workplace must have a protocol that requires that person to self-isolate at home and anyone exposed to self-quarantine.
- Bars remain closed and all events and gatherings unless specifically allowed by this Order remain prohibited. Additionally, face coverings and gloves must be worn at fitness facilities at all times.
- County officials said 49% of bars and 33% of restaurants have not been following social distancing and other safety protocols since dine-in service was allowed to restart.
- [L.A. County](#) health officials now estimate that 1 in 140 people are unknowingly infected with the coronavirus, a massive increase since last week's projection of 1 in 400