

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Tuesday, July 7, 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	3,089,319	133,844	38,764,512
California	282,302 5.83% increase over 7/6	6,499	4,896,370
Los Angeles County	120,539 3.4% increase over 7/6	3,579	1,213,000
LA County Hospitalizations	1,969 2.5% increase over 7/6		
Claremont	136		
Current Case Leaders by State			
New York	423,425	32,288	4,344,867
California	282,302	6,499	4,896,370
Texas	218,300	2,814	2,471,029
Florida	213,794	3,841	2,271,267

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- Novavax Inc., one of the front-runners in the race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, will receive \$1.6 billion from the U.S. government, the biggest contribution yet from the Operation Warp Speed program.
- The funds will allow the company to conduct advanced human studies and establish manufacturing to deliver 100 million doses as soon as late 2020. The funds will help Novavax begin a final-stage study of its vaccine candidate as early as this fall, with as many as 30,000 subjects.
- The vaccine candidate is meant to provoke the production of antibodies that block the “spike” protein the coronavirus uses to infect host cells.
- As the U.S. passes 3 million virus cases, Dr. Birx (Administration Coronavirus Response Coordinator) says that its spread among the young was unexpected. “This is an age group that was so good and so disciplined through March and April. But when they saw people out and about on social media, they all went out and about.”
- The rate of new cases was rising quickly as the nation hit the 3 million mark, according to a New York Times database. Half a million new cases have been reported since June 26. Cases have risen in 37 states over the past two weeks, and this week the nation has been averaging roughly 50,000 new cases a day — double what it did in mid-June.

- Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, cautioned on Tuesday that it was a "false narrative to take comfort in a lower rate of death," adding "by allowing yourself to get infected because of risky behavior, you are part of the propagation of the outbreak," Dr. Fauci said at an event with Senator Doug Jones, Democrat of Alabama. "There are so many other things that are very dangerous and bad about this virus. Don't get yourself into false complacency."
- In a daylong series of conference calls and public events at the White House on Tuesday, the president and other senior officials kicked off a concerted campaign to lean on governors, mayors and other local officials — who actually control the schools — to find ways to safely resume classes in person.
- Before the White House event, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos criticized the nation's school administrations for moving too slowly to reopen in the fall. "I was disappointed frankly in schools and districts that didn't figure out how to serve students or that just gave up and didn't try," Ms. DeVos told the nation's governors, according to a recording of the conference call obtained by The New York Times.
- The Trump administration sends formal notification that the U.S. will withdraw from the W.H.O. next year. Lawrence Gostin, the director of the W.H.O.'s Collaborating Center on National & Global Health Law, called the decision "among the most ruinous presidential decisions in recent history."
- "It will make Americans less safe during an unprecedented global health crisis," he said. "And it will significantly weaken U.S. influence on W.H.O. reform and international health diplomacy. This disastrous action is deeply damaging to U.S. national interests."
- Experts acknowledged that the W.H.O. has made some missteps during the pandemic but said that it has largely done well given the constraints under which it operates. The agency is coordinating clinical trials of treatments, as well as efforts to manufacture and equitably distribute the vaccine worldwide.
- As cases surge in Florida, more than 40 hospitals in counties across the state reported having no more beds available in their adult intensive care units, according to the state's health care administration website.
- Miami-Dade County has been hit particularly hard. Its mayor, Carlos A. Gimenez, said that the county's positivity rate had risen above 20 percent, more than double what it was two weeks ago. And nearly 80 percent of its I.C.U. beds are filled with virus patients.
- After hundreds of experts called for the W.H.O. to review its guidance on the possibility of airborne transmission of the virus, the agency acknowledged on Tuesday that [airborne transmission](#) may be important in indoor spaces and said it planned to release updated recommendations in a few days.
- Nearly 350 public health organizations and agencies released a [letter](#) Tuesday to Alex M. Azar II, the health and human services secretary, urging him to champion the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health agencies amid "increasing reports of resistance" to their recommendations for fighting the virus.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

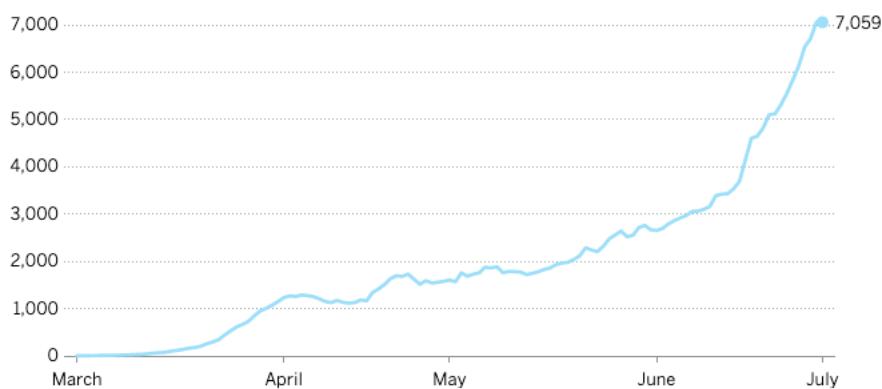
- New coronavirus cases roughly doubled in California over the last month. Hospitalizations have soared 88%, filling some medical centers close to capacity.
- How much the death toll in California will rise is the subject of some debate. This new wave of infections is increasingly being driven by younger people, while outbreaks in skilled nursing facilities have slowed. For that reason, it's possible that fewer of the recent cases will result in deaths.

- But others on the front lines say the younger COVID-19 demographics won't necessarily result in a decreased death toll. Adrienne Green, chief medical officer for UC San Francisco Medical Center, said she is worried about the current wave of infections among younger people leading to a subsequent wave for older people who have interacted with them.
- California recorded nearly twice the number of coronavirus cases in June as it did in May — 119,938 versus 61,694, according to a Times data analysis. Yet the number of deaths declined, with 2,128 people dying in May and 1,915 in June.

New COVID-19 cases in California

The number of new coronavirus cases announced each day has skyrocketed in recent weeks.

New cases per day, seven-day average



Times analysis

- On Monday, Orange County reported 1,028 additional cases, 1,013 of which were from specimens collected between June 20 and July 3; the others were collected before June 19.

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

- 46 new deaths and 4,015 new cases reported today. This is the highest number of new cases of COVID-19 partly due to backlog of test results. The backlog is about 2,000 test results received from one lab who just submitted lab results from July 2 through July 5 today.
- There are 1,969 people currently hospitalized, 27% of these people are confirmed cases in the ICU and 18% are confirmed cases on ventilators. This remains substantially higher than the 1,350 to 1,450 daily hospitalizations seen three weeks ago. The number of daily hospitalizations has steadily increased to over 1,900 since July 1.
- Testing results are available for 1,213,000 individuals, with 9% of people testing positive. The daily positivity rate (a composite of a 7-day rolling average) has risen to 11.6%.
- [A survey by USC this week found](#) L.A. County residents are increasingly concerned that California is lifting restrictions on public activity due to the pandemic too quickly. While 75% of survey respondents expressed such worry in early May, 79% did so in mid-June.
- Testing throughout LA County appears to be limited again. With many locations booked and thus same day or next day appointments are unavailable. Both city- and county-run testing sites throughout the area

and at other venues, such as CVS pharmacies, which are now listed on [the county's website](#) but do not currently have availability for individuals who are asymptomatic, those without underlying health conditions or those who don't work in high-risk environments.

- The county is currently able to test 26,000 people per day. County officials said Monday that they are looking to add five to 10 more testing sites and that additional slots are planned to open this week, though it's unclear how many.
- The surge in coronavirus testing requests comes largely at the behest of public health officials, who have stressed the need for testing if individuals have attended social gatherings or protests and have cautioned that asymptomatic carriers of the virus could be super-spreaders.

Higher Education

- How ICE's New Rules Could Hit International Students At Pomona College (And Beyond)
<https://laist.com/latest/post/20200707/international-students-pomona-college-covid-19-coronavirus-ice>
- New ICE guidelines say international students must leave the U.S. if classes go online
<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-07-07/new-rules-foreign-pupils-must-leave-us-if-classes-go-online>
- Colleges Face Rising Revolt by Professors https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/us/coronavirus-college-professors.html?utm_source=morning_brew
- ICE: International students must leave USA if universities offer only online classes this fall
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2020/07/06/ice-foreign-students-leave-us-universities-online-only/5388675002/>