

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Monday, August 3, 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	4,860,801	158,908	60,896,986
California	521,523 4.57% increase over 7/31	9,486	8,184,696
Los Angeles County	193,788 2.82% increase over 7/31	4,701	1,804,698
LA County Hospitalizations	1,784 12.22% decrease over 7/31		
Claremont	253		
Current Case Leaders by State			
California	521,523	9,486	8,184,696
Florida	491,884	7,157	3,758,496
Texas	460,969	7,451	4,143,342
New York	445,786	32,790	6,082,774

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House Coronavirus Coordinator said in an interview about a "new phase" in the pandemic, saying the virus "is extraordinarily widespread" and warning those living in rural areas that they're not immune. That appears to have irked Trump, who has persistently downplayed the threat of the virus and on Monday tweeted his displeasure with Birx, calling her response, "Pathetic!"
- Millions of rapid coronavirus tests will be brought to British hospitals, care homes and laboratories starting next week, the United Kingdom's Department of Health and Social Care announced Monday. In just 90 minutes, the two new tests will be able to detect COVID-19 and other winter viruses – including the flu.
- "We're using the most innovative technologies available to tackle coronavirus," British Health Secretary Matt Hancock said in a statement. "Millions of new rapid coronavirus tests will provide on-the-spot results in under 90 minutes, helping us to break chains of transmission quickly."
- Up to 450,000 of the first new test – 90-minute LamPORE swab tests – will be available starting next week, supplied by Oxford Nanopore. In September, the second test – which uses DNA to detect the virus – will be rolled out with 5,000 DNA machines, supplied by DnaNudge, to provide 5.8 million tests in the coming months.

State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/State Coverage

- The number of Californians testing positive for coronavirus is going down even as the average number of people being tested is going up — and this is good news, Governor Gavin Newsom said at a noon press conference today.
- Compared to a week ago, the COVID-19 positivity rate, the number of hospitalizations and the number of ICU admissions are all showing modest declines.
- These are "encouraging signs, but one week does not make a kind of trend...We'll need to see another few weeks of this kind of data...to feel more confident about where we are as a state," Newsom said.
- The total number of deaths from coronavirus has, however, increased over the last few weeks, according to Newsom, who cited the death of a young person in Fresno.
- "This is a sober reminder of how deadly this disease is. I don't want to be an alarmist," Newsom said, acknowledging that although people in their teens are unlikely to die from COVID-19, it can happen.
- Over the last 14 days, an average of 121 people in California lost their lives to coronavirus each day.
- "We're likely to see those numbers remain stubbornly high over the course of the next number of days, potentially [the] next week or so," Newsom said.
- The governor said 38 counties, which "represent the vast majority of the population" in California, remain on the state's monitoring list. This list helps determine how restrictive quarantine guidelines are in each area.

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

- 12 new deaths and 1,634 new cases reported today.
- Public Health has identified 193,788 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of LA County, and a total of 4,701 deaths.
- LA DPH expressed cautious optimism today that community spread of COVID-19 in L.A. County has slowed and that other key indicators are stabilizing.
- The positive trends can be attributed to a variety of things, including the decreased opportunities for transmission, particularly in high-risk settings. Several weeks ago, bars were closed, and the indoor operations of a variety of businesses and institutions were moved outdoors.
- Today's 7-day average of cases is around 2,600 cases per day. This is down from a couple weeks ago where the county was seeing over 3,000 cases per day. The 7-day positivity rate has remained mostly flat over the month of July, hovering between 8 and 8.8 percent. And finally, hospitalizations, which is a key indicator of health system capacity, is on a positive trend with 2,000 hospitalizations on average. This number had ticked up to 2,200 in the middle of July. Although all of these key indicators are still too high, the plateauing of the trends is encouraging.
- There are 1,784 people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 currently hospitalized. Of hospitalized patients, 30% are in the ICU and 18% are currently ventilated.
- Testing results are available for over 1,804,698 individuals with 10% of all people testing positive.
- LA DPH shared that just 65% of people who have COVID-19 are willing to be interviewed by county healthcare workers for the purpose of contact tracing. The most common reasons for denying interviews with contact tracers include embarrassment, fear for jobs and lack of trust in the government.

- Dr. Ferrer noted that while contact tracing has worked well in other countries, here in Los Angeles the high case numbers make it hard to keep up noting that "South Korea never saw more than 1,000 positive cases in one day. We routinely see two to three times that volume, every single day and have for the last month." Another key difference between the U.S. and other countries: we don't guarantee income for people who need to isolate or quarantine. In countries that have that guarantee, that makes it much more likely that sick people will stay home -- and that people will be willing to talk to contact tracers.