

# THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - DAILY UPDATE

Friday, August 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	5,084,688	163,803	63,810,972
California	544,863 1.23% increase over 8/6	10,078	8,596,882
Los Angeles County	204,167 1.52% increase over 8/6	4,918	1,893,000
LA County Hospitalizations	1,680 3.5% decrease over 8/6		
Claremont	270		
<b>Current Case Leaders by State</b>			
California	544,863	10,078	8,596,882
Florida	518,075	7,927	3,903,010
Texas	492,199	8,201	4,306,978
New York	448,934	32,821	6,368,975

## International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- U.S. coronavirus deaths could hit 300,000 by December 1, but 70,000 lives could be saved if more Americans simply wore masks, a new model predicts.
- “It’s a profoundly sad number” of projected death, Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University said today. “And we can think that 70,000 of those people could be saved if we would all just wear a mask every day every time we leave our front doors. University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) director Dr. Christopher Murray also echoed this position.
- As the number of US cases races toward 5 million, the [COVID-19](#) pandemic is moving into younger populations, health experts said Thursday, with cases skyrocketing among children, teens and young adults.
- Early in the outbreak, health experts stressed that older adults were most at risk, but new data from the World Health Organization shows that most cases — by far — are among people 25 to 64 years old. The proportion of cases in teens and young adults has gone up six-fold, and in very young children and babies the proportion has increased seven-fold, WHO said.
- Testing is actually down in 29 states, with “no perfect test available to us” and too many false negatives, said Anne Rimoin, a professor at UCLA’s Department of Epidemiology on Friday. “Testing needs to be expanding, not contracting. And we really need to keep an eye on positivity rates.”

- Federal officials have often been at odds with local leaders and health experts, and five former directors of the CDC said it is time for national leadership against the pandemic.
- “It’s unbelievable that six months into the pandemic, it’s not clear who’s in charge, federally,” Dr. Thomas Frieden said. “There’s no plan. There’s no common data that we’re looking at to see what’s happening with the virus and what’s happening with our response.”
- The CDC being sidelined early on and contradictory messages from the Trump administration has led to partisanship, confusion and increased spread of the virus, Frieden said.

#### **State of California/Governor Gavin Newsom/Department of Public Health**

- California health Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly delivered an update on coronavirus in California, focused on the issue with COVID-19 data reporting in the state.
- A glitch has led to a backlog of between 250,000 and 300,000 unprocessed health records in California, many of them COVID-19 test results. Not all of the records are coronavirus test samples, but most of them are. The group of records may also include some duplicates, which the state is currently working to sort through and eliminate. The issue has been fixed but working through the backlog is expected to take 24 to 48 hours, he said.
- State officials believe the number of new COVID-19 cases in California has been under-reported since July 25, when a server outage created a delay in lab records coming into the state's reporting system. At the same time, the state hadn't realized they weren't receiving data from one of the largest commercial labs for five days. Those problems combined have created the extensive backlog.
- The glitch was caused by a server outage which caused a delay in lab records coming into the state's lab reporting system. The state made changes that allowed the records to enter the state's system more quickly but those changes were supposed to be temporary, but they weren't later disabled, which caused further delays in lab reporting data and creating an extensive backlog.
- Despite the inaccurate case totals, he said California is confident that infection numbers are declining. Hospitalization and intensive care unit patient numbers were not affected by the data problem, and those figures were down this week.

#### **State of California Guidelines – Institutes of Higher Education**

- The California Department of Public Health today released [statewide interim guidance for institutions of higher education \(IHE\)](#). The guidance is intended to help institutions and their communities plan and prepare to resume in-person instruction when appropriate based on local conditions. IHE must take steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission on campus and to protect students, faculty, workers, and families.
- A phased reopening of higher education institutions will depend on local conditions including epidemiologic trends, availability of IHE and community testing resources, and adequate IHE preparedness and public health capacity to respond to case and outbreak investigations. Implementation of this guidance should be tailored for each setting, including adequate consideration of programs operating at each institution and the needs of students and staff.
- The State Industry guidelines [website](#) notes that for counties on the monitoring list (LA County is on the monitoring list) that indoor activities are closed.

 **Higher education – NEW** —

This interim [guidance for institutions of higher education](#) provides guidelines to help institutions and their communities plan and prepare to resume in-person instruction.

**For counties on the [Monitoring List](#):**

**Indoor** operations must be closed.

Review the guidance and prepare a plan to reduce the risk and support a safer environment for students, faculty, workers, and families.

- The guidelines note that for counties on the [County Data Monitoring](#) list for three consecutive days, **indoor lectures are currently prohibited. Courses offered in specialized indoor settings (e.g., labs, studio arts), whose design imposes substantial physical distancing on participants based on the nature of work performed in the space, are permitted.**
- The guidelines also covered the following:
  - Complying with [Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings](#).
  - Establishing a campus-specific COVID-19 prevention plan.
  - Implementing distancing on campus. Space seating/desks at least six feet apart.
  - Limit nonessential visitors and campus activities.
  - Closing nonessential shared spaces, such as game rooms and lounges.
  - Providing grab-and-go meal options or serve individually plated meals.
  - Prioritizing single room occupancy for housing, except for family housing.
  - Training faculty, staff and students on COVID-19 prevention.
  - Encouraging telework for as many faculty and staff as possible, especially workers at [higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#).
  - When a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others, the IHE must conduct initial assessments then consult with local public health officials to determine potential follow-up actions needed including potential total or partial closure and other measures to protect the community.
- The IHE guidance also outlines conditions under which collegiate athletics may return.

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

- 53 new deaths and 3,116 new cases reported today. The high number of new cases are, in part, due to a backlog of test results received from one lab.
- Public Health has identified 204,167 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of LA County, and a total of 4,918 deaths.
- There are 1,680 confirmed cases currently hospitalized and 30% of these people are confirmed cases in the ICU. The number of hospitalized patients continues to decrease.
- Testing results are available for over 1,893,000 individuals with 10% of all people testing positive.

