

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, November 19, 2020

This is a summary of Coronavirus news and events for the week based on federal, state, county and city updates.

Cases – Reported as of Summary Time

| Location | Confirmed/ Reported Cases | Deaths | Total Tests |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------|-------------|
| United States | 12,017,852 | 257,714 | 174,462,933 |
| California | 1,072,499 6.99% increase over 11/12 | 18,510 | 21,552,528 |
| Los Angeles County | 353,232 6.89% increase over 11/12 | 7,363 | 3,473,000 |
| LA County Hospitalizations | 1,238 29.91% increase over 11/12 | | |
| Claremont | 572 | | |
| Current Case Leaders by State | | | |
| Texas | 1,130,292 | 20,540 | 10,566,709 |
| California | 1,072,499 | 18,510 | 21,552,528 |
| Florida | 914,333 | 17,813 | 11,237,905 |
| Illinois | 621,383 | 11,648 | 9,472,674 |
| New York | 617,080 | 34,128 | 17,386,368 |

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- Some colleges are asking professors to return to their classrooms and are meeting resistance. 11/12/20 - [Chronicle](#)
- Colleges are continuing to move classes online as cases of Covid-19 surge nationwide and the Thanksgiving holiday approaches. The [University of Akron](#), the [University of Wyoming](#), [Frostburg State University](#), [Seton Hall University](#), and [Syracuse University](#) are among the campuses. 11/12/20 - [Chronicle](#)
- The number of international students at American colleges plunged this fall, according to a just-released survey by the Institute of International Education, with new enrollments diving 43 percent as tens of thousands of students stuck overseas because of the pandemic deferred their admission or called off their studies altogether. 11/16/20 – [Chronicle](#)
- As the coronavirus has surged again in recent weeks, much of the United States has chosen to keep restaurants open and schools closed. Much of Europe has done the opposite. The European approach seems to be working better. both the U.S. and Europe have been coping with severe outbreaks, with caseloads rising even faster in much of Europe than in the U.S. during much of this fall. But over the past

two weeks, France, Germany, Spain and Britain have managed to reduce their growth rates. 11/13/20 – [New York Times](#)

- The number of new cases in the U.S. has [risen](#) every day for more than a month, based on a rolling seven-day average. That daily average is now more than twice as high as it was during any point this summer. Researchers estimate that [almost every American knows someone who has been infected](#), and that about a third of Americans know someone who has died. 11/16/20 – [New York Times](#)
- President Trump has [refused to let his coronavirus task force communicate with President-elect Joe Biden's transition team](#), said Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert. 11/16/20 – [New York Times](#)
- Imposing discipline on students who violate Covid-19 safety protocols has proved to be difficult. Rice University has come up with a novel solution: Those accused of breaking the rules must appear before a jury of their peers, known as the Covid Community Court. The panel, whose members had to apply to be selected, is empowered to mete out a range of punishments, including writing apology letters, doing community service, and producing research papers about public health. 11/16/20 – [Texas Monthly](#)
- The city of Philadelphia is banning in-person instruction at colleges until the end of 2020. Many institutions in that area — including Drexel, La Salle, and Temple Universities and the University of Pennsylvania — are already operating primarily online. But the stringent new restrictions underscore the grim outlook for the public-health situation across the country as Thanksgiving approaches. 11/16/20 - [Chronicle](#)
- College Students Could Be Vaccinated by Next Summer, if 'Everything Goes Perfectly' - 11/16/20 - [Chronicle](#)
- The drugmaker Moderna announced that its [coronavirus vaccine](#) was 94.5 percent effective, joining Pfizer as a front-runner in the vaccination race. Both companies plan to apply within weeks to the Food and Drug Administration for emergency authorization to begin vaccinating the public. Officials said the two companies could produce enough vaccine for a little more than 20 million people in the United States by sometime in December, with the first doses going to people with the highest risk, like health care workers, emergency medical workers and frail residents of nursing homes. 11/17/20 – [New York Times](#)
 - The Moderna vaccine has a longer shelf life under refrigeration and at room temperature than previously reported, which should make it easier to store and use.
 - Researchers test vaccines by inoculating some study participants and giving others placebos, and then watching the two groups to see how many people get sick. In Moderna's study, 95 people contracted the coronavirus: five who were vaccinated, and 90 who received placebo shots of saltwater. Statistically, the difference between the two groups was highly significant. And of the 95 cases, 11 were severe — all in the placebo group.
 - The 95 cases included 15 people 65 or older and 20 people who were Hispanic, Black, Asian or multiracial. The company said the vaccine appeared equally safe and effective in all the subgroups.
 - It will be important to determine whether the vaccines work equally well in older and younger people, experts say. Researchers also want to know if the vaccines prevent people from spreading the virus — an ideal result that could help quash the pandemic.
 - Another big unknown is how long the immunity provided by the vaccines will last.
 - An additional concern is that both vaccines must be stored and transported at [low temperatures](#) — minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit for Moderna, and minus 94 Fahrenheit for Pfizer — which could complicate their distribution, particularly to low-income areas in hot climates.

- Both Moderna and Pfizer vaccines require two shots, so 20 million doses would be enough for 10 million people.
- The FDA authorized the first COVID in home test. 11/17/20 – [FDA News](#)
- CDC is asking Americans to not travel for Thanksgiving. 11/19/20 – [NBC News](#)
- The CDC has deleted a disputed document it posted this summer to support President Trump’s hard push to reopen school buildings this fall. The agency withdrew two school reopening documents last month with no notice or calls for public comment, after acknowledging that some statements it made in July were outdated, according to a congressional subcommittee that launched an investigation into the agency’s summer guidance. 11/18/20 – [New York Times](#)
- The drugmaker Pfizer said on Wednesday that its coronavirus vaccine [was 95 percent effective and had no serious side effects](#) — the first set of complete results from a late-stage vaccine trial as Covid-19 cases skyrocket around the globe. 11/18/20 – [New York Times](#)
- Scientists who initially warned about contaminated surfaces now say that the virus spreads primarily through inhaled droplets, and that there is little to no evidence that deep cleaning mitigates the threat indoors. 11/19/20 – [New York Times](#)
- Today, the Federal Coronavirus Task Force held its first briefing since July. A map of cases per 100,000 residents over the past 14 days displayed as Dr. Deborah Birx (White House Coronavirus Coordinator) spoke showed most of the country was in dire condition. Positivity rates have increased while hospital capacity has decreased, the country now regularly sees more than 150,000 coronavirus cases per day reported and it [surpassed 250,000 deaths](#) from the virus earlier this week. 11/19/20 – [The Hill](#)

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

- As of November 19, California has 1,059,267 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 18,466 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 0.6 percent from the prior day total of 18,360.
- The number of COVID-19 diagnostic test results in California reached a total of 21,552,528, an increase of 133,985 tests from the prior day total. The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is 5 percent.
- The number of hospitalizations due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 5,319, an increase of 241 from the prior day total. The number of ICU patients due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 1,253, a decrease of 5 from the prior day total.
- All of Southern California (and 94% of the entire state’s population) is in the purple – most restrictive tier.
- California officials on Monday pulled what they characterized as an emergency brake, announcing a dramatic rollback of reopening in much of the state as it broke its single-day record for new coronavirus cases. Once the changes go into effect Tuesday, 94% of Californians — roughly 37 million people — will live in counties that are in the strictest tier of the state’s [reopening roadmap](#). Many businesses in those counties will have to suspend or severely limit their indoor operations. 11/16/20 – [LA Times](#)
- Over the one-week period that ended Wednesday, the state, on average, recorded more than 10,000 new cases each day — an unprecedented figure that has more than tripled from a month ago, according to a Los Angeles Times analysis. [The state has crossed](#) the 10,000-case threshold four times since last Thursday, including each of the last three days. California has never experienced sustained daily case counts this high

— even during the mid-summer surge, which previously stood as the most expansive and deadliest time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The San Bernardino school system will not reopen its campuses for the remainder of the school year, a response to the [surging coronavirus crisis](#) and a move that may make it the first in the state to make the difficult decision to keep students online in kindergarten through 12th grade. 11/19/20 – [LA Times](#)
- California, as well as other states, are working toward finalizing plans for who will get the first doses of the vaccination and how they will be distributed. State and federal health officials agree that frontline healthcare workers with direct contact with COVID-19 patients should be vaccinated first. Broad consensus that nursing home residents and patients at other long-term care facilities should be also targeted in the initial immunization push. From here, it becomes less clear. 11/19/20 – [L.A. Times](#)

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

- 29 new deaths and 5,031 new cases reported today. **The most seen on any one day since the pandemic began.** Over the last two days, there have been a total of 8,975 new cases reported; a 2-day average of nearly 4,500 daily new cases.
- The County is experiencing a dangerous acceleration of cases that is increasing at a higher rate than the July surge. From June 20 through July 3, the 7-day average increase in new cases was 47%. From October 28 through November 10, the 7-day average increase in new cases is surging at 68%.
- There are 1,238 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 28% of these people are in the ICU. The daily number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 has increased nearly every day since November 2 when daily hospitalizations were 777.
- To date, Public Health identified 353,232 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County, and it is certain that many more have been infected; we have experienced a total of 7,363 deaths.
- Dr. Ferrer discussed some of the impacts from COVID on the body:
 - COVID-19 affects different systems in the body and can cause health effects that linger for months. COVID-19 often causes a pneumonia that can be serious. The type of pneumonia associated with COVID-19 can cause long-standing damage to the tiny air sacs (alveoli) in the lungs. The resulting scar tissue can lead to long-term breathing problems.
 - Heart conditions are also associated with COVID-19 and include inflammation and damage to the heart muscle itself. Imaging tests taken months after recovery from COVID-19 patients have shown lasting damage to the heart muscle, even in people who experienced only mild COVID-19 symptoms. This may increase the risk of heart failure or other heart complications in the future.
- Testing results are available for nearly 3,473,000 individuals with 9% of all people testing positive.
- L.A. officials are still not sure why and how COVID-19 is surging. The virus itself hasn't changed, and there has been little relaxation of the rules. Interviews conducted with people who have recently tested positive for the coronavirus don't show any significant shifts in behavior compared with a month ago, such as more visits to restaurants or other businesses, said Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, L.A. County's chief medical officer. For the vast majority of people sick with COVID-19 in L.A. County, officials cannot determine where they contracted the virus, he said. This mirrors [national data](#) showing that fewer than half of people with the virus know where they caught it. 11/19/20 – [L.A. Times](#)

- New stay-at-home order for L.A. County coming within weeks if COVID-19 continues to surge. Starting Friday, the County will begin ordering restaurants and nonessential stores to close at 10 p.m. and place a cap on the number of people allowed at outdoor gatherings — a maximum of 15 people from no more than three households — in hopes of slowing the infection rate. 11/18/20 – [L.A. Times](#)