

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - WEEKLY UPDATE

Tuesday, November 24, 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	12,955,007	265,891	184,355,093
California	1,150,512 7.27% increase over 11/19	18,876	22,741,363
Los Angeles County	374,134 5.92% increase over 11/19	7,497	3,600,000
LA County Hospitalizations	1,575,123 27.22% increase over 11/19		
Claremont	629		
Current Case Leaders by State			
Texas	1,212,127	21,417	11,371,260
California	1,150,512	18,876	22,741,363
Florida	953,300	18,164	11,842,707
Illinois	674,089	12,262	9,990,304
New York	645,834	34,305	18,352,601

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that Americans should avoid coming into contact with people outside their households over Thanksgiving. The [agency explicitly cited college students' travel home](#) as an example of risky behavior to be avoided or modified with precautions like masking and social distancing. "As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States, the safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to celebrate at home with the people you live with," the new guidance reads. The CDC has specified that "people who do not currently live in your housing unit, such as college students who are returning home from school for the holidays, should be considered part of different households" — and therefore practice masking and social distancing, among other things, when interacting with people they don't live with. 11/19/20 - [Chronicle](#)
- Seven east coast governors are urging ALL colleges/universities to make #COVID19 testing available to all residential students before they leave for Thanksgiving break. 11/18/20 – Twitter

- After months of holding fairly steady even as cases surged, [U.S. deaths](#) from Covid-19 have begun rising in the past two weeks. Almost 1,500 Americans have died each day over the past week on average. 11/23/20 – [New York Times](#)
- The drugmaker AstraZeneca announced on Monday that an early analysis of some of its late-stage clinical trials, conducted in the United Kingdom and Brazil, [showed that its coronavirus vaccine was 70.4 percent effective in preventing Covid-19](#), suggesting that the world could eventually have at least three working vaccines — and more supply — to help curb the pandemic. 11/23/20 – [New York Times](#)

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

- A Limited Stay at Home order has been issued effective in counties under Tier One (Purple) requiring that all gatherings with members of other households and all activities conducted outside the residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation with members of other households cease between 10:00pm PST and 5:00am PST, except for those activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure[1] or required by law. This order does not apply to persons experiencing homelessness. Nothing in this order prevents any number of persons from the same household from leaving their residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation, as long as they do not engage in any interaction with (or otherwise gather with) any number of persons from any other household, except as specifically permitted herein.
- Hospitalizations in California due to confirmed or suspected cases of the coronavirus have risen more than 81% in the last two weeks, and ICU hospitalizations have increased 57.1% 11/24/20 – [CBS News](#)
- There were 15,329 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Monday. The seven-day average of cases is 12,532. There is a 14-day positivity rate of 5.6%, which represents a 51% increase since November 10. There are 45 counties in the most restrictive "purple" tier, eight counties in the "red" tier and five counties in the "orange" tier. – 11/24/20 – [CBS News](#)

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

- 51 new deaths and 3,692 new cases reported today. This is the highest number of deaths reported since September 9.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to accelerate at alarming speed. There are 1,575 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 26% of these people are in the ICU. Just two weeks ago, there were 888 people with COVID-19 hospitalized.
- As new COVID-19 cases remain at alarming levels and the number of people hospitalized continue to increase, the Los Angeles County Health Officer Order will be modified to restrict dining at restaurants, breweries, wineries and bars as the five-day average of new cases increased to more than 4,000 cases. The modified order will take effect Wednesday, November 25 at 10:00 p.m. – 11/22/20 – LA County Department of Public Health
- Testing results are available for more than 3,600,000 individuals with 10% of all people testing positive. The cumulative positivity rate has increased. The cumulative positivity rate remained 9% over many weeks.

- To date, Public Health identified 374,134 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 7,497 deaths
- With coronavirus cases continuing to soar across the state, a divided Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors rejected calls Tuesday to walk back restrictions on outdoor dining meant to slow the virus' rapid spread. 11/24/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)
- A Los Angeles Superior Court judge declined Tuesday morning to block a ban on outdoor dining from going into effect in Los Angeles County, rejecting an 11th-hour plea by the state's leading restaurant group. With outdoor dining across L.A. County set to shut down Wednesday night amid a continuing surge in new cases of the coronavirus, the California Restaurant Assn. filed a lawsuit challenging the ban by county health officials and, as a first step, sought an emergency order from a judge halting the new rules from taking effect. 11/24/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)

**L.A. Department of Public Health/County of Los Angeles
Institutes of Higher Education Briefing**

Tuesday, November 24 – 4:00 p.m.

Barbara Ferrer, PHD, MPH, MEd, Director - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Robert Gilchick, MD, MPH, Child and Adolescent Health Section Chief - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Dawn Terashita, MD, MPH, Associate Director - Acute Communicable Disease Control Program

John M. Connolly, PhD, MEd, Chief Strategist - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

- Dr. Ferrer provide an update on COVID 19. 100 increase per day of new hospitalization for the last few days nearing 1,600 total. The hospitalization rates are based on the case rate from 2 weeks ago.
- Now that case rates are between 4,000 and 5,000, they are projecting real stress on the medical system in a couple of weeks. They anticipate that daily hospitalization could be at 2,200 in a week or two which would be the highest. No matter what people do now we will see that increase.
- This is all cause for alarm - DPH have asked everyone to take action. Cancel any plans to travel outside the region in the coming weeks. If students go home, they should stay home. If they come back, they should quarantine for 14 days.
- Want everyone as much as possible to stay home for the next couple weeks. Need to reduce the interaction people are having with other people.
- Make sure that everyone is masked, using good practices of infection control and distancing. If you can send people home to work now is the time to do so. If there are any students who don't need to be on campus, send them home.
- This is not where DPH anticipated being at this time. Very concerned about the impact of the holidays. Based on the 1M people who went through LAX this weekend, this situation makes them want to cry.
- If we see a continued explosion of cases, we will have a situation where the health care system will be overwhelmed.
- Last weekend issued order to reduce crowding and non-essential locations. In effect tomorrow there is an order to prohibit any in person dining for at least 3 weeks.
- State issued curfew for counties in tier 1 (including L.A.) - requires all gathering for people out of household to cease from 10pm-5am. Curfew applies to campuses for students and workers.

- Dr. Ferrer explained they proposed additional actions discussed today at board meeting.
 1. Stay home as much as possible. Leave for permitted and essential activities only.
 2. All gatherings with people not with in household are prohibited
 3. Occupancy limits in business that remain open
 - a. Outdoor permitted businesses- 50%
 - b. Permitted essential indoor retail masked and at 35% capacity
 - c. Non-essential retail at 20% capacity
 - d. Outdoor recreation open for active, everything with masks (except swimming) no gathering
 - e. Shared outdoor facilities for members of household or individual can continue
 - f. Regulated lap swimming ok to continue
 4. Playground and card rooms are to be closed
 5. All others businesses that have not been opened up are to stay closed
 6. Childcare, K-12, IHE, youth sports conditioning and pro sports with no spectators all stay with the same regulations as they have now.

- LA DPH had hoped to talk about January plans but instead we can have options when infection rates drop.

- Dr Gilchick reviewed the two proposals for expanded activity both of which would start no earlier than January but are dependent on dropping to 10 cases per 100,000.

Proposal 1 -

- Once the County is below that threshold, we can consider the following expansion of activities on campus.
 1. Art, design, music practice rooms, theater for small groups activities to fulfill academic requirements. With no more than 4 people at a time including instructor and with masks, infection control and distancing.
 2. Outdoor support session for struggling students
 - a. 10 per group
 - b. Defined by institutions.
 3. Library can reopen for registered students faculty and staff at 25% max unless others are lower
 4. Registered student and staff could use outdoor sports for non-contact and conditioning. following protocols for adult recreation 25% capacity
 5. Film video, music production on campus for content creation and would have to adhere to protocols for Higher Ed and Music and Film Production.
 6. Not considering any increase to the number of students who can reside on campus.

Proposal 2 -

- Limited pilot - up to 10 schools selected for waiver application program for schools who are able to create a quasi-bubble. Institution can apply for waiver for 50% of students or 500 whichever is less.
 1. All students are not permitted to leave the campus. If they leave, they cannot return.
 2. Student and staff on campus need to be tested every 2-3 days/couple times a week.

3. Any positives need to isolate on campus, close contacts need to be quarantined on campus.
4. Any classes need to be held outdoors. Unless essential workforce. Classes at 25 % capacity.
5. No on campus events
6. All gatherings no more than 10 -15 people and must be outdoor
7. All dining outdoor adhering to restaurant protocols
8. Gyms adhering to gym protocols
9. Dorm- singles and limitation on shared bathrooms
10. Options for distance learning need to remain an option for other students.

- These options will only be considered when we have recovered from surge and there are only 10 cases per day per 100,000 residents

Q and A

Q - Dr. Linda Chasiaca - Are they changing state guidelines for basketball based on surge?

A - Dr. Ferrer- going to continue to align with the state but think each school needs to think about their risk assessment as the exploding community transmission.

Q - Does the County have testing guidelines and recommended PCR or antigen?

A - Dr. Terashita- they have no official recommendation but think surveillance testing needs to be at least a couple times a week and they are concerned about high rate of false negatives on antigen tests.

Q - Nichole Taylor- When IHE libraries are open back up would it only be for students living on campus or students living off campus?

A - Dr. Ferrer – would allow students who are off campus to come on campus to the library. Not just restricting to just on campus students. Dr. Gilcheck noted they would not be opening up for more students to live on campus but intent is to allow those living off campus to come to the library.

Q - Would schools with athletes competing on other campus be excluded from pilot program because they would be leaving the bubble?

A - Dr. Gilchick- we are not trying to eliminate college athletes and would likely allow for them to still apply for the bubble program.

Q - The CDC may be reducing quarantine from 14 to 7-10 days; would the County match CDC?

A – Dr. Ferrer stated that in general they align with CDC and would look at data and consider any changes to the timeline. But LA DPH will not agree until they see the research.

Q - Debra Martin- How do we apply to be in a bubble? And on athletes and cohorting would the same apply to nurses doing clinicals?

A – Dr. Ferrer noted that they would have to look at it. Once you start putting in exceptions then it's not a bubble. Would like to do more research as to how they would bubble. Intention is to develop application in early December and review them and exchanging info in December before everyone goes away. Reminded everyone the county still would have to hit threshold. Application would be short but the campus plans would be an attachment.

Q - Sarah Samal- How will you utilize IHE for vaccine distribution?

A - Dr. Terashita noted that LA DPH is working on the plans with teams of experts working on it. Not ready to disclose anything yet. Dr. Ferrer added that LACDPH is going to be calling on our partners to help. Right now significant time is being taken to plan for the Phase One 1A distribution for health care workers and most vulnerable residents. Decisions are mostly being made at state and federal level. Limited supply of vaccine for months to come, CDC is estimating it will be the end of the 2nd quarter (June) before there is supply for the general population. L.A. County needs 20 million doses and that is the same as the entire first delivery for the country.

Q - Sharon Basso- Will the 10 cases per 100,000 be the gate opener and how long will the county have to be at that rate?

A – Dr. Ferrer indicated that the idea is to approve campuses for pilot and have them waiting and the case rate would have to be stable for 2 weeks.

Q - If the case rate goes up will you close pilot programs down?

A – Dr. Ferrer said not unless it is a disaster.

Q - When would you select schools for the pilot?

A – Dr. Ferrer said it depends on how many applications are received but would like to decide before Christmas break, but all depends on the number of applications.

Q - Linda McMerdock - Winter break season we have 15 students who are housing insecure; and with restaurants only takeout and delivery having trouble feeding students who are remaining on campus. Would it be possible to use kitchen areas if they are on schedule and meet the restaurant regulations?

A – Dr. Ferrer would like to have an offline discussion to try and find a solution.

Dr Ferrer thanked everyone and noted they will schedule another call in early December.