

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, December 17, 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	17,626,770	317,928	228,608,320
California	1,759,876 19.56% increase over 12/10	22,146	28,456,358
Los Angeles County	580,325 37.56% increase over 12/10	8,664	4,265,732
LA County Hospitalizations	4,864 41.68% increase over 12/10		
Claremont	1,031		
Current Case Leaders by State			
California	1,759,876	22,146	28,456,358
Texas	1,556,006	25,401	14,029,601
Florida	1,168,483	20,306	14,262,140
Illinois	879,428	15,985	12,147,303
New York	855,526	36,101	22,680,046

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- The Trump administration, struggling to make up for lost time after a halting start, is rushing to roll out a \$250 million public education campaign to encourage Americans to take the coronavirus vaccine, which will reach the first patients in the United States this week. A majority of Americans — 60 percent — now say they will “definitely or probably” get a coronavirus vaccine, according to a survey released this month by the [Pew Research Center](#). But strong anti-vaccination sentiment remains: 21 percent of American adults do not intend to be vaccinated and are “pretty certain” more information will not change their minds, the survey found. 12/14/20 – [New York Times](#)
- Information about the vaccines is being shared by the CDC including the following:
 - [Vaccine roll out](#)
 - [FAQ's](#)
 - [8 Things to Know About the U.S. Vaccine Program](#)

- The number of people with the coronavirus in the United States who have died passed 300,000 on Monday, another wrenching record that comes less than four weeks after the nation's virus deaths reached a [quarter-million](#). Covid-19 surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death in the United States. Almost the same number of Americans are being lost to the disease each day as were killed in the Sept. 11 terror attacks or the attack on Pearl Harbor. 12/15/20 – [New York Times](#)
- Dr. Fauci stressed: ““A vaccine right now is not a substitute for the normal standard public health measures. Only when you get the level of infection in society so low that it’s no longer a public health threat, can you then think about the possibility of pulling back on public health measures.” Physical distancing, mask wearing and avoid indoor gatherings remain critical.
- American universities have been the source of significant coronavirus spread, with more than 397,000 cases since the pandemic began, according to [New York Times tracking data](#). And deaths in communities that are home to colleges [have risen faster](#) than in the rest of the nation. 12/15/20 – New York Times
- An increase in rapid-result testing around the world seems to have an impact in reducing cases and spread. And in the U.S.? The number of cases has risen 51% in the last month. The U.S. still lacks a coherent testing strategy, and large parts of the country continue to defy basic health advice. 12/16/20 – [New York Times](#)
- America’s outbreaks, reaching from California to Florida, are the result of the public and the country’s leaders never taking the virus seriously enough and, to the extent they did, letting their guard down prematurely. 12/16/20 - [Vox](#)
- An analysis looked at COVID-19 infection rates among undergraduates at 13 colleges and universities (nine in the Boston area and four outside Boston) and the relationship to type of instruction, number of students living in the residence halls, and testing cadence. The study evaluated only those schools that PCR-tested residential students at least once a week. The study showed no correlation between rate of infection and type of teaching (in-person, hybrid, remote), number of students on campus, or residence hall occupancy but demonstrated evidence that testing two or three times per week is correlated with lower infection rates than is weekly testing. 12/9/20 - [medRxiv](#)
- The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine cleared a major hurdle Thursday when it got the overwhelming support of an advisory committee to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the second vaccine to be authorized in about a week. Committee members voted 20-0 with one abstention in favor of the Moderna vaccine, which uses a similar technology as the one developed by Pfizer and BioNTech. It could receive emergency use authorization by Friday. 12/17/20 – [USA Today](#)

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

- On Wednesday, California’s record COVID-19 surge persists: 51,724 cases and 393 deaths in a single day. 12/16/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)
- The State is opening [temporary field hospitals](#) to help with overflow patients as COVID-19 surges fill intensive care units across the state. The field hospitals will care for non-ICU patients in places such as Costa Mesa, Porterville, Sacramento and Imperial; other facilities are on standby status in Riverside, Richmond, Fresno, San Diego and San Francisco. 12/16/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)
- On Tuesday, the California Department of Public Health said available ICU capacity in Southern California was just 1.7%, down from 2.7% a day earlier. The situation was particularly grim in Riverside County, which was at zero available ICU capacity as of Tuesday. 12/16/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)

- The first 33,150 doses of the Pfizer vaccine have arrived in California and more are on the way this week, Newsom said. If the Moderna vaccine is authorized, Newsom anticipates the state will receive 2.1 million doses of both vaccines by the end of the month. 12/15/20 – [ABC7](#)
- The availability of intensive care unit beds throughout Southern California hit 0% today, and officials warned that conditions in hospitals are expected to erode further if the coronavirus continues to spread unchecked. With ICUs filled, hospitals will step up measures to ensure the sickest patients still get the highest levels of care possible. That often means moving some patients who would typically be in the intensive care unit to other areas of the hospital, such as a recovery area, or keeping them in the emergency room for longer than normal. 12/17/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)
- The number of people hospitalized in California for COVID-19 has broken records for 19 consecutive days. On Wednesday, the most recent data available, 15,431 people across the state were in hospitals with coronavirus infections — more than six times more than the number on Halloween.
- For the first time, a Los Angeles Times county-by-county tally found more than 50,000 new coronavirus cases and nearly 400 deaths in California reported in a single day. A Times survey Wednesday night found 51,724 new coronavirus cases reported, shattering the state’s previous record, set Monday, when 42,088 cases were reported. The Times tally also found 393 COVID-19 deaths Wednesday across California, breaking the record set Tuesday, when 295 deaths were recorded.
- On Thursday, a preliminary tally recorded at least 47,000 new coronavirus cases and at least 250 deaths for the day. Cumulatively, California has now reported 1.7 million coronavirus cases and more than 22,000 COVID-19 deaths. The state is now recording an average of more than 200 COVID-19 deaths a day over a weekly period, and about 35,000 daily cases — both records, and both quadruple the numbers from mid-November. 12/17/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)

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

- On Monday, KGI hosted a webinar to explain the science (in relatively understandable terms) around the COVID-19 vaccines and the differences between the different ones in development and distribution. Here is the link to access the “Understanding COVID-19 and Vaccines” webinar replay: <http://kgi.edu/covid-webinar-replay>. Click “Register,” and then it will take you directly into the video.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed 102 new deaths and 14,418 new cases of COVID-19. To date, Public Health identified 580,325 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 8,664 deaths.
- There are 4,864 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 20% of these people are in the ICU. In the last two days the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 has increased by more than 450 people.
- According to the State, the Southern California Region has 0% ICU capacity remaining.
- A second COVID-19 vaccine, the Moderna vaccine, was endorsed today by the FDA’s Advisory Committee, and based on the publicly released findings of the vaccine trial, Public Health is hopeful the vaccine will receive Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) very soon. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices will meet this weekend to discuss the recommended use of the Moderna vaccine and will also vote on additional priority populations to receive it.
- Currently, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been received by all nine pre-designated sites in L.A County and this initial allocation is being used by acute care hospitals to vaccinate health care personnel. Healthcare

workers are prioritized for vaccination based on their job duties and associated risks of exposure to COVID-19 as well as risks of severe disease. A second allotment of Pfizer vaccine is anticipated to arrive next week and will be used to vaccinate additional healthcare workers at acute care hospitals. If the Moderna vaccine receives EUA, doses of this vaccine should arrive in L.A. County next week as well. These doses will be used to vaccinate residents and staff at skilled nursing facilities and frontline EMS responders.

- 4,265,732 tests have been completed with a 7-day testing positivity rate of 13.7%.
- There are now more than 1,000 people with COVID-19 in L.A. County's intensive care units, quadruple the number from Nov. 1. Forecasts say that by early January, there could be 1,600 to 3,600 COVID-19 patients in need of ICU beds if virus transmission trends remain the same. There are only 2,500 licensed ICU beds in L.A. County. 12/17/20 – [Los Angeles Times](#)