

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

CORONAVIRUS MEDIA RECAP - WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, January 21, 2021

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	25,161,079	419,346	293,257,281
California	3,091,086 7.91% increase over 1/14	35,225	39,512,756
Los Angeles County	1,046,021 7.25% increase over 1/14	14,641	5,303,000
LA County Hospitalizations	7,906 8.13% decrease over 1/14		
Claremont	1,893		
Current Case Leaders by State			
California	3,091,086	35,225	39,512,756
Texas	2,208,904	34,130	18,648,388
Florida	1,613,884	24,739	17,910,668
New York	1,328,659	41,808	29,762,950
Illinois	1,086,333	20,423	15,083,685

International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- The College Board, which administers the SAT college entrance examination said that it will [drop the optional essay section from the SAT](#) and stop administering subject-matter tests in the United States in order to streamline the process during the pandemic. 1/19/21 – [New York Times](#)
- On January 19, Germany announced the expansion and tightening of its lockdown rules partially in response to the highly infectious variant of the coronavirus that is currently causing a spike in infections in Britain and elsewhere. The current lockdown rules will be extended to at least mid-February, mask rules will stipulate that “medical” grade masks must be worn on public transport or in the few shops allowed to remain open and working from home will be mandated where possible. Schools will generally remain closed, although some states will continue to offer voluntary in-person classes and most will provide emergency childcare for parents working in essential service jobs. 1/19/21 – [New York Times](#)
- President Biden signed an Executive Order requiring social distancing and the wearing of masks on all federal property and by all federal employees. He is also starting a “100 days masking

challenge” urging all Americans to wear masks and state and local officials to implement public measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. 1/20/21 – [New York Times](#)

- President Biden also Mr. Biden reinstated ties with the World Health Organization after the Trump administration chose to withdraw the nation’s membership and funding last year. Dr. Anthony S. Fauci will be the head of the U.S. delegation to the organization’s executive board. 1/20/21 – [New York Times](#)
- President Biden signed additional executive actions on coronavirus response, including invoking Defense Production Act "to direct all federal agencies and private industry to accelerate the making of everything that's needed to protect, test, vaccinate, and take care of our people." 1/21/21 – [NBC News](#)
- The Biden administration's [Covid-19 plan released today](#) includes efforts to re-establish trust with the American public and fight disinformation, which public health experts have labeled a major problem facing the U.S. response. "The Administration will lead world-class public education campaigns — covering topics like masking, testing, vaccinations and vaccine hesitancy — designed with diversity and inclusivity in mind, including communications in multiple languages, to maximize reach and effectiveness," the administration wrote in the plan. "The campaigns will be coordinated, across national, state, and local levels, and engage with the private and public sector. They will be anchored by science and fact-based public health guidance. The Administration will work to counter misinformation and disinformation by ensuring that Americans are obtaining science-based information."
- President Biden signed an executive order mandating masks on flights, trains and buses. "In addition to wearing masks, everyone flying to the United States from another country will need to test before they depart and quarantine when they arrive in America." 1/21/21 – [USA Today](#)
- Amazon is offering its colossal operations network and advanced technologies to assist President Biden in his vow to get 100 million COVID-19 vaccinations to Americans in his first 100 days in office. 1/21/21 – [Los Angeles Times](#)
- Today, Dr. Anthony Fauci described the coronavirus as “still in a very serious situation” but that so far, vaccine appear effective against the new variants of the virus circulating. He added that while the number of cases appeared to be “plateauing” on a seven-day average, there were new signs of more infectious versions of the virus that could cause spikes in cases in the coming months. He also pointed to “much more concerning mutations” in the versions of the virus circulating in South Africa and Brazil than in the variant first identified in Britain.
- Dr. Fauci also stated that if the United States can vaccinate 70 percent to 85 percent of the population by the middle or end of the summer, he predicted that “by the time we get to the fall, we will be approaching a degree of normality. It’s not going to be perfectly normal, but one that I think will take a lot of pressure off the American public.” 1/21/21 – [New York Times](#)

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

- As of January 21, California has 3,039,044 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 35,004 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 1.7 percent from the prior day total of 34,433.
- As of today, 1,626,542 doses of the vaccine have been administered in California.
- California has administered 39,512,756 COVID tests, with approximately 224,393 tests today alone.
- The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is 11 percent.
- The number of hospitalizations due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 20,408, a decrease of 406 from the prior day total. The number of ICU patients due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 4,746, a decrease of 12 from the prior day total.
- The seven-day average positivity rate in California is 15.2%.
- Gov. Gavin Newsom urged Californians to “hold me accountable” to a goal of administering 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine in 10 days, but nearly two weeks later a series of data collection problems have left state officials unable to offer clear evidence of success or failure. 1/21/21- [Los Angeles Times](#)

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

- Five regional vaccination centers will open beginning January 19 including:
 - Pomona Fairplex
 - The Forum
 - California State University – Northridge
 - A. County Office of Education
 - Six Flags Magic Mountain
- Each site will be able to vaccinate approximately 4,000 people per day at each site. The large-scale vaccination sites will aim to vaccinate 500,000 L.A. County residents a month.
- Regarding vaccine dose availability - L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said that her department needs four million doses to vaccinate every resident currently eligible. Instead, the county has received less than 900,000 so far. Currently, public health officials find out each Tuesday night or Wednesday morning how many doses of the vaccine they'll be sent by the state. Then, they calculate how many people need a second dose. "Everybody who's given a first dose is guaranteed that they will get allocated that second dose," she said. That means in a given week, the county may use nearly all its weekly vaccine allocation on second doses, leaving few appointments for new, first-time vaccinations. Next week, for example, the county will receive 143,900 doses. It is reserving 106,000 for second dose vaccinations. That leaves just 37,900 for new people to get vaccinated. 1/21/21 - [LAist](#)
- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has confirmed 262 new deaths and 8,512 new cases of confirmed COVID-19. Both cases and hospitalizations have declined this week in L.A. County.
- There are currently 7,263 people currently hospitalized with COVID-19, and 23% of these people are in the ICU.
- To date, Public Health has identified 1,046,021 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 14,641 deaths. Last week, the seven-day average of new cases was 15,182. This week, the seven-day average of cases is 10,560, a decrease of 30 percent. Hospitalizations have also decreased this week, down 7 percent since last week Thursday.

- As a reminder, only Los Angeles County healthcare workers in Phase 1A or County residents aged 65 and older are eligible to get their vaccination. Appointments are mandatory. With limited COVID-19 vaccine supply, vaccination appointments are near or at capacity at L.A. County vaccination sites.
- County residents and healthcare workers in Phase 1A must show identification and documentation of their eligibility at the time of their appointment. Those without documentation will need to be turned away, even if they have an appointment. Information on accepted forms of identification and documentation can be found on the Public Health website appointment page.
- Testing results are available for more than 5,303,000 individuals with 19% of all people testing positive.