Thursday, February 4, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Confirmed/Reported Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Total Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>27,260,235</td>
<td>466,517</td>
<td>318,572,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>3,360,908</td>
<td>42,667</td>
<td>43,235,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>1,097,941</td>
<td>17,539</td>
<td>5,560,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA County Hospitalizations</td>
<td>4,990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claremont</td>
<td>2,062</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current Case Leaders by State**

- California: 3,360,908, 42,667, 43,235,327
- Texas: 2,467,961, 38,697, 20,664,753
- Florida: 1,752,330, 27,249, 19,406,606
- New York: 1,486,322, 44,406, 32,782,663
- Illinois: 1,137,559, 21,497, 16,359,655

**International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage**

- All five vaccines with public results have eliminated Covid-19 deaths. They have also drastically reduced hospitalizations. “They’re all good trial results.” Many people are instead focusing on relatively minor differences among the vaccine results and wrongly assuming that those differences mean that some vaccines won’t prevent serious illnesses. It’s still too early to be sure, because a few of the vaccine makers have released only a small amount of data. But the available data is very encouraging — including about the vaccines’ effect on the virus’s variants. 1/27/21 – The Atlantic
- The White House is pushing to make rapid-turnaround virus tests available. The federal government will buy 8.5 million at-home nasal-swab tests that don’t require a prescription. 2/1/21 - Forbes
- AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford released data showing that none of the 12,408 people who had received a vaccine shot died from COVID symptoms or were hospitalized with them. That's consistent with earlier results for that vaccine, as well as initial results for four other vaccines - from Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Novavax and Pfizer. 2/1/21 – The Lancet
- When your chance for a COVID-19 shot comes, don’t worry which one it is. The bottom line, however, is that all three do a good job at preventing serious illness. 2/2/21 – Los Angeles Times
• The director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday that schools can safely reopen even if teachers are not vaccinated against COVID-19. “Vaccination of teachers is not a prerequisite for safe reopening of schools,” Dr. Rochelle Walensky said during a briefing by the White House COVID-19 response team. 2/3/21 – Los Angeles Times

• Johnson & Johnson asked the FDA to clear its experimental COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, setting up what is likely to be a fast-moving review process that could lead to millions more doses becoming available to step up a stumbling immunization drive. In a statement, Johnson & Johnson said that it had filed an application for an emergency-use authorization with the FDA. The process is likely to take weeks. 2/4/21 – Los Angeles Times

• Coronavirus confusion: What’s the difference between a variant and a strain? The distinction between a variant and a strain hinges on whether the virus in question behaves in a distinct way, according to Dr. Adam Lauring, who studies the evolution of RNA viruses at the University of Michigan, and Emma Hodcroft, an expert on viral phylogenetics at the University of Bern in Switzerland. “Genomes that differ in sequence are often called variants,” Lauring and Hodcroft explained in the Journal of the American Medical Assn. “Strictly speaking, a variant is a strain when it has a demonstrably different phenotype.” In other words, a particular coronavirus specimen may contain one or more mutations that another specimen lacks. If there is no detectable functional difference, it is merely a variant. 2/4/21 – Los Angeles Times

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

• Gov. Gavin Newsom said he believes schools can begin to reopen even if all teachers are not yet vaccinated against COVID-19, provided that proper safety measures and supports are in place — although some teachers unions, including United Teachers Los Angeles, have said vaccinations should be a prerequisite to resuming in-person instruction. 2/3/21 – Los Angeles Times

• With COVID-19 vaccines still in short supply in California, there is growing debate about who should be given the next priority for the shots and how soon the state can ramp up efforts to better meet surging demand. The state has launched a high-level task force to sort out logistics for how residents with disabilities and underlying health conditions will be prioritized next, state officials announced at Wednesday’s vaccine advisory committee meeting. 2/3/21 – Los Angeles Times

• As of February 4, California has 3,294,447 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 42,466 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 1.6 percent from the prior day total of 41,811.

• The number of COVID-19 diagnostic test results in California reached a total of 43,235,327, an increase of 168,094 tests from the prior day total. The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is 6.9 percent.

• The number of hospitalizations due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 14,138, a decrease of 440 from the prior day total. The number of ICU patients due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 3,756, a decrease of 16 from the prior day total.

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

• The numbers of new coronavirus infections and hospitalizations are nosediving in Los Angeles County, welcome news following a catastrophic winter wave that pummeled the region. Officials stress, however,
that the county is far from out of the woods. Though those figures have tumbled in recent weeks, they remain well above their pre-surge levels — and are still too high for the county to unlock additional sectors of its economy or to provide the long-term relief hospitals need. And the final, the number of people losing their battle with the disease — remains high. 2/4/21 – Los Angeles Times

- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed 239 new deaths and 5,028 new cases of COVID-19. To date, Public Health identified 1,134,338 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 17,539 deaths. There are 4,990 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 27% of these people are in the ICU. A month after the winter holidays, the County continues experiencing the deadly toll of the holiday surge, reporting daily deaths over 200 people.
- There are currently 1,351 ongoing outbreak investigations, of these, 23% are related to outbreaks at worksites.
- The testing positivity rate over 7-day average is 10.40%.