Thursday, April 1, 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>31,239,760</td>
<td>566,237</td>
<td>404,954,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>3,670,481</td>
<td>59,066</td>
<td>53,934,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County</td>
<td>1,220,246</td>
<td>23,020</td>
<td>6,041,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalizations</td>
<td>652</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claremont</td>
<td>2,230</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Current Case Leaders by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Confirmed/Reported Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Total Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>3,670,481</td>
<td>59,066</td>
<td>53,934,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2,799,699</td>
<td>48,709</td>
<td>25,748,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2,064,525</td>
<td>33,519</td>
<td>25,432,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1,924,280</td>
<td>50,664</td>
<td>45,175,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>1,248,111</td>
<td>23,601</td>
<td>20,409,227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International Coverage/Federal Government/National Coverage

- AstraZeneca’s More than one-third of U.S. adults — about 90 million people — have received at least one shot of a coronavirus vaccine.
- New coronavirus cases ticked up in the U.S. last week, particularly in Michigan and the Northeast. Hospitalizations and deaths may continue to fall, because many people with the highest risk of severe illness have been vaccinated. 3/28/21 – New York Times
- The Biden administration and private companies are working to develop a standard way of handling credentials — often referred to as “vaccine passports” — that would allow Americans to prove they have been vaccinated against the novel coronavirus as businesses try to reopen. 3/28/21 – New York Times
- About 5,000 fans attended an experimental indoor rock concert in Barcelona, Spain. An organizer said this event was one of several planned in Europe, was “a small but important step toward normality.” The listeners there basked in being part of an audience again. 3/28/21 – New York Times
- A new study will examine how Covid-19 spreads on campus - which will vaccinate 12,000 college students at 21 universities. The study will track the students and their close contacts in an effort to answer a key question: Does Covid-19 spread after vaccination? The project, with money from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the federal Covid-19 Response Program, will examine how vaccinated
students are infected by and spread Covid-19, relative to a control group of non-vaccinated students. Students will take daily Covid-19 tests and keep a diary for five months, and their close contacts — about 25,500 people — will also have to answer questions and be tested. 3/26/21 - Chronicle

- The exact threshold for herd immunity for the coronavirus is unknown, but recent estimates range from 70 percent to 90 percent. If the U.S. can continue at the current rate of vaccination, about 2.68 million doses per day on average, that point could be reached by mid-July. 3/28/21 – New York Times

- Brazil is facing the most new Covid-19 cases and deaths in the world. Every hour, roughly 125 people there die from the virus. The virus has killed more than 300,000 people in the country, a crisis fueled by a highly contagious variant, political infighting and conspiracy theories. Hospitals are overwhelmed with a torrent of Covid-19 patients who are arriving younger and sicker. 3/27/21 – New York Times

- A new paper co-written by a team of University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign business professors shows that rapid bulk-testing for COVID-19 along with other standard mitigation measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing were the keys to successfully reopening colleges and universities during the novel coronavirus pandemic. The paper, published in the journal Nature Scientific Reports, analyzed data from 86 institutions, including the Urbana campus’ SHIELD Illinois testing program. 3/29/21 – Illinois News Bureau

- President Biden urged governors and mayors to keep or reinstate mask mandates, warning that "reckless behavior" had caused the recent rise in coronavirus cases. 3/29/21 – New York Times

- The vaccines made by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech are proving highly effective at preventing symptomatic and asymptomatic infections under real-world conditions, federal health researchers reported on Monday. Consistent with clinical trial data, a two-dose regimen prevented 90 percent of infections by two weeks after the second shot. One dose prevented 80 percent of infections by two weeks after vaccination. 3/29/21 – New York Times

- The discussion of vaccinating college students now as a means to diminish the risk for those who are most at danger to spread the virus is under consideration by policy makers across the country. 3/30/21 - Chronicle

- The U.S. has averaged 65,000 new cases a day over the past week — a 19 percent increase from two weeks ago. That puts the country close to last summer’s peak, though still far below January levels. The increase is attributed to some mayors and governors have continued to lift restrictions and mask rules, many Americans are behaving less cautiously, and vaccinations have not gotten the country near herd immunity.

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

- As of April 1, California has 3,570,660 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 58,090 deaths.
- The number of COVID-19 diagnostic test results in California reached a total of 53,934,609, an increase of 103,017 tests from the prior day total. The rate of positive tests over the last 7 days is 1.9%.
- The number of hospitalizations due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 2,583, a decrease of 40 from the prior day total. The number of ICU patients due to confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in California reached a total of 623, a decrease of 4 from the prior day total.
- Only 3 counties remain in the purple tier. 36 counties are in the red tier, 17 counties are in the orange tier and 2 counties are in the yellow tier.
L.A. Department of Public Health/County of Los Angeles

- A revised Los Angeles County Health Officer Order will go into effect on Monday, April 5 at 12:01 a.m. to reflect newly permitted activities under the Orange Tier including:
  - **Bars that do not provide meals** will be allowed to open outdoors with distancing, masking and infection control safety measures. Indoor operations are not permitted. Masks, distancing and other operation rules apply.
  - **Breweries, Wineries, Distilleries that do not serve meals** can remain open outdoors and can also open indoors at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer. Indoor seating requires adherence to various requirements.
  - **Restaurants** can increase capacity for indoor dining to 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is less with continued safety modifications.
  - **Cardrooms** can operate indoors at 25% capacity. There must be 8-feet of distancing between tables and masks are always required. Food and beverages remain banned from card tables.
  - **Places of Worship** can hold services indoors at 50% capacity.
  - **Fitness Centers** can operate indoors at 25% capacity and indoor pools can now re-open. Masks are always required unless swimming.
  - **Movie Theatres** can increase capacity to 50% or 200 people, whichever is less. Seats must be reserved, and each group must have 6 feet of distance from other groups in all directions. Eating is allowed in only designated areas or in your reserved seat.
  - **Family Entertainment Centers** can open indoors at 25% capacity for distanced activities, such as bowling or escape rooms. Masks remain required.
  - **Grocery and Retail Stores** can increase capacity to 75%, although Public Health strongly recommends grocery stores remain at 50% capacity until April 15 to allow as many grocery store workers as possible get vaccinated.
  - **Hair Salons, Barbershops and Personal Care Services** can increase capacity to 75% with masks required, except for services where customers need to remove their masks. For services where customers must remove their face coverings, staff must wear a fitted N95 or a mask with a face shield.
  - **Museums, Zoos and Aquariums** can be open indoors at 50% capacity.
  - **Youth and Adult Recreational Sports** can apply to Public Health for approval for athletic events, tournaments or competitions that involve more than two teams or multiple individuals.

- Public Health has confirmed 53 new deaths and 757 new cases of COVID-19. To date, Public Health identified 1,220,246 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 23,189 deaths.
- There are 652 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized and 25% of these people are in the ICU. Testing results are available for nearly 6,102,000 individuals with 19% of people testing positive. Today’s daily test positivity rate is 1.6%.
Participants:
Robert Gilchick, MD, MPH, Child and Adolescent Health Section Chief - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Dawn Terashita, MD, MHP, Associate Director Acute Communicable Disease Control Program - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Current Situation
- Metrics continue to decline.
- Daily average number of cases is less than 400; 50% decrease from February.
- Average number of hospitalization has decreased 50% from February; deaths have decreased 75%.
- LA County will move the Orange tier on Monday.
- COVID 19 variants – continues to monitor these; of 49 specimens, 23 are California variants of concerns, 20 are the UK variants. These represents 84% of all variants. LA County has not identified Brazilian or South African variants.
- Regarding vaccinations – good progress. 4 million doses to date of which 1.3 million are second doses.
- This week received 370,000 doses of vaccine (54,000 were the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine).
- Lack of supply continues to be the issue; could book almost 1 million appointments with infrastructure capacity a week but not enough supply.
- 3.4 million people now eligible with 50+ category.
- On April 15, college students are eligible. Anticipate supply issue again.
- Orange Tier updates applicable to higher education.
  - Moving in the Orange tier will allow indoor lectures – 50% or 200 whichever is less.
  - Dining halls will match restaurants at 50% or 200 whichever is less.
  - Libraries can reopen at 75% capacity.
    - All changes require distancing and mask wearing.
  - Nothing is changing on student activities; awaiting updated guidance from the State on gatherings and then we will apply to our protocols.
  - Housing remains unchanged. Could allow summer sessions if numbers remain unchanged or continue to drop.
  - Regarding celebrations, concerned with celebrations on campus (NCAA victories); need institutional partners to help manage this to the degree possible.

Questions and Answers
Q – (Dr. Prateek Jindal) Regarding international vaccines, if students received vaccines from non US approve sources, how should we handle these?
A – We will need to take this under advisement and respond back.

Q – (Mark Kendall) Do you see any changes coming for the 10-day quarantine requirement for students from other states but are vaccinated?
A – Not changing at this time but expect this to last for spring; if the state alters their requirements (currently a “should”) then we will change our approach.
Q – (Mark Kendall) Will you fully align with state guidance on housing occupancy/requirements for the fall?
A – Assuming pandemic recovery continues, will recommend single occupancy but double occupancy for two students vaccinated. Best can offer at this time; still premature at this time.

Q – For high school, two members of the same household may attend student sporting events; is this allowed for collegiate?
A – Live event guidance does not supersede collegiate events. There is inconsistency for youth sports and intended for age appropriate supervision.

Q – Classroom guidance for children changed from 6’ to 3’ will this change for colleges?
A – Definitely not because the greater threat of infection and transmission. The change of 6’ to 3’ was based on research targeted or age specific groups.

Q – If we have a mandated vaccination policy, do you see changes in distancing?
A – Still to earlier to tell at this time; data is showing vaccine protection. Do hope that herd immunity will result in these changes.

Q – Can you provide an update on percentage of asymptomatic individuals in LA County?
A – The precise data is not available for LA County at the moment, but nationwide it is about 50% but variable.

Q – Please clarify, which tier we are in going into – is it Orange or Yellow tier?
A – The documents posted this Friday/Monday are for moving into the Orange tier.

Q – As we bring students back for in person instruction are we require to provide an online version of instruction like with K-12? And will this be required for fall?
A – We believe that this is targeted for K-12 but we recommend the virtual option as much as possible. Prefer outdoor instruction and virtual as much as possible. For fall may continue to recommend.

Q – For commencement, are there any limits on out of state guests joining the ceremonies?
A – Review State’s guidelines, we don’t intend to deviate from this guidance. Can expect whatever the State has allowed, we will align with. The big question is regarding the quarantine and will out of state guests have to quarantine for 10 days.

Q – Regarding outside group conferences on campuses – are these feasible? Any guidance on this?
A – If you have students on campus, this will affect your ability to have outdoor groups. The protocol discourages outside groups and activities on your campuses. If campuses are mostly not active over the summer, then it is more reasonable to use the campus for other activities like conferences.

Q – Regarding contact tracing, will this revert back to the County?
A – The County will continue to “own” this responsibility. For the purposes of COVID, it is important to gather the information from the local contact and partner for contact tracing. Envision the ongoing partnership because campuses have the better ability to identify and quarantine students.

Q – Will protocols be based on vaccination rates in the future?
A – Yes, as the number of vaccinated individuals increases dramatically and closer to herd immunity will absolutely be reflected in protocols. Vaccinations are our way out of this pandemic.

Q – Regarding summer activities, if we have overnight youths or day programs, do we follow IHE guidance or following Youth and Residential Camp guidance?
A – Guidance for overnight camps is coming soon from the State, probably not in effect until June 1.

Q – Regarding classroom capacity, when might we have a better idea of what we are planning for this fall?
A – Hope to provide guidance by May on this issue.