

Below are the most recent Coronavirus updates. If you have any questions, contact Student Health Services.

On 5/7/2020, Gov. Newsom issued criteria for counties that want to move farther and faster into Stage 2 of [Reopening](#). L.A. County DPH posted their [Roadmap to Recovery](#) PowerPoint. We have reviewed the first 4 of 7 Regional Variance Criteria that counties must meet in order to move quicker through Stage 2. Our comments about the readiness of L.A. County are in italics.

Regional Variance Criteria

Epidemiologic stability

- **No more than one case per 10,000 people in the last 14 days**
Based on the L.A. County population of 10.1 million, that's 1,010 cases over 14 days or approximately 72 per day. As of the last two weeks, it takes L.A. County only 1.2 to 1.3 days to hit 1,010 cases.
- **No COVID deaths in the past 14 days**
L.A. County has had an average of 43 deaths per day as of the week of 5/6 to 5/12; even if increased testing means more mild cases detected, it seems unlikely that our deaths would fall to zero over a 14 day stretch if we are still "allowed" to have 72 new cases per day.

Testing capacity

- **Minimum daily testing of 1.5 per 1,000 residents**
L.A. County averaged 1 test per 1,000 residents per day for the week of 5/6 to 5/12 – that's the highest rate of testing over the past 4 weeks.

Protection of Stage 1 essential workers

- **Ability to support employees when sick or exposed**
How easy will it be for health care professionals to get tested for free? Do those free diagnostic tests have a 30% false negative rate that we have heard anecdotally? Will support include a space to isolate when that employee has no way to safely isolate at home? Help with childcare or other home responsibilities if needed while isolated?
- **Availability of disinfectant supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE)**
Where does L.A. County stand with PPE? We sure can't get any. Are the hospitals still operating under the CDC [contingency strategies](#)? CDC crisis strategies? Analysis suggests that approximately 45% of infections come from exposure to infected people in their [pre-symptomatic](#) stage making it clear that you need effective PPE for all close contact of greater than 10 cumulative minutes.

Containment capacity

- **At least 15 contact tracers per 100,000 residents**
That's 1,515 contact tracers for L.A. County. Speed is essential in isolating cases and quarantining contacts to reduce transmission.
- **Ability to temporarily house at least 15% of county residents experiencing homelessness**
L.A. County had 58,936 homeless persons in 2019. The 2020 numbers are not out until May/June. 15% of the 2019 count is 8,840 persons. We have no clue how many homeless persons L.A. County is currently able to temporarily house.

What do we do to keep moving forward?

Basic preventive measures are still the most important contribution each individual can make to reopening.

- Wash your hands; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; cover your coughs; stay away from other people when you are sick; disinfect high touch surfaces frequently; maintain social distancing.
- Wear a cloth face mask when out in public until the CDC and local Public Health tell us otherwise.
- If you have symptoms suggestive of and/or exposures that increase your risk of COVID-19, follow the advice of your local Public Health regarding testing, isolation and quarantining.

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