

LAC DPH Telebriefing for Colleges and Universities

May 24, 2020

Dr. Ann Graves Walker, M.D.

Antibody studies (presumably the ones in LA County) suggesting ~4.5% of population has had COVID – that still leaves 95% of population vulnerable.

Recap of reopening in LA County so far – curb/door pickup at retailers, increased recreational opportunities. Play grounds still closed, no events, no gatherings, not ready for personal grooming businesses yet (Follow “Reopening Protocols” under “What You Should Know” under “Learn More About Coronavirus” on home page of ph.lacounty.gov)

LA County can be more restrictive than the state but cannot be less restrictive than state.

Written guidance from LAC DPH to IHEs in ~2 weeks and they want to include as much input as possible from IHEs (Institutions of Higher Education) that have already made any plans. Call LAC DPH at 877-777-5799 to tell them about the guidance you need and share the plans you have written.

LAC DPH will mandate that IHEs have the capacity and plan (testing kits, paying to have tests run if no insurance to bill, PPE to collect tests unless sending out for testing) to test all symptomatic persons (seems to imply students and staff but unclear) AND ALL OF THEIR CONTACTS (on campus but not community?). They may include instructions about surveillance diagnostic testing in high risk settings such as congregate living, individuals with underlying conditions and persons 55+ (Dr. Terashita)

LAC DPH can help with the identification of contacts but expect the bulk of the work to belong to the IHEs. IHEs should start developing guidelines for how they will identify and manage contacts of cases. IHEs who provide housing will be responsible for establishing space for isolation of presumed and confirmed cases and quarantine of all contacts while waiting for testing results.

Limited numbers of in-person classes/labs with significant limits on size may be possible by the end of the summer as long as distancing and surface cleaning are vigorous AND AS LONG AS WE DON'T HAVE A TERRIBLE SUMMER

LAC DPH will not make recommendations about specific testing products other than to say that it must be FDA approved and must have a turn around time of <48 hours and must be a PCR test.

DO NOT EXPECT THAT REGIONAL LA COUNTY FREE TESTING SITES WILL BE OPEN IN THE FALL TO USE FOR TESTING STUDENTS/STAFF. LAC DPH is trying to move testing back to “regular care providers”. LAC DPH is unhappy with the difficulty they have had getting persons with positive

results from regional testing connected with primary care providers (*in our community college population that's because so many of them do not have a primary care provider much less insurance*) and LAC DPH is unhappy with the confusion these persons exhibit about what they need to do (*welcome to our world*).

The next telebriefing is expected in ~2 weeks to review a draft of roadmap for reopening of IHEs.

Call 866-207-1041 and use access code 993-6330 to listen to a recording of the 5/14 telebriefing – available until ~5/28

I plan to call LAC DPH and ask them to

1. Address the distinctions between residential and non-residential IHEs in their advice
2. Will LAC DPH be responsible for identifying and testing community contacts of campus identified cases?
3. Give their best estimate of the number of tests per unit of population they reasonably expect an IHE will need to be able to perform so that we have a ballpark figure of the resources we need to line up – these estimates should be significantly different based on residential/nonresidential settings but they will also depend on the total numbers of persons present (for any given R zero, the larger the number of persons in a group, the higher the percentage of that group who will be infected – Pueyo, chart 31, Part 5 Learning to Dance <https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-prevent-seeding-and-spreading-e84ed405e37d>)

Because PCC must follow Pasadena Public Health instructions I plan to ask PPHD what guidance they have for IHEs in Pasadena and whether PPHD expects to continue offering any testing for students/staff (with and without insurance). I intend to ask urgent care facilities near PCC if they can see International students and other students with insurance for testing as a potential case or as a contact (we may need this resource if we do not have testing kits, appropriate testing space and appropriate PPE in the fall and we need this information now while we are still remote).