

**COVID-19 Teleconference with LA County Public Health for
Colleges and Universities
Sept. 3, 2020 4 p.m.**

SPEAKERS

- Barbara Ferrer, PHD, MPH, MEd, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Robert Gilchick, MD, MPH, Child and Adolescent Health Section Chief, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Dawn Terashita, MD, Associate Director, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- County's data for August looks better than middle of July and beginning of August
- Closed out August with significant reductions in hospitalizations
 - Now down to an average of 1050 daily hospitalizations; started at almost 2000 at the beginning of the month
 - Similar decline in the number of daily average cases (1100/1200)
 - Positivity rate now down to 5 percent;
 - Deaths still remain higher than hoped
- L.A. County is at 10 cases per day/100,000; needs to get down to less than seven
- L.A. County will likely remain in tier one for at least another five weeks
- As of today, there have been 245,000 positive cases and nearly 6,000 deaths
- As a reminder, the epidemic is being fueled by younger people
- Concerned about the Labor Day holiday and its effect on transmission rates

NEXT STEPS FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- **Not recommending colleges and universities reopen until after the Thanksgiving holiday.**
 - With other sectors coming back online, LACDPH does not want too many openings at the same time, especially as County enters flu season.
 - LACDPH will also need to monitor rates of transmission between now and October.
- County officials will be **sending out a survey** next week to colleges and universities to gather information on how our campuses are currently operating. Among the questions:
 - What programs are on campus?
 - Number of students on average on a given day?
 - Number of staff and faculty on campus?
 - Is conditioning of athletes occurring?

REMINDERS ABOUT PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- Number of students on campus should be very limited and expectation is that activities are restricted.
- Only students that are supposed to be on campus are those that are training or in a program to become part of the essential workforce and only to do a practicum or experience-based activity.
- For those students who are on campus, they should have outdoor instruction whenever possible.
- Collegiate athletics can proceed if in compliance with the state and NCAA guidelines; however, all fall sports are cancelled so athletes should not be on campus.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Can students come to campus to complete studio art projects?

No.

Q. Can teachers be considered part of the essential workforce so that student teachers can complete their teaching hours?

We do not have a problem with them doing a practicum other than the fact K-12 schools are currently closed.