

NEWS ALERTS AND UPDATES – May 18, 2020

NATIONAL:

- **Total cases 1,480,349 (+13,284)**
- **Total deaths: 89,407 (+698)**

**Compared to yesterday's data. Total jurisdictions includes 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S Virgin Islands.

STATE:

- **80,430 positive cases (+5,494)**
- **3,302 deaths (+194)**

*Compared to 5.15.20 data

Approximately 1,292,672 tests have been conducted.

California Health and Human Services Agency is releasing this information as an [open dataset](#). This includes dashboards for [hospital data](#) and statewide case statistics. See the [county level data](#).

GOVERNOR NEWSOM UPDATES

Survivors of COVID-19: Donate your plasma

Blood plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients may be able to help sick people get better faster. If you have recovered from COVID-19, your donation could help—consider donating and find a donation center. [Learn more](#).

Governor Gavin Newsom provides an update on California's response to the COVID19 outbreak. [Watch here](#)

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:**WEBINAR for local education agencies: Fall 2020: A Discussion on the Safe Re-Opening of California Schools – Thursday, May 21 at 10 a.m.**

Join the CDE and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond for a webinar with updates on guidance for schools, presentations by districts that are developing plans on re-opening, and a Q-and-A. This webinar will be streamed on Facebook Live and Zoom. Stay tuned for more details and a Zoom link.

CDE and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond will host the first Virtual Student Support Circle for middle and high school age students here on Facebook Live, next Thursday, May 21, at 3 p.m.

It will offer mental health resources, and feature students from across the state speaking about what they've experienced, and practical solutions on how they've managed to support each other and their families through this transition.

LOCAL:**Numbers as of May 18 – change compared to 5.14.20****Total new positive cases today: 4**

The following information is based on the most recent data available for all confirmed cases:

- Contact to a Known Case: 30 (+8)
- Travel-Acquired: 22 (+1)
- Community Transmission: 13 (no chg)
- Under Investigation: 6 (+4)

Daily COVID-19 case report for May 18

- Total number of positive cases: 81 (+13)
- Total number of recovered cases: 58 (+5)
- Total number of hospitalizations: 11 (+2)

- Total number of people tested by Public Health Laboratory: 2,433
- Total number of people tested by all other sources: 2,012
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California Department of Public Health and commercial labs)

The Public Health Laboratory currently has a capacity of approximately 1,600 tests and can process about 65 samples a day with an approximate turnaround time of 48 to 72 hours.

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT NEWS

May 18, 2020 - 'First Loss of Life' Reported Today, Four Additional New Cases Confirmed.

[Full Release](#)

May 18, 2020 - Community letter from Dr. Teresa Frankovich

[Read letter](#)

FEATURED VIDEOS FROM HUMBOLDT COUNTY JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

May 18, 2020 | Media Availability - [Dr. Teresa Frankovich](#)

In her media availability on May 18, Dr. Teresa Frankovich answers the following media questions:

1. Have you been able to trace how the Alder Bay staff member got COVID, and can you confirm they brought it into the assisted living facility?
2. At Alder Bay, we know that the first positive case was a staff member. What is being done at Alder Bay, and other facilities, to try to reduce the chance of staff members bringing the virus into facilities?
3. What is the protocol for patients at Alder Bay (i.e. what happens when they get COVID, how are other staff/patients protected?)
4. One of the state's conditions for granting counties the freedom to loosen shelter restrictions is having a plan in place "to quickly identify and contain outbreaks in facilities housing older Californians." Following today's news of a COVID-related death at Alder Bay, you wrote, "[O]nce the virus is carried into a facility, transmission is very difficult to control." So, does the county have a plan to contain outbreaks in senior housing facilities? If so, why hasn't it worked at Alder Bay?
5. Is the county working with the state to increase testing at nursing homes and other care facilities where patients are considered at high-risk of contracting the virus?
6. Gov Newsom is facing pressure from nursing home/ assisted living lobbyists who are wanting that industry to have immunity from civil and criminal charges related to patients contracting COVID-19. Do you think these facilities should be held accountable for preventable injuries and death?

7. With the news of Humboldt County's first death, we no longer meet the epidemiological stability criteria (no covid deaths in the past 14 days) laid out by the state to advance through stage 2 more quickly. What does this mean for Humboldt moving forward? Will things continue to open up at the same rate? Will this process now be slowed down?
8. Humboldt County has had 23 new cases of COVID-19 confirmed over the past two weeks. How will this spike affect our "soft opening" and loosened restrictions on local businesses?
9. What impact, if any, does the current spike in cases have on decisions to approve specific business re-opening plans in sectors currently allowed to re-open or decisions to allow additional sectors to reopen moving forward through stage two?
10. In the attestation you submitted to the state, you outlined the criteria that would trigger strict mitigation measures. Can you please explain what if any criteria have currently been met and whether you believe mitigation measures are necessary at this time?
11. Is there a numeric point where increases in positive cases or more deaths might spur the county to pull back on opening up sectors of the county? Please be specific about the numeric range.
12. Local casino employees received a letter over the weekend informing them that they are being asked to return to work, as the casino intends to open in a week, potentially before phase 3. Do you believe that is irresponsible and possibly dangerous?

HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Check out our [COVID webpages](#) for latest information