

## NEWS ALERTS AND UPDATES – August 18, 2020

### NATIONAL:

- **Total cases 5,422,117 (+40,117)**
- **Total deaths: 169,870 (+520)**

### STATE:

- **Positive cases: 632,667 (+4,636)**
- **Deaths: 11,342 (+100)**

*Numbers may not represent true day-over-day change as reporting of test results can be delayed.*

**10,049,039 tests have been conducted.**

### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

#### **Public Health COVID Update: Flu Vaccine More Important Than Ever**

California Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Mark Ghaly spoke Tuesday about the upcoming flu season, how the symptoms of flu are similar to those of COVID-19, and why getting a flu vaccine this year is more important than ever. [Watch full video.](#)

### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

#### **Upcoming Webinar: 2020–21 Instructional Time and Attendance Accounting**

*Monday, August 24 at 11 a.m.*

The Principal Apportionment Policy Office will present a one-hour webinar to provide guidance on instructional time and attendance accounting changes in fiscal year 2020-21 pursuant to Senate Bill 98 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2020). Register in advance for this webinar [here](#).

#### **ICYMI: Guidance Posted for Expanded Learning Grant Funds During COVID-19**

CDE guidance has been posted to address questions regarding the use of Expanded Learning grant funds while a school campus is closed for in-person learning. [Read the FAQ.](#)

## LOCAL:

### **August 18, 2020 – Five New Cases Reported Today**

Five new cases were reported today, bringing to 325 the total number of county residents who have tested positive for the virus.

A total of 303 tests were reported since yesterday, which includes results from the Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory and all other labs reported into the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange or CalREDIE. Some initial HSU samples are included in this report.

Humboldt County Health Officer Dr. Teresa Frankovich said, “We’re doing this testing to identify any cases among new students arriving to their dorm. Early detection is important because even a small number coming into a congregate setting can initiate wider transmission, especially since young people tend to have few or no symptoms and go undetected. Since we have a large number of people arriving in a very short period of time, testing is challenging but is important to all of us in limiting spread.”

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

[Humboldt County Dashboard](#)

### **Daily COVID-19 case report**

- Total number of positive cases: 325 (+5)
- Total number of recovered cases: 263 (no chg)
- Total number of hospitalizations: 20 (no chg)
- Total number of deaths: 4 (no chg)

Daily Test Total: 303 | Total tests conducted: 19.256 | 7-Day Positivity Rate: 3.1%

### **Overall Alert Level: 3**

Follow local and state health orders and guidance.

- Level 1 New Normal - Cases are somewhat sporadic, and contact tracing can be used to control the virus. Take everyday enhanced precautions.
- Level 2 Moderate Risk - Moderate number of cases with majority of cases from a known source. Increase efforts to limit personal exposure.
- Level 3 High Risk - Many cases with conditions for community spread, with many undetected cases likely. Limit everyday activities to increase safety.
- Level 4 Very High Risk - Widespread outbreak that is growing with many undetected cases. Take strong measures to limit all contact.

**Public Health Laboratory Testing Information**

- Supply capacity: Approximately 9,800 tests
- Testing capacity: 100 samples per day
  - 24-72 hours

**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT:****Free COVID Testing in Arcata on Aug. 24**

Free testing will be available at the Arcata Community Center on Monday, Aug. 24. The site will provide the less-intrusive anterior nasal swab and will be offered to all ages. Call 707-268-2503 to schedule your appointment.

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

Check out our [COVID webpages](#) for latest information, as well as a new list of school statuses.