

# PLACER COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

JULY 3, 2020



## Placer County COVID-19 cases at a glance

The first case of COVID-19, the viral infection caused by SARS-CoV-2, was identified in Placer County on March 1, 2020. Since then, cases have been reported throughout the county.

New cases are investigated as they are reported. Our team of case investigators strive to interview those who have tested positive and their close contacts within 24 hours. These teams provide guidance and offer support to those who need to isolate and quarantine to help keep their families and communities safe.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Location of Residence as of 7/2/20			
Location	Confirmed Cases	Likely Recovered	New Cases in Last 7 Days
Lincoln	213	167	34
Roseville	188	169	60
Rocklin	92	65	21
Auburn	77	43	27
Kings Beach	36	25	8
Granite Bay	18	11	*
Truckee	12	6	7
Loomis	9	6	*
Meadow Vista	7	*	*
Newcastle	6	*	*
Alta	*	*	*
Applegate	*	*	*
Carmelian Bay	*	*	*
Colfax	*	*	*
Elverta	*	*	*
Foresthill	*	*	*
Olympic Valley	*	*	*
Penryn	*	*	*
Sheridan	*	*	*
Tahoe City	*	*	*
Homeless	*	*	*
<b>Total:</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>175</b>

\* The number of cases in locations with less than 6 cases is masked to protect patient privacy. As such, cases displayed will not add up to total.

### This week in COVID-19 (6/26 – 7/2):

- 78 (45%) cases are known to be part of 44 family groups. These family clusters average 3 cases and range in size from 2-12.
- 12 (7%) cases traveled out of the area, including out of state.
- 16 (9%) cases work in a food service or grocery setting
- 11 (6%) cases work in construction, gardening, landscaping, or maintenance
- 6 (3%) work in non-resident acute medical settings such as hospitals or medical clinics

### Placer County residents hospitalized (7/2):

- 11 (6 in intensive care)

Number of estimated active cases, calculated as total cases minus likely recovered cases (see link in location table for definition): 250

Confirmed Cases by Geographic Zone		
	Total Cases	Last 7 days
South Placer	598	125
Mid Placer	95	31
East Placer	58	16
Unknown	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>175</b>

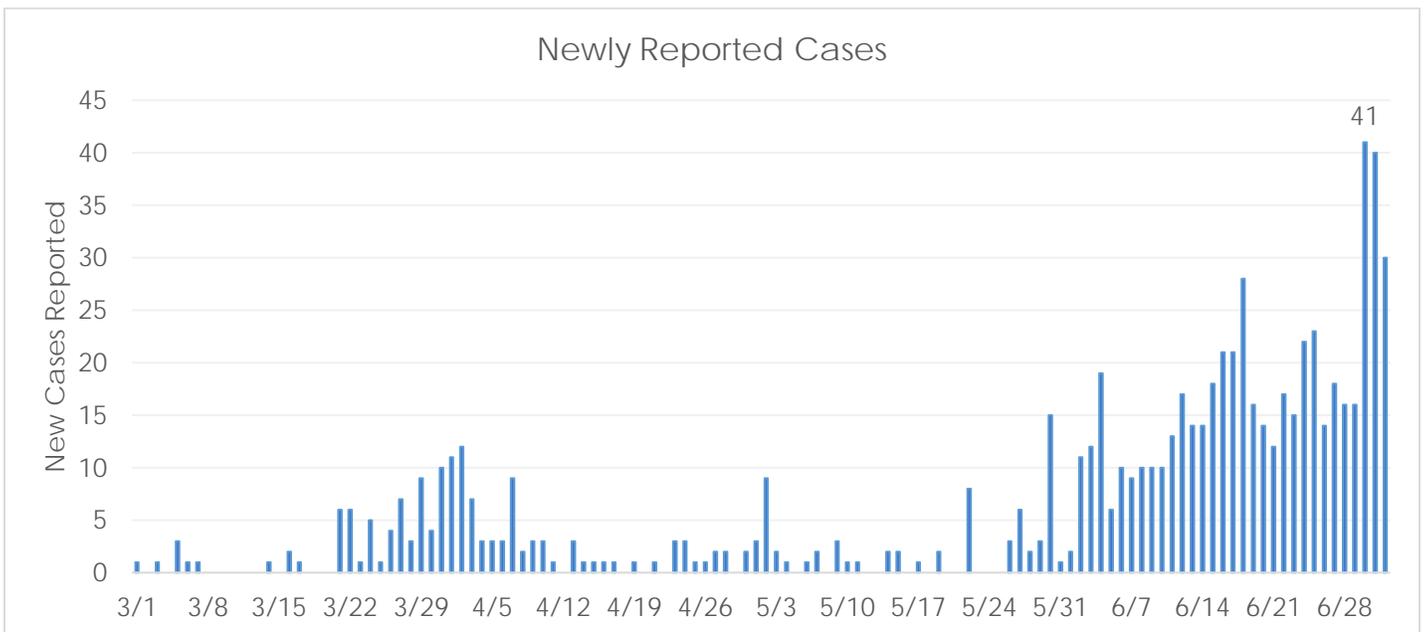
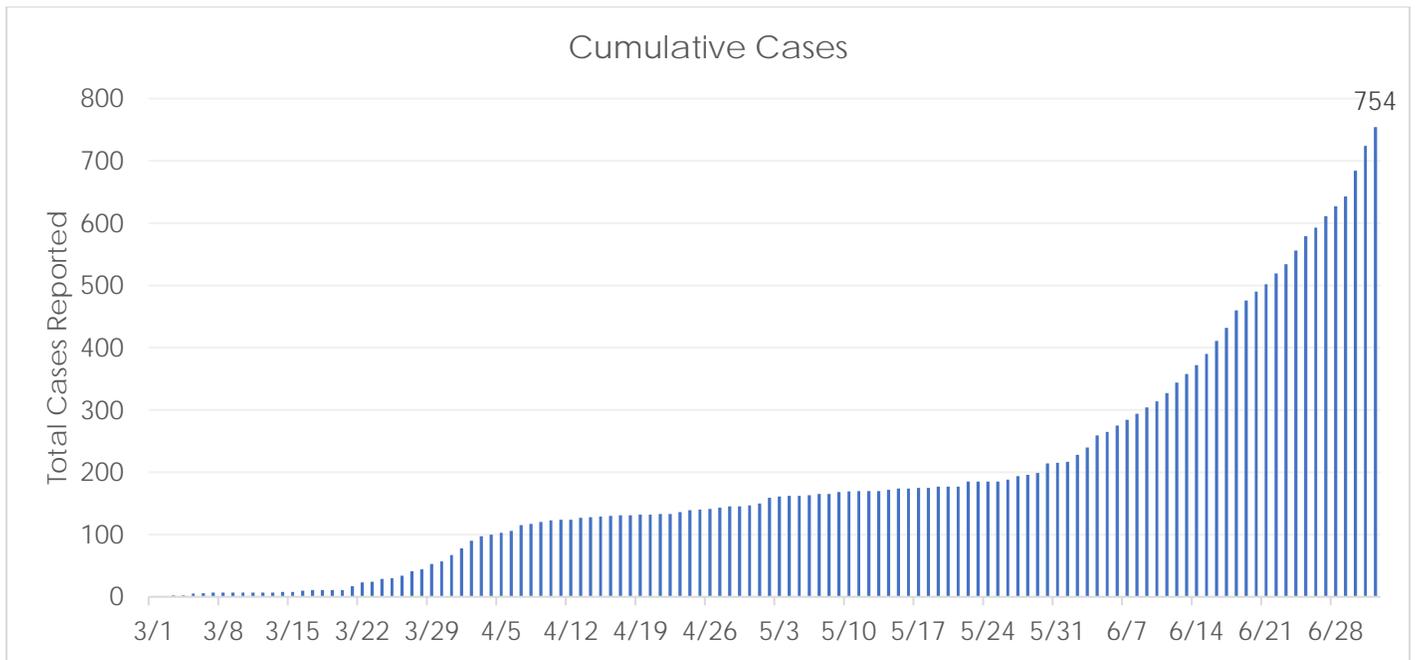
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## Epidemic Curves

There are now 754 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Placer County (data current to 7/2). An average of 25 new cases per day have been reported in the last 7 days.

Cases increased from 579 to 754 (+175) since last week's update, a rise of 30%. Compared to our update 2 weeks ago, cases have increased 64%. Case dates reflect when laboratory confirmed cases were reported by Placer County Public Health and not date of symptom onset. An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case.



## Descriptive Statistics

The tables below contain summary data for various Placer County COVID-19 case demographics.

A sizeable proportion of race and ethnicity data remains unknown, although systematic data collection has improved through the course of the pandemic. In addition, some cases decline to share this information. Therefore, data should be interpreted with caution. Similar to other areas of the state, the Latinx population is disproportionately affected.

Age Distribution and Hospitalization among Confirmed Cases					
	Total Cases	Age Distribution Total Cases	Cases Last 7 Days	Age Distribution Last 7 Days	Percent Ever Hospitalized
0-17 years	77	10%	18	10%	0%
18-49 years	429	57%	96	55%	5%
50-64 years	172	23%	48	27%	13%
65+ years	76	10%	13	7%	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10%</b>

Ethnicity and Race of Confirmed Cases				
	Cases in Last 7 days		Overall Cases	
	# Cases	% Cases	# Cases	% Cases
Latinx	59	34%	273	36%
White	61	35%	189	25%
Asian	10	6%	30	4%
African American/Black	0	0%	10	1%
Multi-Race	0	0%	5	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0%	3	0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	2	1%	2	0%
Other Race	5	3%	25	3%
<b>Unknown*</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Systematic data collection has improved through the course of the pandemic but some early demographic information is unknown. In addition, some cases decline to share this information. Therefore, data should be interpreted with caution.

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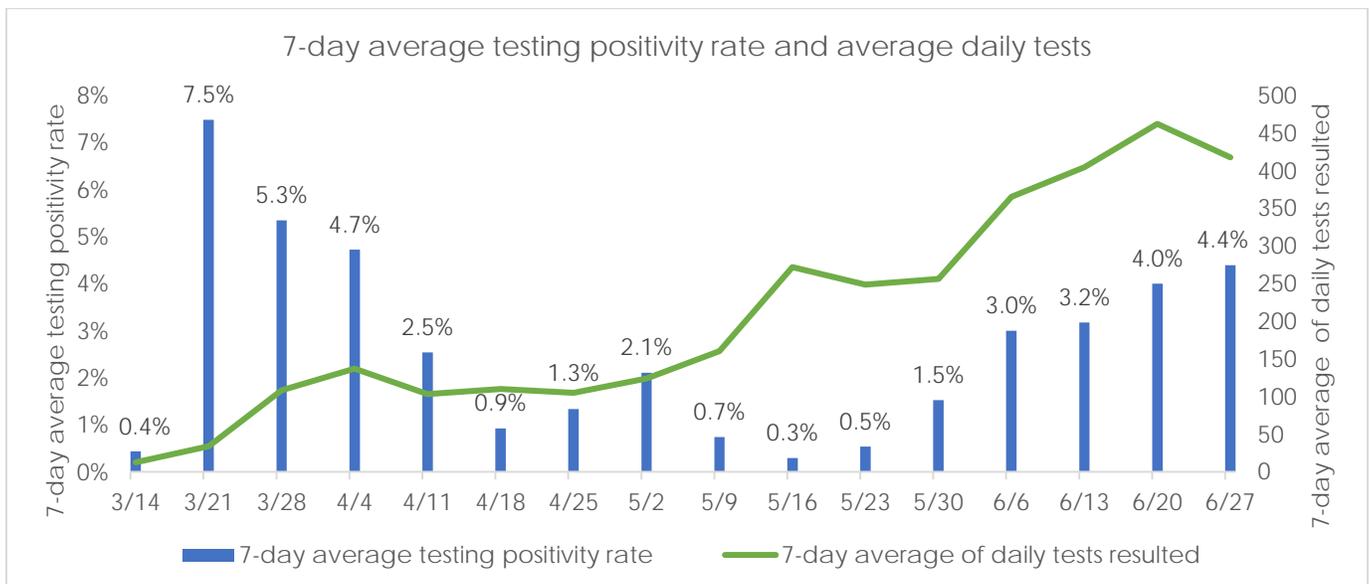
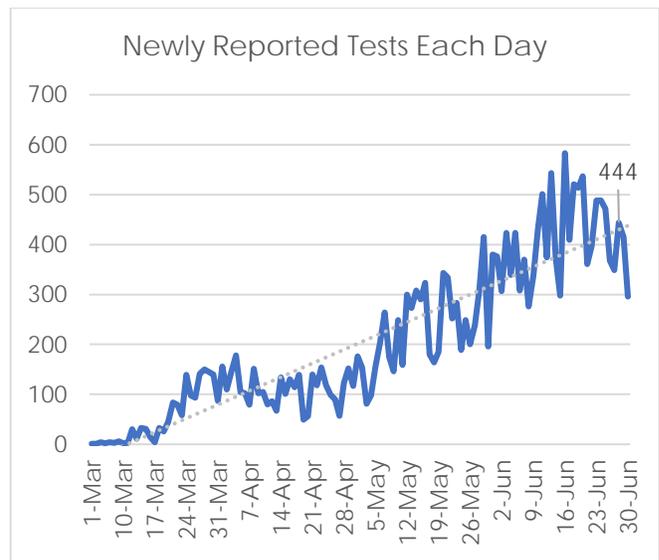
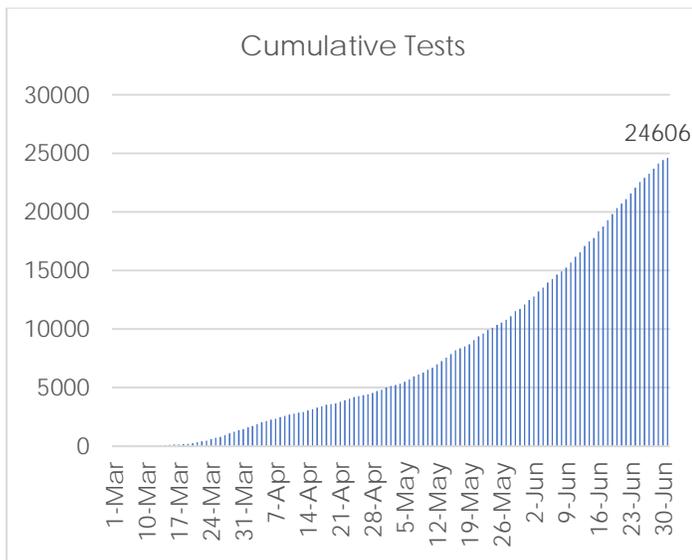
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## Testing

As of July 2, Placer County Public Health has received 24,606 initial test results to detect new COVID-19 infection. Overall, 3.0% of tests have been positive. The testing positivity rate has varied since the pandemic began. Currently, new cases are increasing while the total number of tests conducted remains steady. The overall 7-day average testing positivity rate remains low, at 4.4%, though it is likely to increase in coming days given that new cases are increasing while the number of new tests is remaining steady. The daily testing positivity rate has ranged from 4-10% in the past week. Reported tests only include PCR tests that detect viral RNA. They do not include serology (antibody) tests.

\* Testing positivity rate is the number of new positive tests in the last 7 days / total initial tests run in the last 7 days

\* The 7-day average testing positivity rate is variable for several days as new test results are reported. Public Health reports the rate for 5 days prior to the current day.



## FAQs of the week

*This section is intended to answer a few recently asked questions.*

### **What is contributing to higher case numbers this week?**

Through contact tracing, Placer County Public Health continues to see the following themes emerge regarding factors that may be contributing to spread of disease:

**#1: *Increased activity*** As various sectors have opened, people are moving more throughout the community, thus increasing their chances of exposure.

**#2: *Increased gatherings*** Community and extended family gatherings are associated with additional new cases. Heading into the Fourth of July weekend, with cases on the rise locally and with other counties in California starting to take steps backward in reopening, it is important not to gather with people who do not live in your home. See the section on Preventing Infection below for more information. Examples of possible exposures in the last two weeks include birthday parties (some with up to 50 attendees), gatherings for Father's Day, baby showers, weddings, BBQs and other get-togethers, and travel to other counties and states to attend gatherings elsewhere.

**#3: *Cases in vulnerable settings*** COVID-19 can spread readily among those who live in congregate settings. In the last two weeks, additional cases have been detected in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities.

**#4: *Increased testing*** Testing continues to increase which results in more cases being detected. However, the increasing daily testing positivity rate continues to show that cases are increasing faster than testing is increasing. Delays in commercial lab test processing have contributed to delays in notifications of cases and contacts.

### **What else can Public Health share about the 2 deaths last week, or other deaths?**

Placer County Public Health has shared that both decedents were residents of South Placer with underlying health conditions, one in the 50-64 age range and the other above 65.

To protect the confidentiality of individuals, Placer County Public Health does not generally release further identifying details around cases or decedents.

Public Health understands the public's desire to have a better understanding of risk factors. While Public Health cannot share specific health conditions of decedents, residents are encouraged to look at the CDC's list of conditions that place individuals at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes

[Read more conditions that might pose an increased risk here.](#)

## **Will Placer County be put on the State's "watchlist," which is triggering some closures in other counties?**

Placer County Public Health is keeping a close eye on the State's metric of 14-day case rate per 100,000 residents. As of July 2, it falls below the 100 cases per 100,000 resident threshold, yet it has increased by 46% compared to two weeks ago. The current 14-day case rate is 73.8 cases per 100,000 residents. To reach a case rate of 100 per 100,000 residents, Placer County would need to add 400 cases in 14 days, an average of 28 cases per day. In the last 7 days we have averaged 25 cases per day, compared to an average of 17 cases in the 7 days prior to that.

### **A note about data collection methods and upcoming changes to reporting:**

Please note that while case statistics reflect the most current data at the time of reporting, all figures presented in the weekly report and on the case dashboard are subject to change as new information is gathered.

With the recent increase in the volume of cases being reported to Public Health, we will soon be updating our case reporting methods. Some of the anticipated changes are listed below:

Rather than reporting the number of confirmed cases by day based on the day a case is reported to Public Health, we will be reporting the number of confirmed cases by the date of specimen collection. Due to delays in cases being reported to Public Health, case numbers for any given day (especially for the most recent five days) are likely to increase as more cases are received. By switching to reporting by the date of specimen collection, our daily chart of cases (the 'epidemic curve') will shift backward by a few days and will more closely reflect the actual spread of COVID-19 in the community. Due to this change, statistics reflected on the dashboard will be slightly different than our historically reported daily case numbers. It also means that numbers may change slightly from one day to the next. This reporting will be similar to that of many California counties.

Currently, our county regions (South Placer, Mid Placer, and East Placer) share some zip codes. For example, the western half of Newcastle (95658) is coded as South Placer, and the eastern half of Newcastle is coded as Mid Placer. Regional designation for cases will soon change to be entirely zip-code based. This means that within zip codes that currently cross multiple regions, some cases will change to be associated with a different region than they were originally, resulting in slight changes to overall case numbers currently reported for the three regions. This will allow for greater efficiency and simplicity of reporting regional case information.

While we do not have an exact date for when these changes will take effect, we are working hard to implement these changes as soon as possible.

## Monitoring/Thresholds

Placer Attestation Triggers		
Placer Triggers	Threshold	Current Value
Doubling time of cases	<5 days for 5 straight days	18.4 days
Hospital census	>135% licensed capacity	87.2%
Health care worker infections	Increasing for 5 days	7 (increasing, but not for 5 days)
PPE for health care workers	<7-day supply	>7 day supply
% of cases with contacts elicited	<80% of cases	>80%
% symptomatic contacts tested within 48 hours of symptoms	<90%	>90%

State Monitoring Indicators		
State Indicators	Threshold	Current Value
Case rate per 100K (14-day)	>25 (or >100 alone)	<b>73.8</b>
Testing positivity rate (7-day)	>8%	4.4%
Change in 3-day hospitalization average	>10% (only if n>20)	n<20
% ICU beds available	<20%	23.7%
% Ventilators available	<25%	88.0%

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## Preventing Infection

Personal precautions go a long way to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Anyone who is feeling ill should stay home.
- Vulnerable (high risk) individuals are encouraged to stay at home. This includes those over age 65 or with serious medical conditions.
- Wear a face covering in public. [Read some Face Covering FAQs here.](#)
- When in public, maximize physical distance from others (at least six feet).
- Maintain good hygiene practices by washing hands, using hand sanitizer, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid gathering with people you don't live with