

PLACER COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

JULY 17, 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 as soon as possible. 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 7/16/20			
Location	Confirmed Cases	Likely Recovered	New Cases in Last 7 Days
Roseville	440	319	88
Lincoln	272	241	27
Rocklin	186	124	46
Auburn	124	94	18
Kings Beach	43	40	*
Granite Bay	29	20	10
Loomis	20	9	7
Truckee	17	17	*
Newcastle	13	8	*
Meadow Vista	10	9	*
Foresthill	7	6	*
Sheridan	7	7	*
Colfax	6	*	*
Tahoe City	6	*	*
Alta	*	*	*
Applegate	*	*	*
Carnelian Bay	*	*	*
Elverta	*	*	*
Olympic Valley	*	*	*
Penryn	*	*	*
Weimar	*	*	*
Homeless	*	*	*
Total:	1203	923	210

* 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 (7/10 – 7/16):

Cases in congregate living settings continue to increase:

- Currently 6 skilled nursing facilities with 1-9 cases (staff or residents) each:
 - 11 new cases this week
- 3 additional long-term care facilities with 1-8 new cases each
- [Click here](#) for the latest information about correctional facility cases

When illness is identified in a vulnerable setting, public health recommends testing of all residents and staff.

Transmission within families:

- 47 (22%) cases are known to be part of 32 family groups. These family clusters average 3 cases and range in size from 2-5.

Placer County residents hospitalized (7/16):

- 27 (8 in intensive care)

Estimated active cases, calculated as total cases minus deaths and likely recovered cases (see link in location table for definition): 269

Confirmed Cases by Geographic Zone		
	Total Cases	Last 7 days
South Placer	966	176
Mid Placer	160	27
East Placer	77	7
Total	1203	210

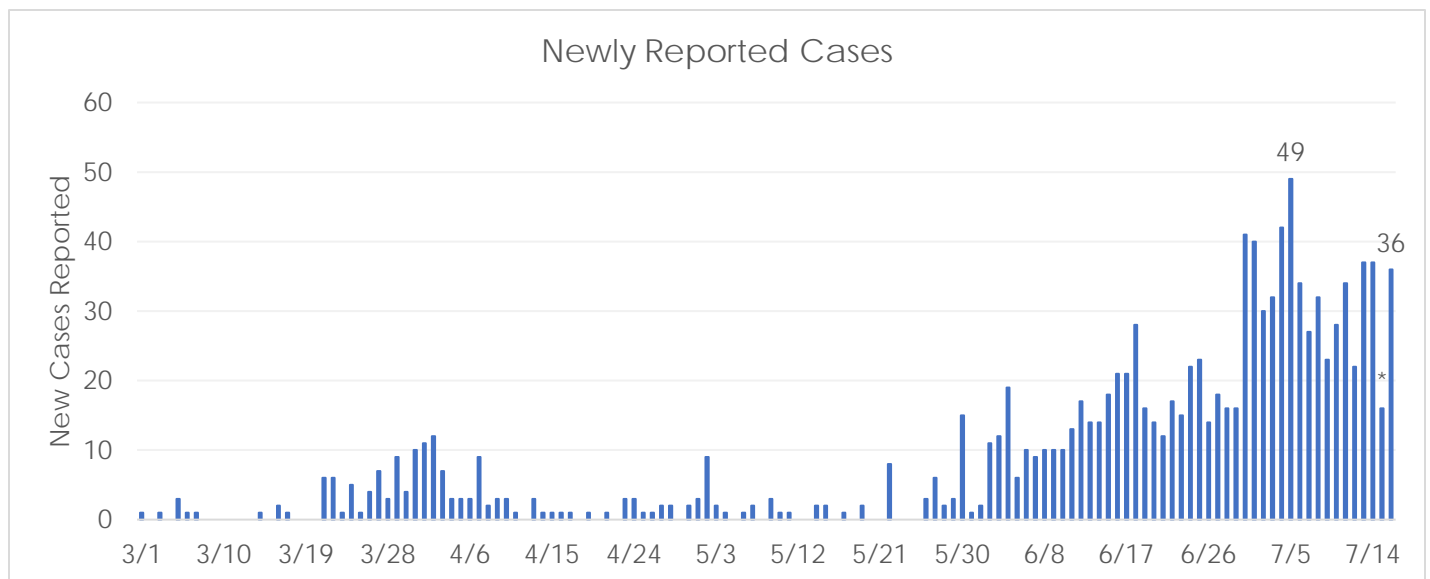
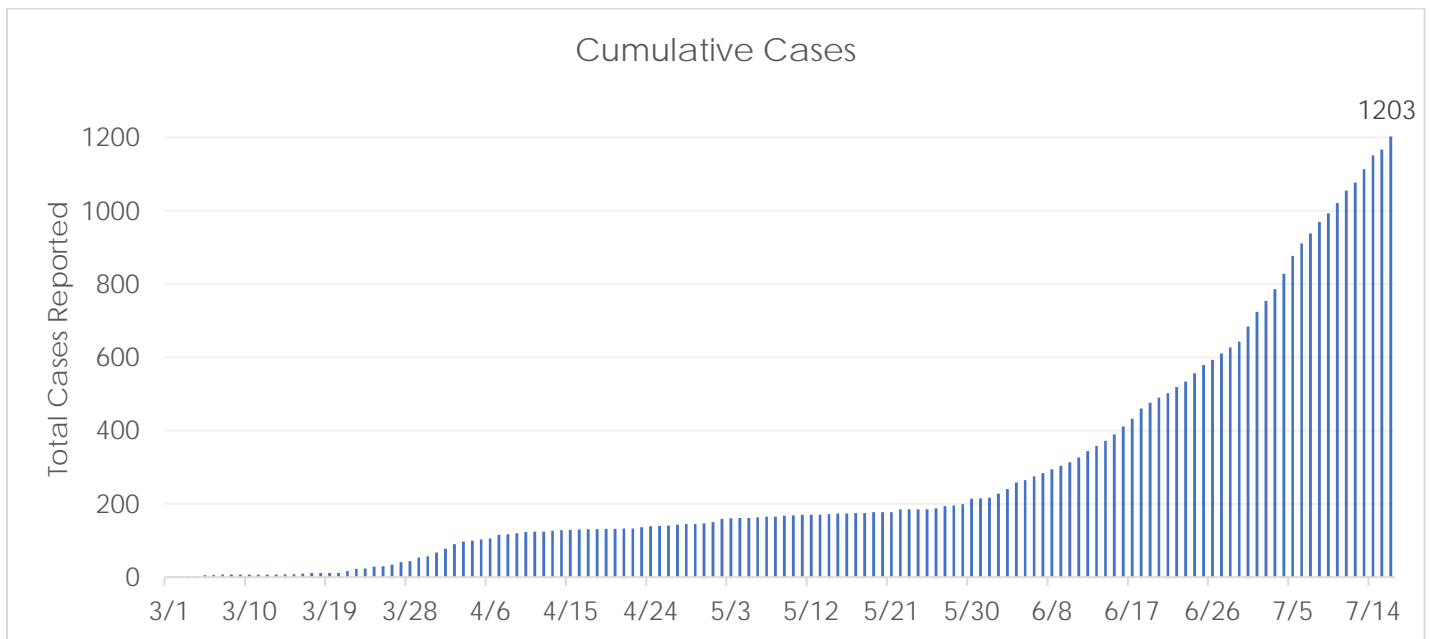
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Epidemic Curves

There are now 1,203 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Placer County (data current to 7/16). An average of 30 new cases per day have been reported in the last 7 days.

Cases increased from 993 to 1203 (+210) since last week's update, a rise of 21%. Compared to the update 2 weeks ago, cases have increased 60%. An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case. Case dates reflect when laboratory-confirmed cases were reported to Placer County Public Health. Next week, Public Health will begin reporting cases by date of specimen collection, which better approximates the spread of infection in the community over time. Look for a preview later in this update.



* On 7/15, a problem with the state disease reporting system resulted in fewer reported cases than usual. Testing appointment and laboratory delays may also contribute to lower reported numbers than the true number of new cases.

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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. Placer County lacks race/ethnicity data for 29% of cases compared to 36% missing this data statewide. Race/ethnicity information is collected during the case interview, so data quality improves as closed cases are entered into the database. In addition, some cases decline to share this information.

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	103	9%	7	3%	0%
18-49 years	728	61%	141	67%	4%
50-64 years	252	21%	46	22%	13%
65+ years	120	10%	16	8%	35%
Total	1203	100%	210	100%	9%

Ethnicity and Race of Confirmed Cases		
	# Cases	% Cases
Latinx	372	31%
White	326	27%
Asian	56	5%
African American/Black	16	1%
Multi-Race	7	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	4	0%
Other Race	75	6%
Unknown*	344	29%
Total Cases	1203	100%

Cases Ever Hospitalized				
	Overall Cases		Cases in Past Month (since 6/16)	
	# Cases	% Cases	# Cases	% Cases
White	43	41%	27	42%
Latinx	27	25%	17	35%
Asian	5	5%	2	5%
African American/ Black	1	0%	1	0%
Other Race	3	3%	0	0%
Unknown*	27	25%	9	19%
Total Cases	106	100%	56	100%

*Systematic data collection has improved through the course of the pandemic but some demographic information is unknown. In addition, some cases decline to share this information. Therefore, data should be interpreted with caution. Data is subject to change as cases are transferred to other counties or new information is obtained

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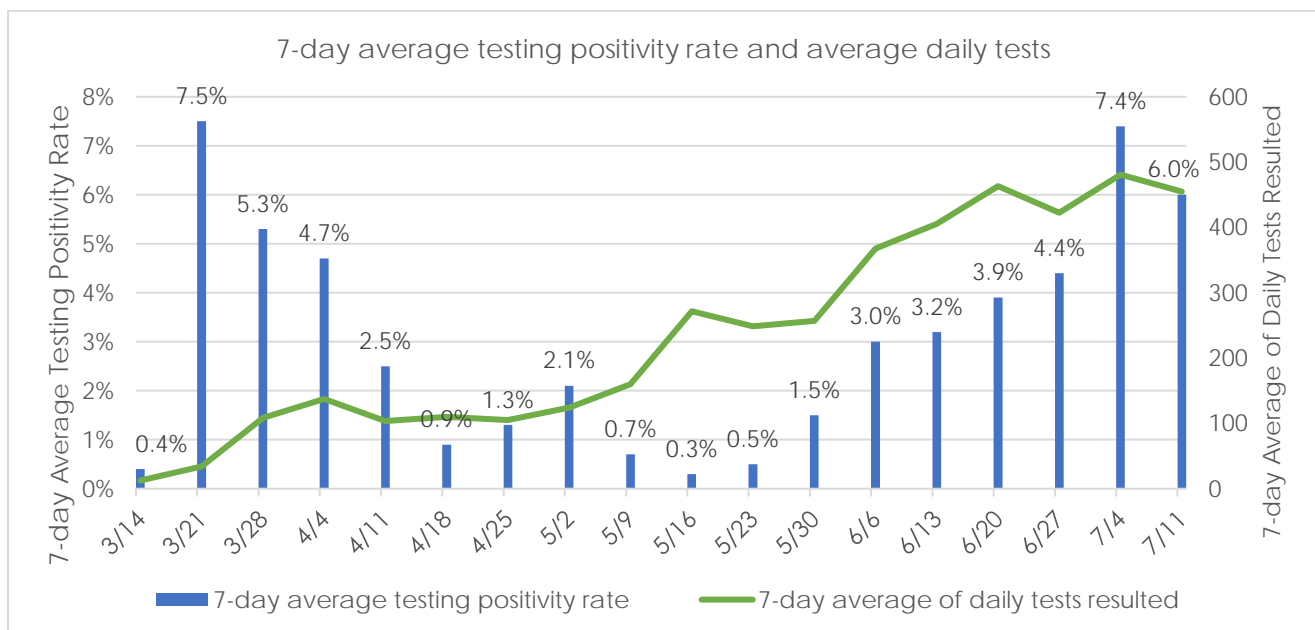
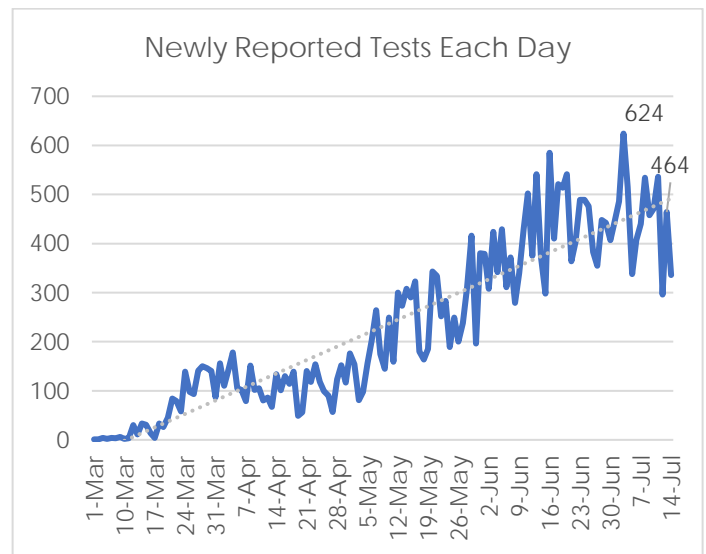
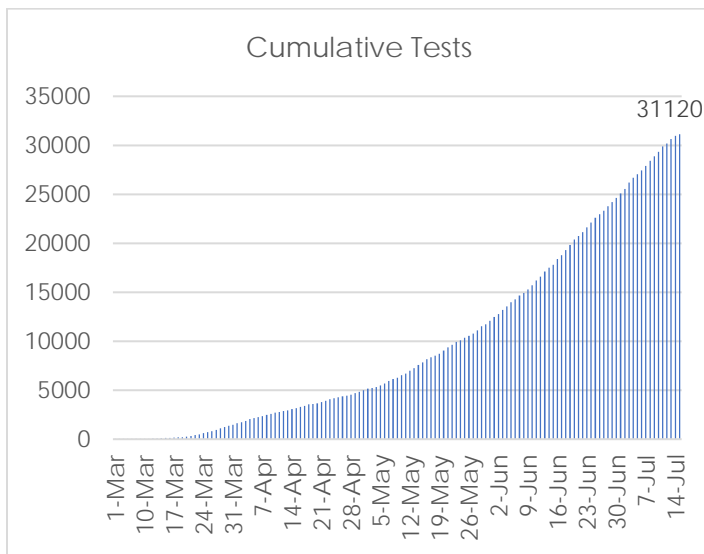
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Testing

As of July 16, Placer County Public Health has received 31,120 initial test results to detect new COVID-19 infection. Overall, 3.7% of tests have been positive. The overall 7-day average testing positivity rate is currently at 6.0%. This figure does not reflect current widespread delays in testing and will be revised as new results are received. The daily testing positivity rate has ranged from 6-7% in the past week. Reported tests only include PCR tests that detect viral RNA. They do not include serology (antibody) tests. An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case.

* Testing positivity rate is the number of new positive tests in the last 7 days / total initial tests reported 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 the 7-day period ending 5 days prior to the current day.



FAQs of the Week

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

How do false negatives and false positives affect reporting of case numbers?

PCR tests have a small chance of both false positives and false negatives. Currently, the likelihood of false negatives is higher than the likelihood of false positives.

Have cases been traced to particular businesses?

In many cases of community transmission, it is difficult to determine with precision where someone contracted COVID-19. If someone is a close contact of a previously confirmed case, this is considered the likely source of transmission. Otherwise, because the onset of illness can occur from 2-14 days after exposure, it is challenging to pinpoint the exact source of transmission due to multiple possibilities for exposure.

A handful of workplaces have been identified as the source of case clusters in Placer County, particularly grocery, restaurant and fast food settings as well as construction and landscaping.

What else might be contributing to or is associated with transmission?

Social and other gatherings of extended family and friends continue to contribute to the spread of COVID-19. In the last week, there has also been an increase in cases associated with skilled nursing facilities in the county, with 11 new cases this week. Many of these cases were detected through Public Health's skilled nursing facility surveillance program. Public Health has also received questions around protests and their potential contribution to case rates. In Placer County, there have been three cases whose activity history has included protest attendance (two in a law enforcement capacity).

Have hospitals begun reporting residency and distinguishing between those admitted with COVID-19 versus those admitted due to COVID-19?

Placer County's three hospitals have all begun reporting this data and it is now reflected in Public Health's [daily dashboard](#). This data corresponds only to cases in the three hospitals within Placer County. This data does not reflect the total number of Placer residents hospitalized, since some Placer residents may be hospitalized in neighboring counties. This weekly update is the best reference point for the total number of Placer residents hospitalized in and outside of Placer County, but may still lag due to reporting delays.

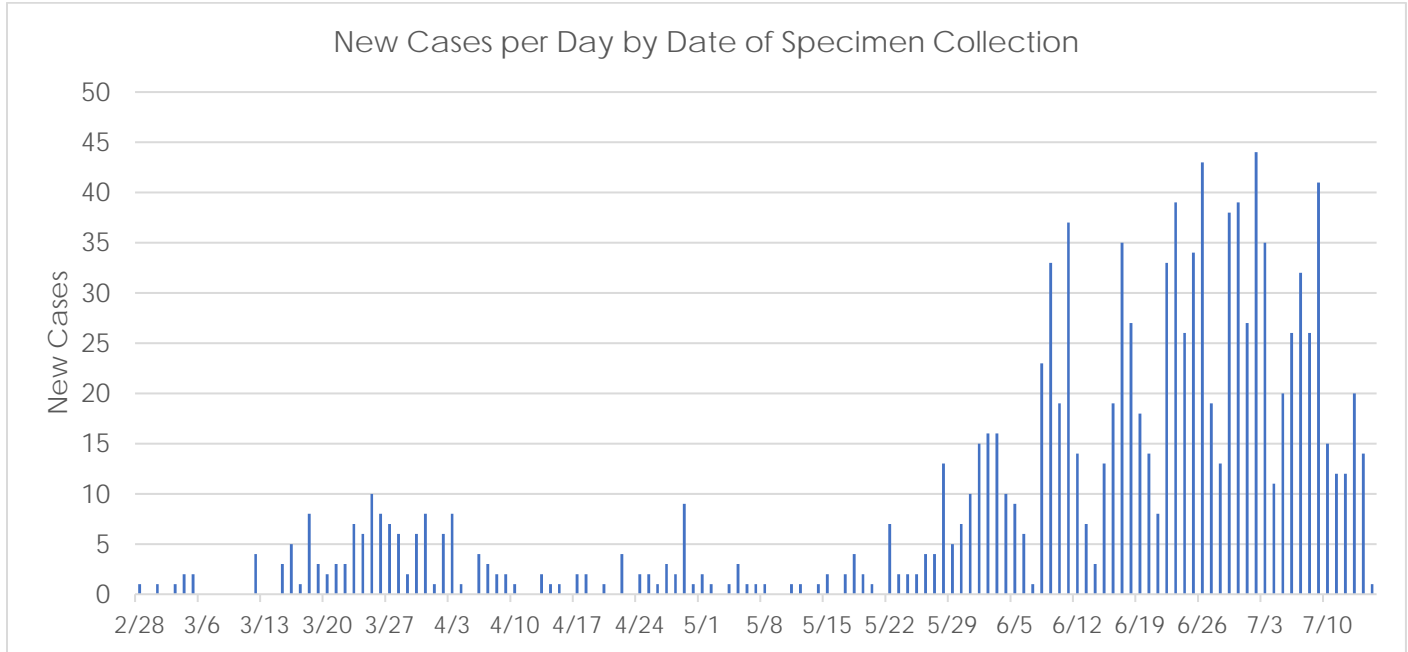
How will case reporting be changing?

As discussed in a prior update, Public Health will soon shift to reporting the number of cases by their date of specimen collection rather than the date that the case is reported to Public Health. Due to the lag between specimen collection and test result, as well as the lag in cases being reported to Public Health, case counts for any given day, particularly within the most recent several days, are likely to increase. As illustrated in the figure below, the graph of cases (the 'epidemic curve') will shift backward by a few days. This change will more accurately reflect the burden of disease in our community at any given time because it more closely approximates disease onset. It also means that

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our historic case counts per day will change slightly. This may in turn change the 14-day case rate. See below for an example of how this is likely to shift counts per day:



Few cases will have their specimen collected on a weekend because many specimen collection sites are closed on weekends. This accounts for the large weekly fluctuations seen above.

Monitoring/Thresholds

Placer Attestation Triggers		
Placer Triggers	Threshold	Current Value
Doubling time of cases	<5 days for 5 straight days	25.3 days
Hospital census	>135% licensed capacity	93.8%
Health care worker infections	Increasing for 5 days	Increasing for 5 days (n=7)
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%

AND {

State Monitoring Indicators		
State Indicators	Threshold	Current Value
Case rate per 100K (14-day)	>25 (or >100 alone)	103.9
Testing positivity rate (7-day)	>8%	6.0%
Change in 3-day hospitalization average	>10% (only if n>20)	24.8% (n=50)
% ICU beds available	<20%	8.6%
% Ventilators available	<25%	88.6%

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.