

# PLACER COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

JULY 24, 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 7/23/20			
Location	Confirmed Cases	Likely Recovered	New Cases in Last 7 Days
Roseville	588	403	149
Lincoln	318	262	46
Rocklin	255	162	70
Auburn	147	113	23
Kings Beach	45	42	*
Granite Bay	43	23	13
Loomis	27	21	7
Newcastle	18	12	*
Truckee	17	17	*
Meadow Vista	12	10	*
Tahoe City	10	*	*
Foresthill	9	6	*
Colfax	8	6	*
Sheridan	7	7	*
Olympic Valley	6	*	*
Alta	*	*	*
Applegate	*	*	*
Carnelian Bay	*	*	*
Elverta	*	*	*
Penryn	*	*	*
Weimar	*	*	*
Homeless	*	*	*
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>328</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 (7/17 – 7/23):

Cases in congregate living settings continue to increase:

- Currently 7 skilled nursing facilities with 1-16 cases (staff or residents) each:
  - 13 new cases this week, 1 death
- 3 additional long-term care facilities with 1-6 cases each:
  - 5 new cases this week, 1 death
- [Click here](#) for the latest information about correctional facility cases

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

Transmission within families:

- 76 (23%) cases are known to be part of 49 family groups. These family clusters average 3 cases and range in size from 2-12.

Placer County residents hospitalized (7/23):

- 24 (5 in intensive care)

Estimated active cases, calculated as total cases minus deaths and likely recovered cases (see link in location table for definition): 408

Confirmed Cases by Geographic Zone		
	Total Cases	Last 7 days
South Placer	1251	286
Mid Placer	195	35
East Placer	85	7
Total	1531	328

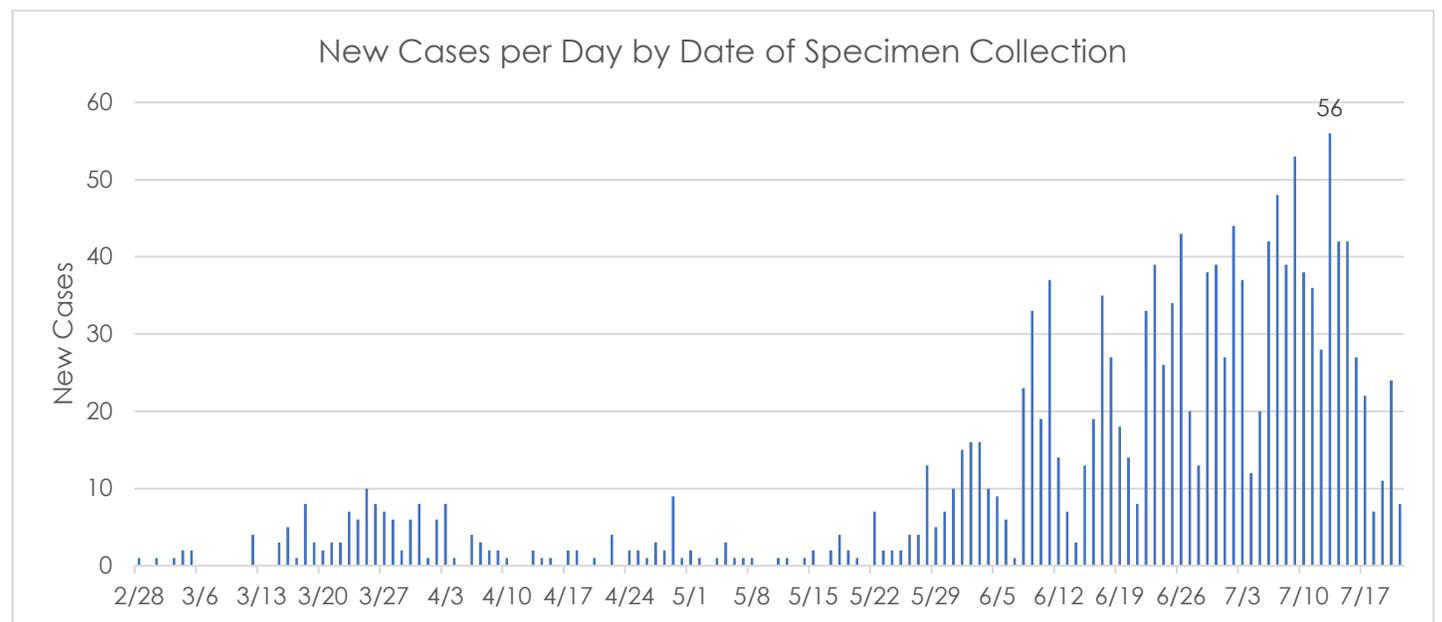
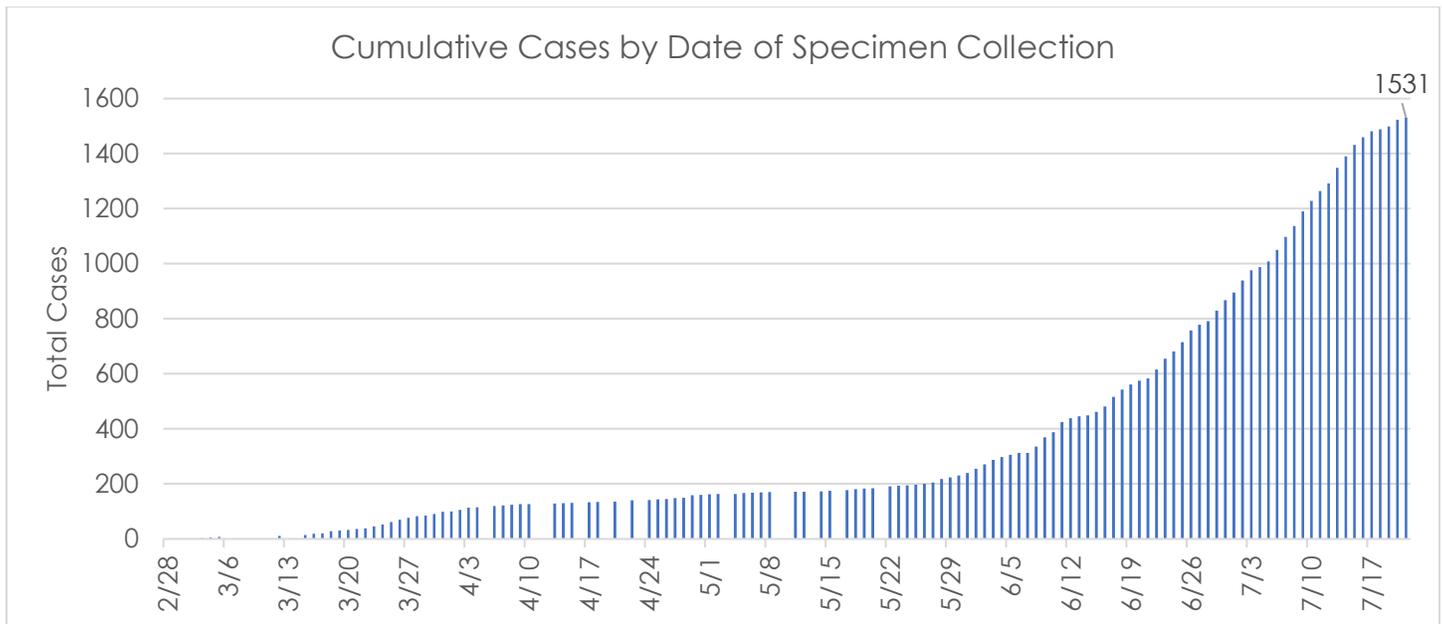
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## Epidemic Curves

There are now 1,531 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Placer County (data current to 7/23).

Cases increased from 1,203 to 1,531 (+328) since last week's update, a rise of 27%. Compared to the update 2 weeks ago, cases have increased 54%. An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case. Public Health now reports cases by date of specimen (test) collection. This better approximates the burden of infection in the community compared to the previous method of reporting by date of case receipt.



The dips in specimen collection dates fall on the weekends when many testing sites are closed. Additionally, as new results are received by Public Health, collection dates will be updated and the case counts for recent dates will rise.

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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 26% 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	123	8%	21	6%	0%
18-49 years	936	61%	208	63%	3%
50-64 years	309	20%	58	18%	11%
65+ years	163	11%	41	13%	26%
Total	1531	100%	328	100%	8%

Ethnicity and Race of Confirmed Cases		
	# Cases	% Cases
Latinx	414	27%
White	545	36%
Asian	72	5%
African American/Black	23	2%
Multi-Race	8	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	6	0%
Other Race	66	4%
<b>Unknown*</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>26%</b>
Total Cases	1531	100%

Cases Ever Hospitalized				
	Overall Cases		Cases in Past Month (since 6/23)	
	# Cases	% Cases	# Cases	% Cases
White	52	43%	34	59%
Latinx	27	23%	11	19%
Asian	6	5%	3	5%
African American/ Black	1	0%	1	2%
Other Race	5	4%	2	3%
<b>Unknown*</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12%</b>
Total Cases	120	100%	58	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.

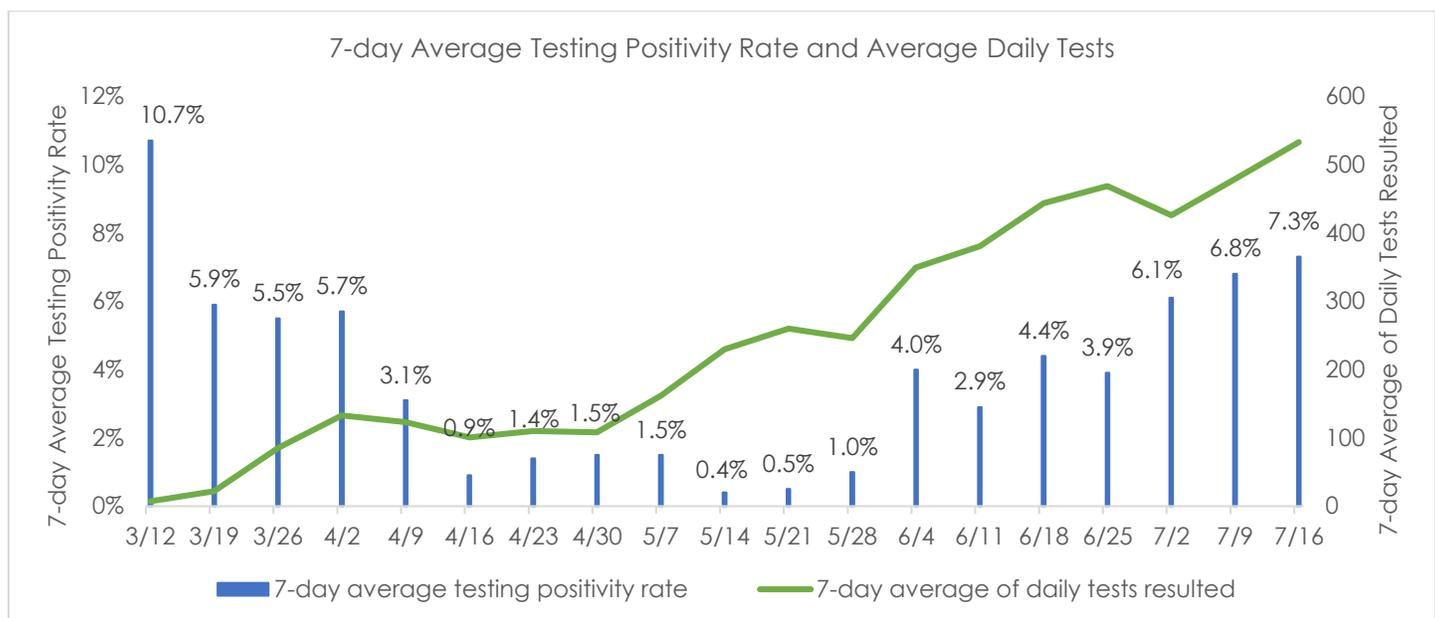
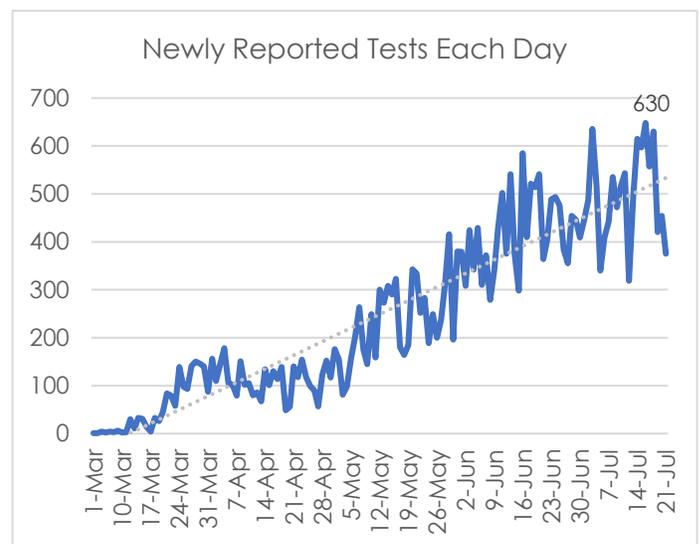
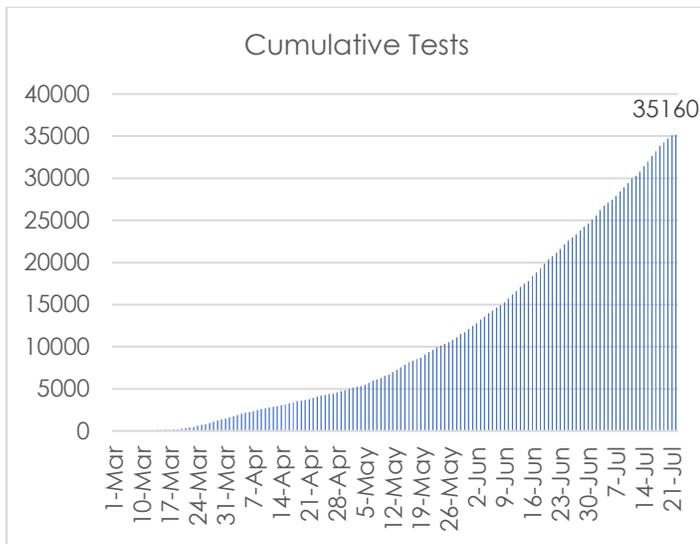
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## Testing

As of July 23, Placer County Public Health has received 35,160 initial test results to detect new COVID-19 infection. Since February, 4.3% of tests have been positive, an increase of 16% from our last update. The 7-day average testing positivity rate\* is currently at 7.3%. 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 6-10% 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 7 days prior to the current day. The figures for daily newly reported tests will increase as new test results are received.



## FAQs of the week

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

### **What's new about the dashboard?**

Our dashboard has been refreshed. Along with the new look, some changes to data reporting are also reflected. A few key changes are noted below. The 'Data Notes' tab contains definitions and information for the data presented. Answers to many questions about the data can be found there. The dashboard also has a new home: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/coronavirus/cases>.

### **What's changed about case counts by day?**

Rather than reporting the number of confirmed cases by day based on the day a case is reported to Public Health, we are now 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 5-7 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') has shifted 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 new reporting method is similar to that of many California counties.

### **How does Placer County's data differ from the State's?**

State data, including on the [Monitoring List](#), is reported with varying lag times. Additionally, some indicators are reported slightly differently. For example, the State calculates the 14-day case rate per 100,000 by episode date, which is the earliest of several dates collected (onset date, diagnosis date, specimen collection date, date received, or date of death), with a 3-day lag. Placer County Public Health now calculates this based on the date of specimen (test) collection with a 3-day lag to account for reporting delays. For example, a case rate calculated on July 23<sup>rd</sup> would correspond with cases who had specimens collected from July 7<sup>th</sup> - July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Have the numbers for Placer County's three regions changed?**

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

Regional information on cases can be found on the 'Cases by Zip Code' tab. Toggle between the 'Zip Code' and 'Region' options on the map to see cases by zip code versus cases for each region (South, Mid, and East Placer).

## **Is Placer County still on the State's COVID-19 Monitoring List?**

Yes. Although earlier this week our metric for hospitalizations fell below the State threshold for two days, Placer's rate of new COVID-19 cases now exceeds the State threshold and was flagged on the list July 23. Placer County would need to see a rolling 14-day average of fewer than 28 new cases of COVID-19 per day to fall below the [Monitoring List](#) case rate threshold.

The California Department of Public Health has also confirmed that once a county is placed on the Monitoring List, indoor business operations will continue to be restricted until the order is amended or rescinded by the State health officer – not just until that county is removed from the Monitoring List. State guidance indicates that schools in Monitoring List counties may resume in-person instruction once county metrics fall below Monitoring List thresholds for 3 consecutive days and remain below thresholds for 14 additional consecutive days (with a possible exception for elementary schools if granted a waiver by the local health officer).

## **Has Placer County's recommendation for testing changed?**

With testing capacity strained statewide, including in Placer County, Public Health is recommending for now that residents should only seek testing if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19. The temporary change is in line with [new State guidance](#) that prioritizes limited testing for those who are ill, close contacts of confirmed cases, or part of an outbreak, followed by people who live or work in high-risk settings. Residents who aren't in Tier One or Tier Two of the State guidance are encouraged not to seek testing at this time.

Public Health also recommends that a person with COVID-19 does not need to be retested after their initial positive test in order to return to work. Instead, following [guidelines from the CDC](#), someone with COVID-19 can return to work using criteria based on time and symptoms. This will help keep testing available for those who need it most.

## Monitoring/Thresholds

Placer Attestation Triggers		
Placer Triggers	Threshold	Current Value
Doubling time of cases	<5 days for 5 straight days	20.1 days
Hospital census	>135% licensed capacity	88.6%
Health care worker infections	Increasing for 5 days	<b>Increasing for 5 days (n=8)</b>
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%	<b>&lt;90%</b>

AND {

State Monitoring Indicators		
State Indicators	Threshold	Current Value
Case rate per 100K (14-day)	>25 (or >100 alone)	<b>118.7</b>
Testing positivity rate (7-day)	>8%	7.3%
Change in 3-day hospitalization average	>10% (only if n>20)	2.6% (n=53)
% ICU beds available	<20%	<b>12.1%</b>
% Ventilators available	<25%	86.2%

## 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.