

**Important: California Department of Public Health is experiencing a statewide problem with technology that is affecting Public Health's data. Read our FAQs before proceeding.**

## FAQs of the Week

### How are statewide reporting issues affecting Placer's local data?

The California Department of Public Health has announced recent technology challenges that are resulting in underreporting of COVID-19 cases. This is also likely leading to underreporting of cases for Placer County. The problem stems from the electronic laboratory reporting system which reports into the state's disease registry system (CalREDIE), which in turn reports cases to local health departments. Fortunately, reporting of results to patients and health care providers is not affected by this issue. Laboratories continue to report test results directly to providers and hospitals, and hospitalization and death rates are not impacted as they are reported directly to the state and local health department through separate systems.

The state has instructed all laboratories in California to manually report all positive cases to local public health departments, which should improve data quality. Placer County has also requested local health systems to directly report cases to Public Health to capture additional cases. The state has identified the causes of the problem and data are expected to normalize sometime next week. Watch CHHS Secretary Mark Ghaly's [Friday press conference](#) for more information.

This statewide issue temporarily impacts many of the statistics on Placer County Public Health's [daily dashboard](#):

*Total cases and cases by zip code or region* are likely an undercount of true incident cases. *Negative results* are also likely undercounted.

*New cases* may have been an undercount during the past week, and larger numbers of new cases may be seen in coming days as data reporting catches up.

*Percent case increases and 14-day case rate per 100,000 residents* are likely artificially low due to this reporting issue.

*Case charts by specimen collection date* (both for new and cumulative cases) will lag more than usual on the county's dashboard as delayed reports come in. Normally, on these charts, counts for any given day – but particularly the most recent 5-7 days – are likely to increase as new results are received. The statewide reporting issues mean that a larger number of cases may be added to specimen collection dates even farther back than 7 days as the issue is resolved.

*Testing positivity rate* is currently artificially high. This is because Placer County is receiving a trickle of results through CalREDIE, both positive and negative, but additional positive results have been provided manually by health care providers resulting in a higher ratio of positives.

Hospital census and death data are not impacted by this statewide issue.

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## Has the issue been fixed? Will the data be accurate once the issue is resolved?

Watch CHHS Secretary Mark Ghaly's [Friday press conference](#) for more information on how the State is addressing this issue. Placer County Public Health will remove the disclaimer from our daily dashboard once we are confident that the statewide issue has been fully resolved and reporting has caught up. The State has indicated this may take several days.

When the issue with the electronic laboratory reporting system is resolved, numbers will update on the data dashboard, both current and historic. Most metrics are based on specimen collection date and not based on the day results are received by the state or county.

## How else will this impact local spread?

This statewide issue impairs Public Health's ability to provide timely guidance to confirmed cases and their contacts, because it further delays how long it takes until we are notified of new cases.

If you have received a positive COVID-19 test result recently but not yet received a call from Public Health, it may be due to this statewide issue. You should remain in isolation and can use this [worksheet](#) to begin informing your close contacts.

[Guidance for Confirmed Cases \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)      [Guidance for Contacts \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)

## What will this mean for the Monitoring List? How do we know what is happening?

The State has shared that "the County Data Monitoring process will be on hold until this issue is fixed. What that means is no counties will be added or taken off during this time."

The State's [County Data Table](#), which corresponds to the Monitoring List, has not been updated since Aug. 1. The State will update its Table once the data issued is resolved.

The Monitoring List includes metrics on 14-day case rate, hospitalizations, and hospital capacity. Metrics on case rate are not accurate right now, but hospitalization and hospital capacity data are unaffected by the statewide problem. Hospitalization data are lagging indicators, but so far, there has not been a marked increase or decrease in hospitalizations that might indicate a change in disease transmission level.

## How does the recent number of deaths compare to earlier in the pandemic? What else is known?

This chart shows COVID-19 deaths by month thus far:

COVID Deaths by Month	Number of Deaths
March	2
April	6
May	1
June	2
July	6
August (6 days)	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

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All 20 of the deceased had an underlying health condition. Three were between the ages of 50-60, 1 between 61-70, 8 between 71-80, 7 between 81-90, and 1 over 90.

40% of the 20 deaths have been residents of a long-term care facility (i.e., a skilled nursing or assisted living facility).

Completed death certificates for the 20 COVID-19 fatalities in Placer County all have COVID-19 listed as a cause or contributing factor to death. If a person dies and has COVID-19, Placer County will count the death as COVID-related if the death certificate lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death. This is consistent with the case definition set forth by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and adopted by CDPH.

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## 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 8/6/20			
Likely an underestimate of true incident cases due to statewide data problem			
Location	Confirmed Cases	Likely Recovered	New Cases in Last 7 Days
Roseville	814	685	107
Lincoln	388	343	25
Rocklin	361	301	43
Auburn	181	148	10
Granite Bay	59	54	7
Kings Beach	51	47	*
Loomis	42	36	6
Newcastle	26	24	*
Truckee	19	18	*
Meadow Vista	18	13	*
Tahoe City	11	10	*
Foresthill	11	10	*
Colfax	10	9	*
Sheridan	10	9	*
Olympic Valley	7	7	*
Carnelian Bay	6	*	*
Elverta	6	*	*
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2039</b>	<b>1739</b>	<b>218</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.

Locations with less than 6 cases include: Alta, Applegate, Carnelian Bay, Dutch Flat, Elverta, Penryn, Tahoe Vista, Weimar, Homeless, and Unknown.

### This week in COVID-19 (7/31 – 8/6):

Cases in congregate living settings continue:

- 7 skilled nursing facilities with 1-21 cases (staff or residents) each:
  - 3 new cases in SNFs this week
- 6 additional long-term care facilities with 1-11 cases each
  - 6 new cases in non-SNF LTCFs this week

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

Placer County residents hospitalized (8/6):

- 26 (3 in intensive care)

Estimated active cases, calculated as total cases minus deaths and likely recovered cases (see link in location table for definition): 280

Confirmed Cumulative Cases by Geographic Zone		
Likely an underestimate of true incident cases due to statewide data problem		
	Total Cases	Last 7 days
South Placer	1708	193
Mid Placer	229	16
East Placer	97	9
Unknown/Homeless	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2039</b>	<b>218</b>

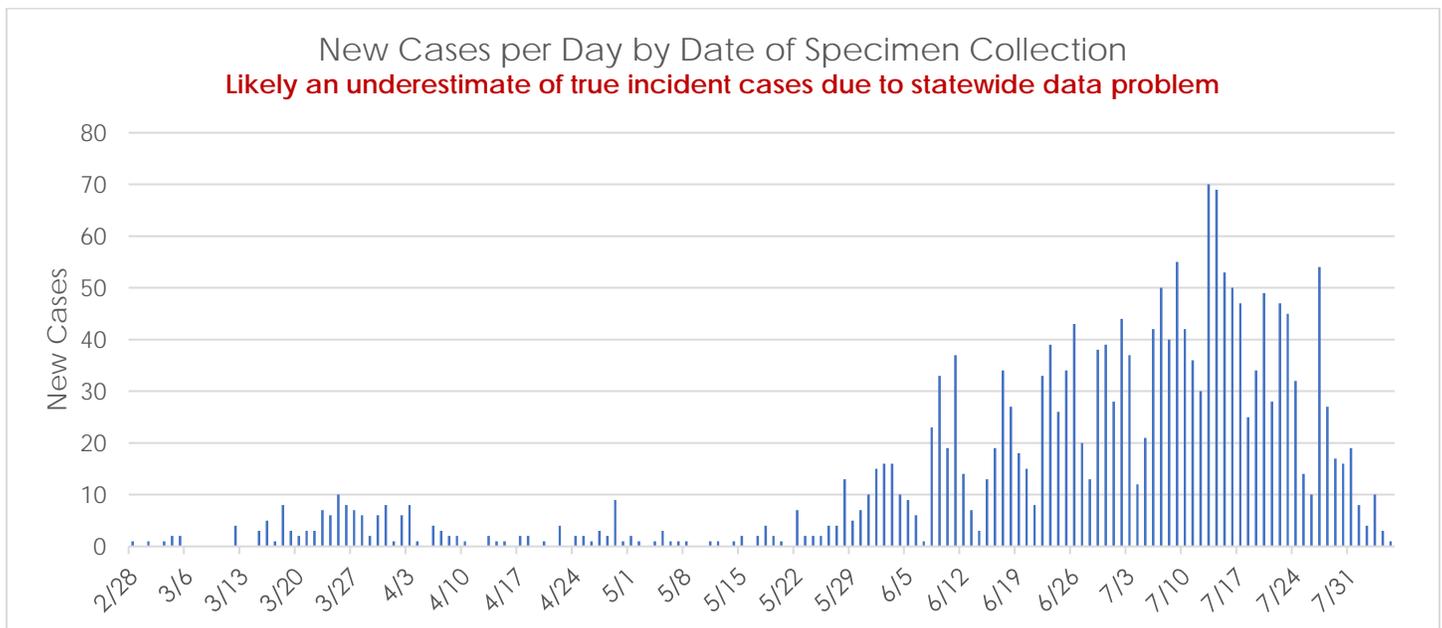
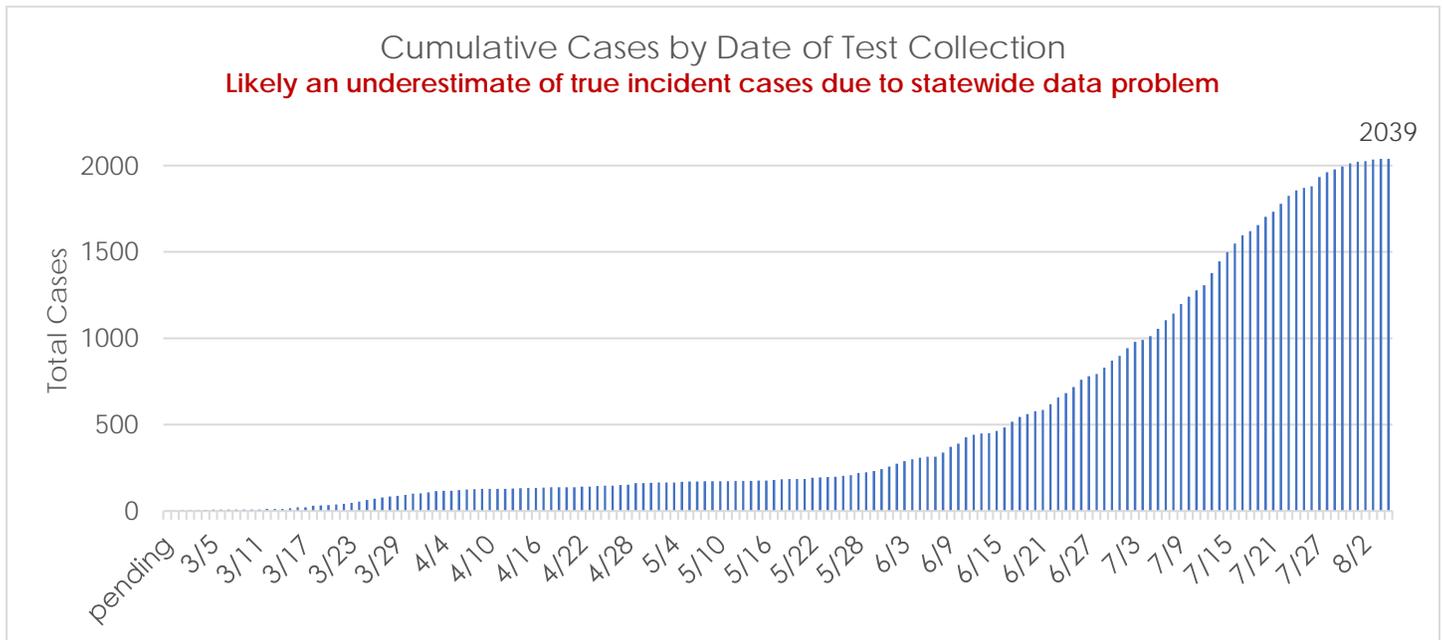
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## Epidemic Curves

There are now 2,039 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Placer County (data current to 8/6). The true number of new cases this week remains unknown due to statewide data reporting issues. Data will be updated as they are received.

Cases increased from 1,822 to 2,039 (+218) since last week's update, a rise of 12%. This data represents an undercount, as described on the first page of the update.



As new results are received by Public Health, collection dates will be updated and the case counts for recent dates will rise, especially dates in the most recent 7 days. Fewer specimens are collected on the weekends because many testing sites are closed.

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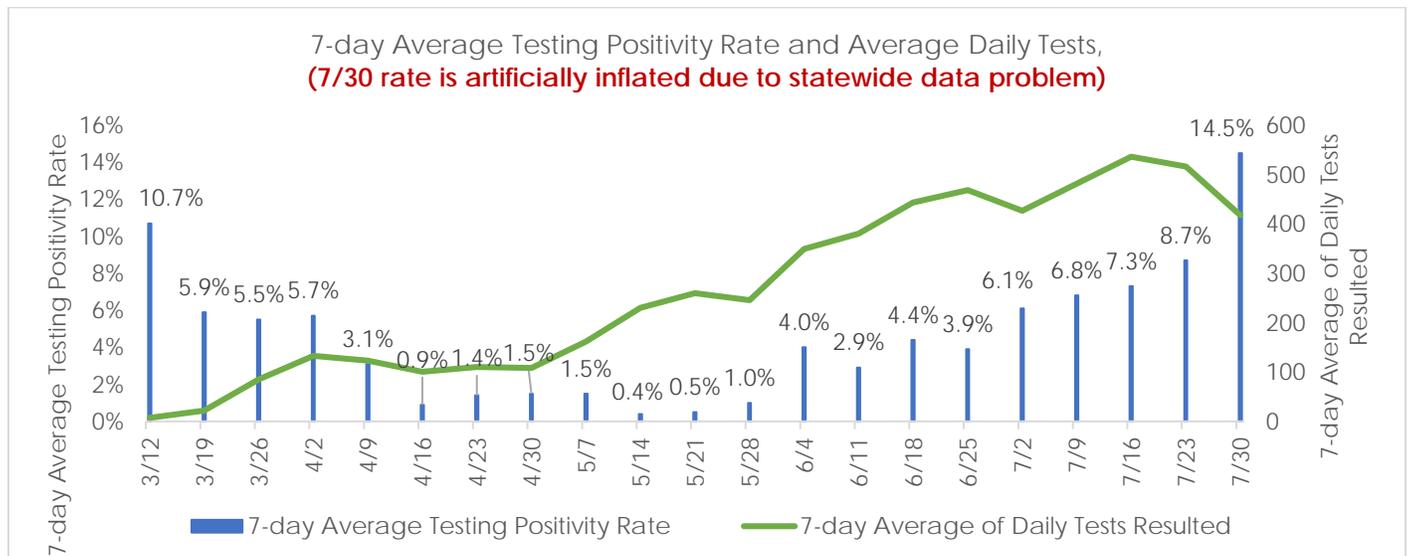
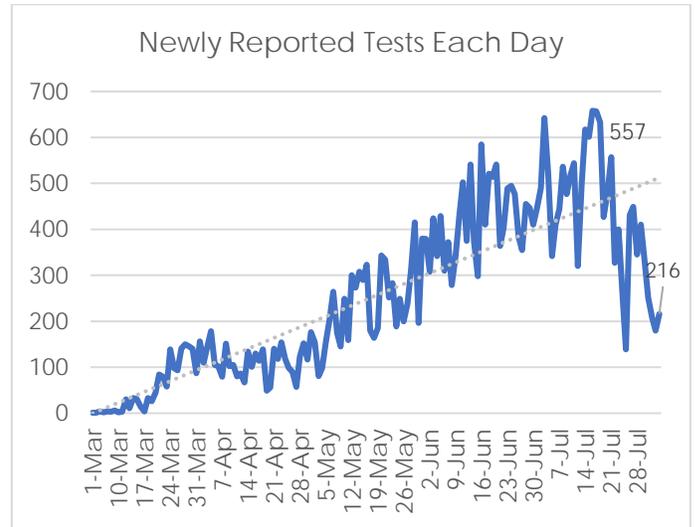
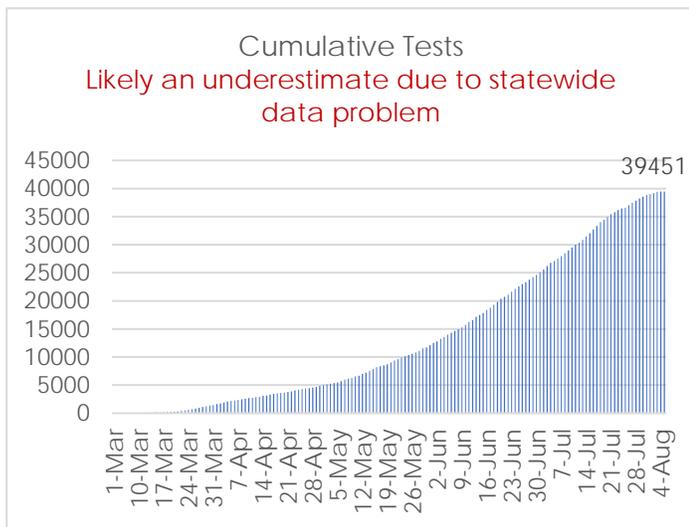
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## Testing

Placer County has received significantly fewer test results in the past week. Figures are certain to increase as the technology issue with the State data system is resolved. We will resume our normal reporting on testing as soon as possible.

As of August 6, Placer County Public Health has received 39,451 initial test results to detect new COVID-19 infection, an increase of just 4.2% from the week before. In the 3 previous weeks, we averaged an increase of 11% per week. The overall 7-day average testing positivity rate is currently inaccurate due to the statewide data transmission problem. Public Health has been manually importing positive cases so that we can continue case investigation and contact tracing. This artificially inflates the testing positivity because fewer negative results are being received relative to positive results.

\* 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.



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## Descriptive Statistics

The tables below contain summary data for various Placer County COVID-19 case demographics. This data should be interpreted with caution. Data will be updated as new results are received.

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	162	8%	14	6%	0%
18-49 years	1216	60%	121	56%	4%
50-64 years	433	21%	53	24%	10%
65+ years	226	11%	30	14%	25%
Total	1822	100%	293	100%	7%

\*two cases are of unknown age

Ethnicity and Race of Confirmed Cases		
	# Cases	% Cases
Latinx	475	23%
White	793	39%
Asian	100	5%
African American/Black	30	1%
Multi-Race	11	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	6	0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	6	0%
Other Race	86	4%
<b>Unknown*</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>26%</b>
Total Cases	2039	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

## Monitoring/Thresholds

The State has shared that "the County Data Monitoring process will be on hold until the data issue is fixed. What that means is no counties will be added or taken off during this time." The State's [County Data Table](#), which corresponds to the Monitoring List, has not been updated since Aug. 1.

Public Health will resume normal reporting of Placer attestation triggers and state monitoring indicators as soon as possible. Currently, much indicator data has been affected by the reporting issue and is unreliable.

## 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.