

PLACER COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

AUGUST 28, 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 8/27/20			
Location	Confirmed Cases	Likely Recovered	New Cases in Last 7 Days
Roseville	1199	1050	100
Lincoln	507	452	32
Rocklin	499	448	29
Auburn	243	212	18
Granite Bay	93	88	7
Kings Beach	71	64	*
Loomis	68	62	*
Newcastle	31	31	*
Truckee	20	19	*
Meadow Vista	21	20	*
Tahoe City	22	17	*
Foresthill	14	11	*
Colfax	13	11	*
Sheridan	16	15	*
Olympic Valley	7	7	*
Applegate	6	6	*
Carnelian Bay	6	6	*
Elverta	8	8	*
Penryn	7	6	*
Total:	2875	2553	201

* 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, Bowman, Dutch Flat, Tahoe Vista, Weimar, Unhoused, and Unknown.

This week in COVID-19 (8/21 – 8/27):

Cases in congregate living settings continue:

- 5 skilled nursing facilities with 4-26 cases (staff or residents) each:
 - 1 new case in SNFs this week
- 3 additional long-term care facilities with 2-6 cases each
 - 1 new case in non-SNF LTCFs this week
- [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.

Placer County residents hospitalized (8/27):

- 13 (4 in intensive care)

Estimated active cases, calculated as total cases minus deaths and likely recovered cases (see link in location table for definition): 290

Confirmed Cases by Geographic Zone		
	Total Cases	Last 7 days
South Placer	2428	175
Mid Placer	305	23
East Placer	133	1
Unknown/Unhoused	9	2
Total	2875	201

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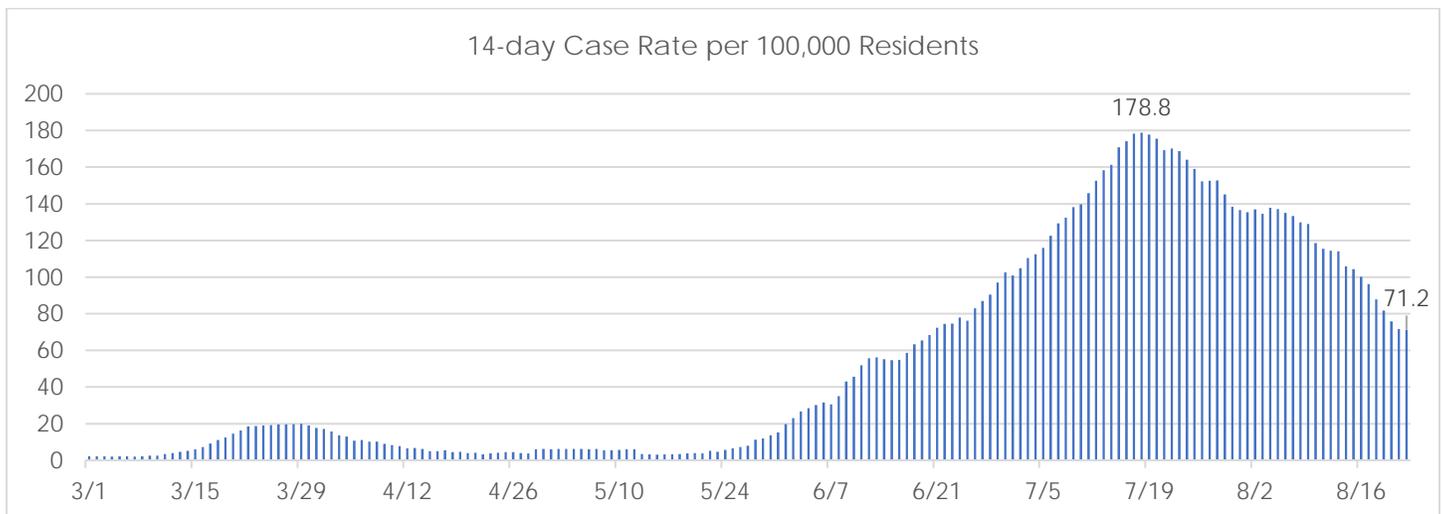
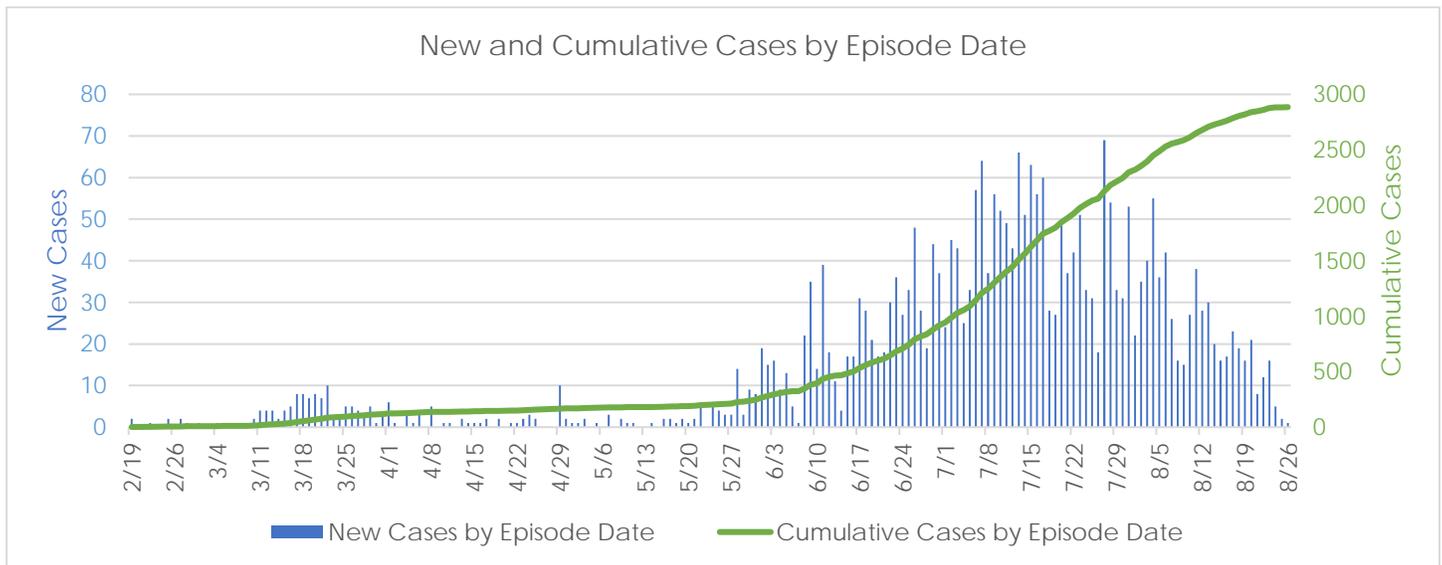
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Cases

There are now 2,875 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Placer County (data current to 8/27). While 201 new cases were received since last week's update, total cases increased from 2,486 to 2,689 (+186) as 15 cases were transferred to other jurisdictions based on residency determination.

An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case. To align with State metrics, Public Health now reports cases by episode date, which is the earliest of several dates (illness onset date, specimen collection date, date of death or date reported). Case calculations using episode date better reflect the transmission of COVID-19 in our county, as episode date reflects the earliest date that a case can be known to have had COVID-19.

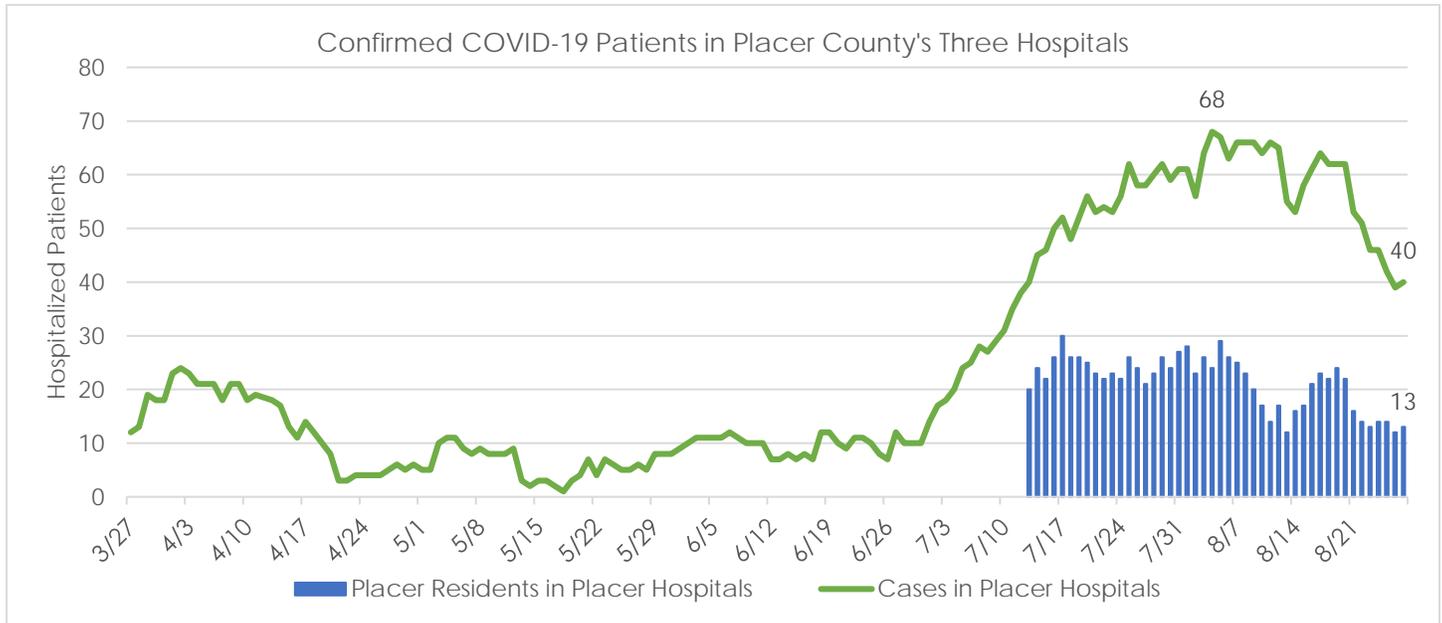
The 14-day case rate is calculated as the total number of COVID-19+ cases reported over a 14-day period, divided by the population of Placer County. This number is then multiplied by 100,000. This case rate is also calculated using episode date. The figure below illustrates a decline in recent weeks.



As information is received by Public Health, episode dates will be updated and case counts will be adjusted to best approximate the date of illness onset. **Data are dynamic and will change as cases are received, updated, and transferred.**

Hospitalizations and Deaths

Hospitalizations in the three Placer County hospitals have remained steady in recent weeks and begun to decline. The majority of those hospitalized are residents of other counties. Placer County's two largest hospitals lie on the Placer-Sacramento County border and provide care to residents of both counties, as well as other neighboring counties. Public Health began collecting residency information from hospitals in July.



As of August 27, Placer County has received reports of 32 COVID-related* deaths.

- 16 (50%) were residents of long-term care facilities
- 22 (69%) resided in South Placer/Valley region
- 10 (31%) lived in Mid-Placer/Foothills region
- 47% of all reported deaths occurred in August
- 53% of those who died were age 80 or above

COVID Deaths by Month	Number of Deaths
March	2
April	6
May	1
June	2
July	6
August	15
Total	32

Age Range	Number of Deaths
50-54	1
55-59	1
60-64	2
65-69	2
70-74	4
75-79	5
80-84	6
85-89	6
90-94	4
95-99	1
Total	32

*COVID-related deaths have COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 listed as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death on the death certificate. Public Health reporting is consistent with the case definition set forth by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and guidance issued by CDPH.

Descriptive Statistics

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 34% 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	259	9%	24	12%	0%
18-49 years	1663	58%	112	56%	3%
50-64 years	622	22%	55	27%	9%
65+ years	313	11%	10	5%	23%
Unknown	18	1%	0	0%	0%
Total	2875	100%	201	100%	7%

Ethnicity and Race of Confirmed Cases		
	# Cases	% Cases
Latinx	555	19%
White	1109	29%
Asian	123	4%
African American/Black	45	2%
Multiple Race	12	0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	8	0%
Other Race	166	6%
Unknown*	847	29%
Total Cases	2875	100%

Cases Ever Hospitalized				
	Overall Cases		Cases in Past Month (since 7/20)	
	# Cases	% Cases	# Cases	% Cases
White	89	48%	45	58%
Latinx	34	18%	12	15%
Asian	8	4%	4	5%
African American/ Black	4	0%	3	4%
Other Race	9	5%	2	3%
Unknown*	43	23%	12	15%
Total Cases	187	100%	78	100%

*Some demographic information is unknown despite changes to improve reporting. In addition, some cases decline to share this information. Therefore, data should be interpreted with caution. Data are subject to change as cases are transferred to other counties or new information is obtained. Hospitalization data are dependent upon patient or hospital notification of inpatient status and are likely an undercount.

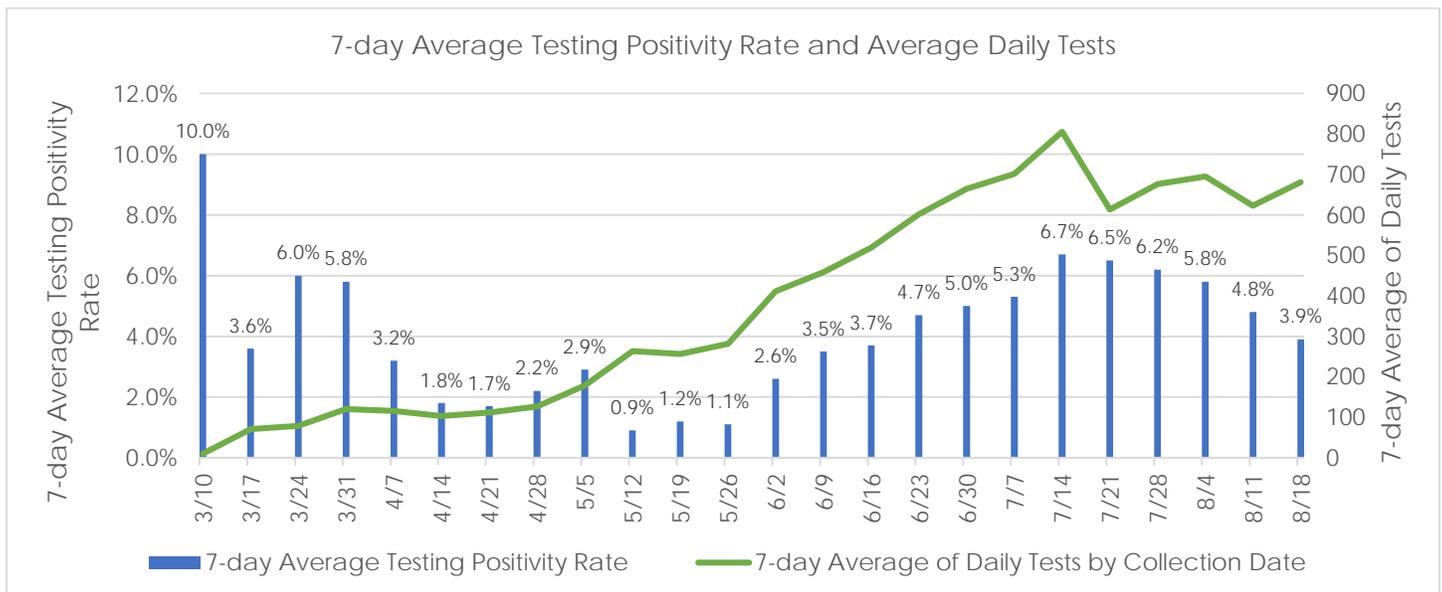
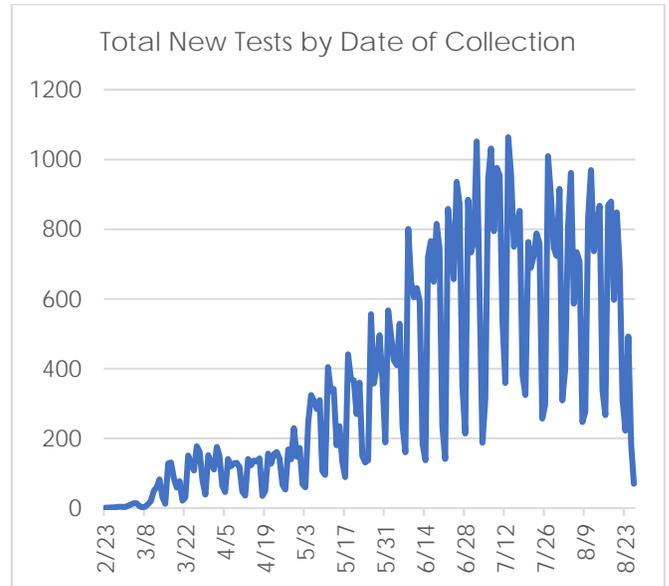
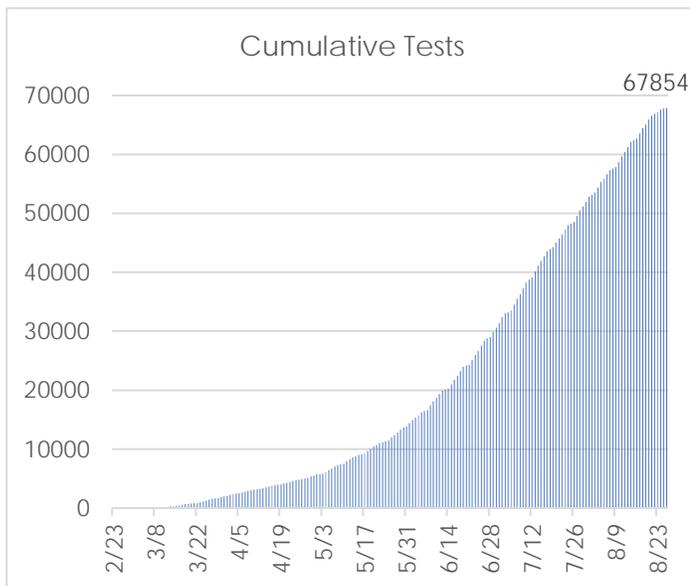
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Testing

As of August 27, Placer County Public Health has received 67,854 total test results to detect COVID-19 infection. Overall, 4.2% of tests have been positive. The 7-day average testing positivity rate is 3.9%. Following thorough consultation with the California Department of Public Health, Placer County Public Health now reports and calculates testing positivity using all tests, rather than the total number of individuals tested. Reported tests only include molecular 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 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 tests will increase as new results are received.



FAQs of the Week

What is the status of testing in the county?

Though testing capacity has been strained statewide, turnaround and availability continue to improve. For reference, public health experts have set a target of 48 hours to receive COVID-19 test results from a lab. The State's testing contractor, OptumServe, is reporting decreases in lab testing times at Quest Laboratories from 7 days three weeks ago to 4.6 days two weeks ago to 3.8 days last week and 2.8 days this week.

Placer County has reviewed local testing turnaround data for the week beginning August 2. During that time, commercial labs averaged 5.7 days from specimen collection to lab result for tests on Placer County residents. Health system labs were faster, averaging 3 days to get a result. Across all lab types, the average testing turnaround time for Placer was 4.7 days.

The 2 OptumServe sites (one in Rocklin, the other serving the Tahoe region) remain open. Wait times for appointments are within an acceptable range, with 40% of appointments available in the next three days across both sites.

Are multiple negatives being counted in the new positivity rate calculation, but not multiple positives, in such a way that would artificially deflate the rate?

No. Placer County Public Health now pulls positivity rate data directly from the State, but that calculation is based on all tests – positive and negative, including multiples for both.

The "confirmed cases" on the county's dashboard are filtered by person (so only one positive is shown per person), while "negative results" are not – but these are separate from the positivity rate, and this is why the "Data Notes" tab on the [COVID-19 dashboard](#) states these two numbers are not comparable and should not be used together to calculate a positivity rate.

Was the county on the Monitoring list based on locally-calculated data, or state-calculated data? Should the county have never been on the Monitoring List, based on the new calculations?

The county was placed on the Monitoring List based on State calculations as shown on CDPH's [County Data Table](#). Based on State calculations, the county fell below case rate thresholds on Aug. 15.

Counties can be flagged for one or multiple metrics on the State's data table. In July, Placer was initially flagged for increasing hospitalization, but was subsequently flagged for case rate.

Public Health has seen some comments surmising that the county was erroneously on the list for test positivity rate. By State calculations, the testing positivity rate never exceeded the 8% threshold and the county was never flagged by CDPH for test positivity rate. When local and State positivity rate figures diverged in August, Public Health engaged in conversation with CDPH around calculation methods and shifted our local methods as [discussed last week](#). This has led to changes on our local dashboard but has not changed the State data table or Monitoring List.

What data calculations will shift based on the Governor's Friday announcement?

The State will [continue](#) to consider test positivity rate, and calculate it in the same manner. The case rate will no longer be the 14-day case rate with a 3-day lag, which had a threshold of 100. Instead, it will be a 7-day case rate with a 7-day lag (with cases still assigned by episode date). It is a 7-day average of the *daily* case rate, not a total like for the 14-day rate (so you have to divide by 7 when you add up the cases in a 7-day period). Placer County Public Health will be working to shift this metric on our daily dashboard in the coming days.

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Why is Placer County in the 'purple' tier?

Placer's placement into the State's 'purple' tier is due to inclusion of data from early August. CDPH has indicated to Placer County Public Health that data for the weeks ending in Aug. 11 and Aug. 18 were used to determine initial county placement into tiers, which would mean data were included from when the county was still on the original 'Monitoring List.' We expect to have news around movement to the 'red' tier and additional easing of restrictions around Sept. 8 if trends continue in the right direction. However, this transition has created further delay for schools, and Public Health has written to CDPH to express this concern.* Placer County has also reached out to the State to inquire why the map that appears on the State's website does not appear to reflect data from the same timeframe, as this has the potential to cause public confusion. More information will be forthcoming.

*UPDATE: Placer County has now received a response from CDPH indicating that schools will be allowed the option to resume in-person instruction on Sept. 1, as they would have after coming off the previous Monitoring List.

Monitoring/Thresholds

Placer Attestation Thresholds		
Placer Triggers	Threshold	Current Value
Doubling time of cases	<5 days for 5 straight days	103.6 days
Hospital census	>135% licensed capacity	91.7%
Health care worker infections	Increasing for 5 days	Not increasing 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%

AND {

State Monitoring Indicators*		
State Indicators	Threshold	Current Value
Case rate per 100K (14-day)	>25 (or >100 alone)	71.2
Testing positivity rate (7-day)	>8%	3.9%
Change in 3-day hospitalization average	>10% (only if n>20)	-15.4% (n=40)
% ICU beds available	<20%	21%
% Ventilators available	<25%	70%

*Starting next week the old State Monitoring Indicators table will no longer be populated.

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.
- Find [Guidance for Confirmed Cases \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#)) and [Guidance for Contacts \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#)).