

PLACER COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 18, 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 9/17/20			
Location	Confirmed Cases	Likely Recovered	New Cases in Last 7 Days
Roseville	1491	1346	82
Lincoln	554	520	16
Rocklin	557	522	15
Auburn	275	252	*
Granite Bay	110	106	*
Kings Beach	98	83	14
Loomis	86	78	*
Newcastle	37	34	*
Truckee	23	21	*
Meadow Vista	21	21	*
Tahoe City	24	24	*
Foresthill	15	12	*
Colfax	13	13	*
Sheridan	16	15	*
Olympic Valley	8	7	*
Applegate	7	7	*
Carnelian Bay	8	7	*
Elverta	8	8	*
Penryn	8	8	*
Total:	3385	3109	143

* 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 (9/11 – 9/17):

Cases in congregate living settings continue:

- 2 skilled nursing facilities with 22-73 cases (staff or residents) each:
 - 19 new cases in SNFs this week
- 5 additional long-term care facilities with 1-11 cases each
 - 10 new cases 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 (as of 9/17):

- 8 (3 in intensive care)

Estimated active cases, calculated as total cases minus deaths and likely recovered cases (see link in location table for definition): 235

Confirmed Cases by Geographic Zone		
	Total Cases	Last 7 days
South Placer	2867	121
Mid Placer	339	5
East Placer	170	16
Unknown/Unhoused	9	1
Total	3385	143

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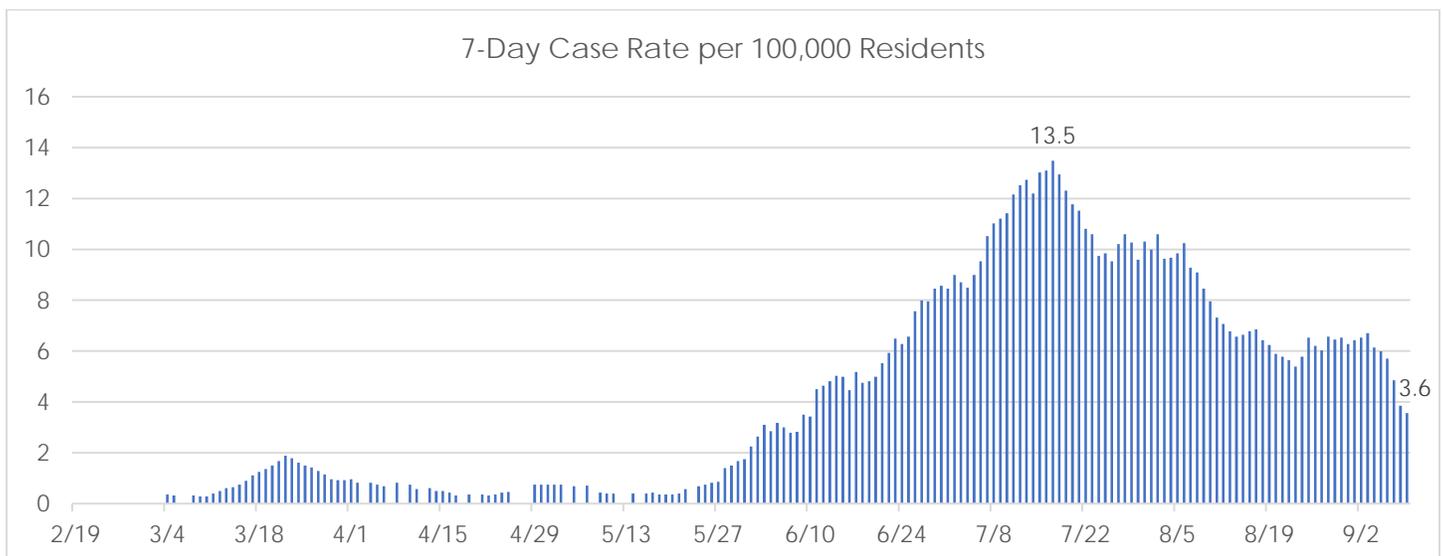
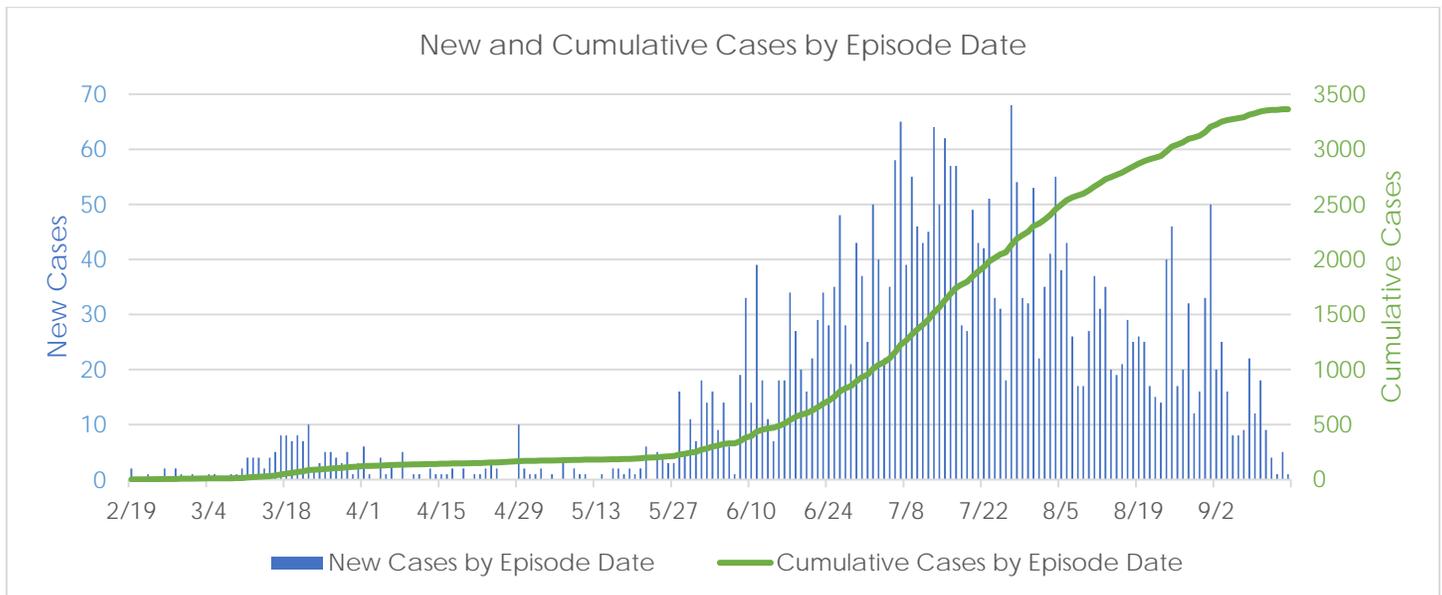
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Cases

There are now 3,385 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Placer County (data current to 9/17). While 143 new cases were received since last week's update, total cases increased from 3,249 to 3,385 (+136). Data remain dynamic as cases are transferred to and from other jurisdictions based on residency determination.

An individual who tests positive on multiple occasions is only counted as a single case. Public Health reports cases by episode date, which is the earliest of several dates (illness onset date, specimen collection date, date of death or date reported).

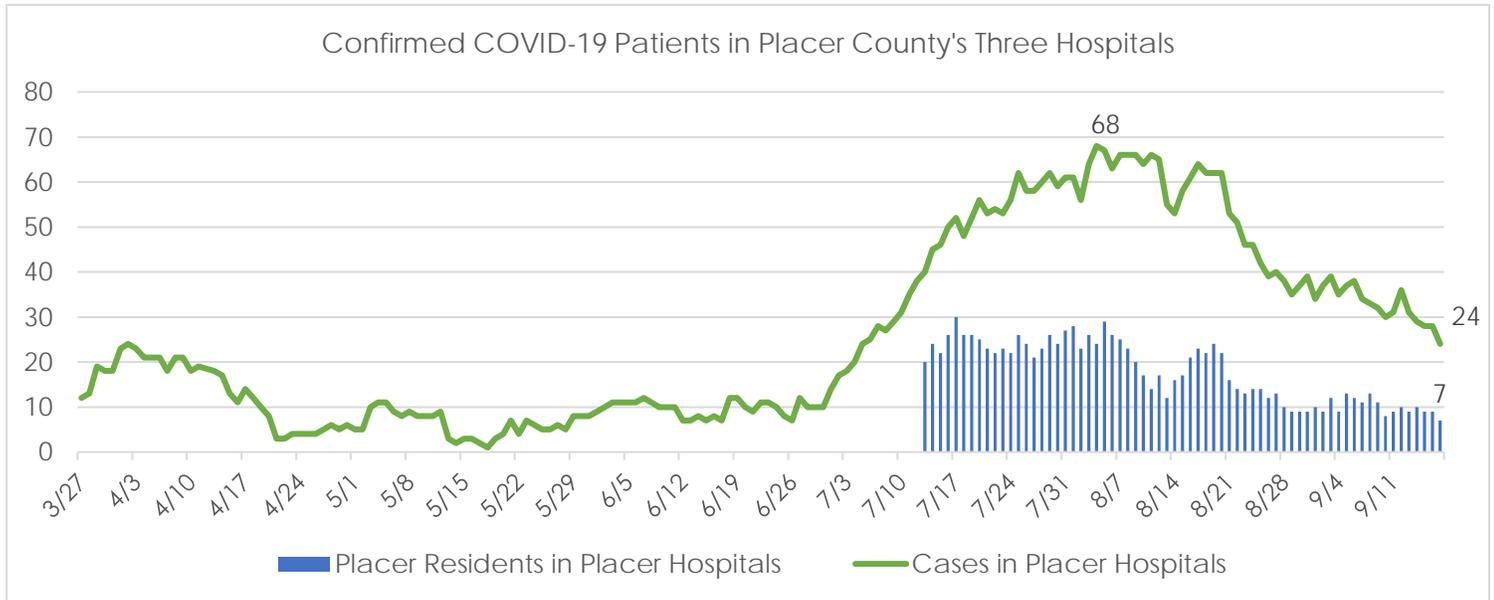
CDPH is now monitoring cases using a 7-day case rate. The 7-day case rate is calculated as the average number of COVID-19 cases reported over a 7-day period, divided by the population of Placer County. This number is then multiplied by 100,000. This case rate is also calculated using episode date.



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 continue 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 September 17, Placer County has received reports of 41 COVID-related* deaths.

- 25 (61%) were residents of long-term care facilities
- 31 (76%) resided in South Placer/Valley region; 10 (24%) lived in Mid-Placer/Foothills region
- 41% of all reported deaths occurred in August
- 54% 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	17
September	7
Total	41

Age Range	Number of Deaths
50-54	1
55-59	2
60-64	2
65-69	3
70-74	5
75-79	6
80-84	7
85-89	8
90-94	6
95-99	1
Total	41

*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.

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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 25% of cases compared to 31% 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 of Total Cases	Cases Last 7 Days	Age Distribution Last 7 Days	Percent Ever Hospitalized
0-17 years	319	9%	14	10%	1%
18-34 years	1114	33%	41	29%	2%
35-49 years	810	24%	35	24%	5%
50-64 years	725	21%	38	27%	9%
65-79 years	265	8%	8	6%	19%
80+ years	136	4%	7	5%	32%
Unknown	16	0%	0	0%	0%
Total	3385	100%	143	100%	7%

Ethnicity and Race of Confirmed Cases		
	# Cases	% Cases
Latinx	661	20%
White	1366	40%
Asian	140	4%
African American/Black	54	2%
Multiple Race	120	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	17	1%
Other Race	180	5%
Unknown*	837	25%
Total Cases	3385	100%

Cases Ever Hospitalized				
	Overall Cases		Cases in Past Month (since 8/17)	
	# Cases	% Cases	# Cases	% Cases
White	114	50%	18	51%
Latinx	45	20%	5	14%
Asian	11	5%	2	6%
African American/ Black	7	3%	1	3%
Other Race	11	5%	5	14%
Unknown*	34	15%	2	6%
Total Cases	229	100%	35	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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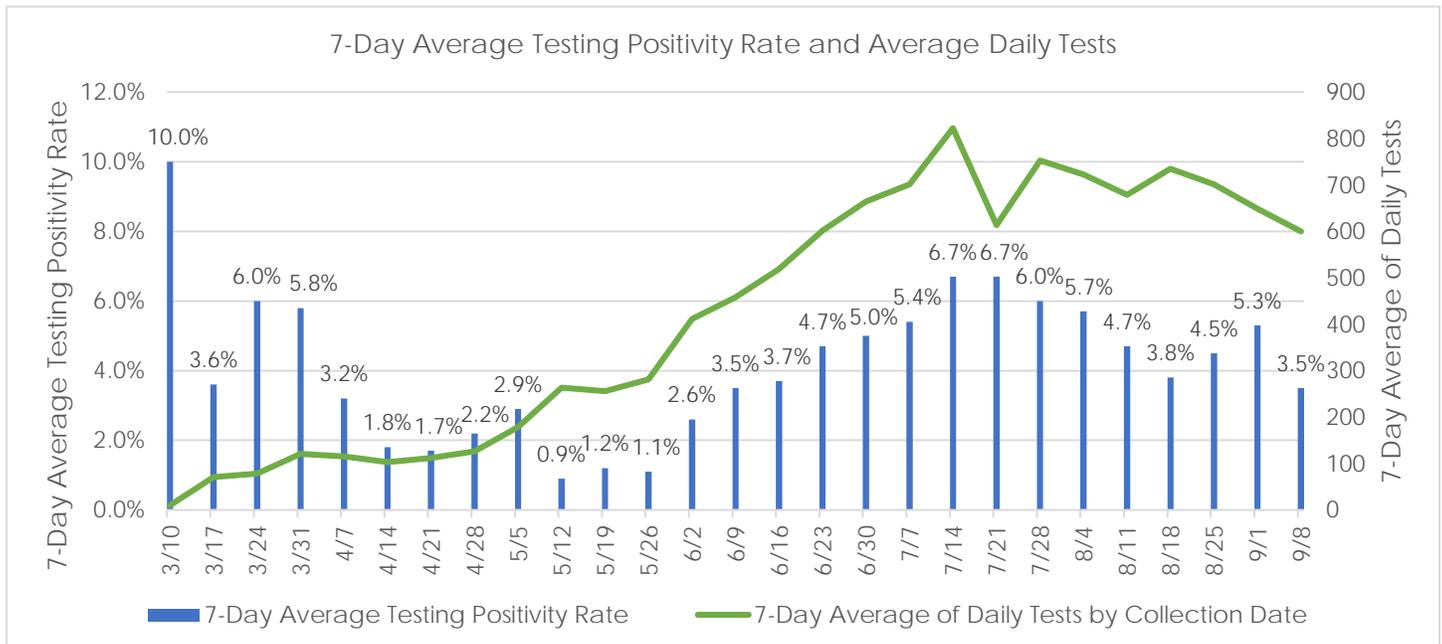
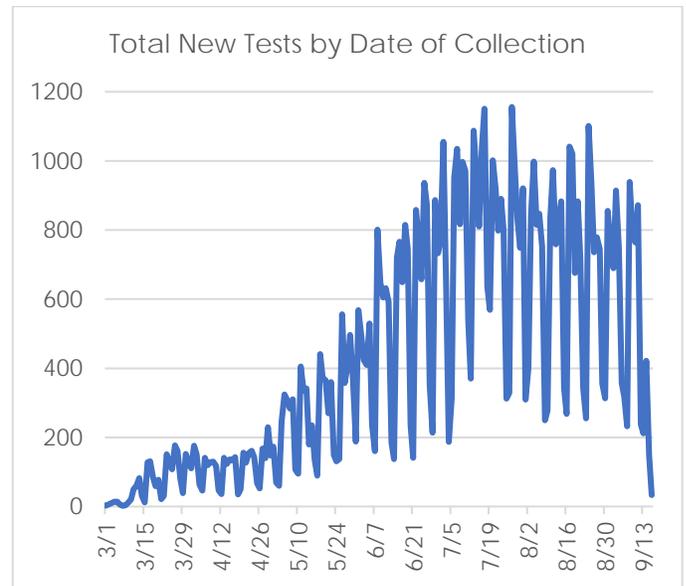
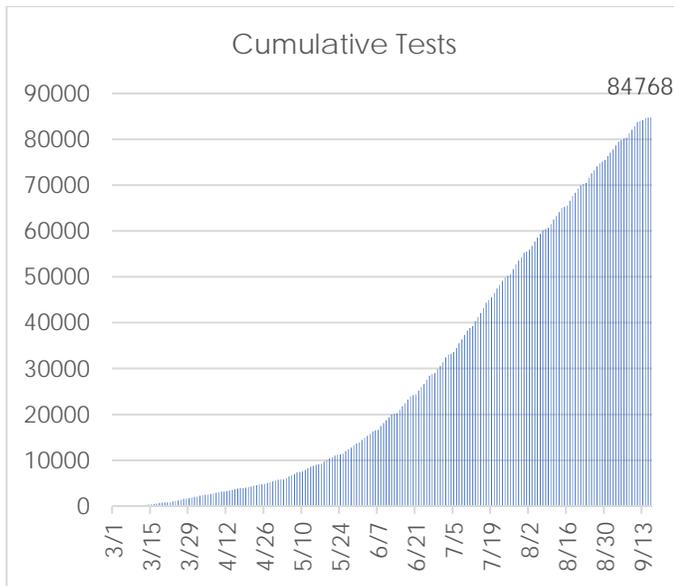
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Testing

As of September 17, Placer County Public Health has received 84,768 total test results to detect COVID-19 infection. Overall, 4.0% of tests have been positive. The 7-day average testing positivity rate is 3.5%. Following 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 or antigen 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

How do I know how metrics on the [daily dashboard](#) are calculated?

The “[Data Notes](#)” tab provides detailed descriptions of calculations and definitions to aid public understanding. This tab is updated frequently to provide better clarity when metrics are adjusted. Members of the public are encouraged to review it periodically.

How has testing turnaround time evolved over the course of the pandemic?

Processing of specimens is conducted at three types of labs: commercial labs (such as Quest or others); health system labs; and public health labs. Commercial labs have processed more than 50% of all tests to date, but turnaround time increases during periods of high demand. However, average turnaround time of PCR tests at all three lab types is currently within 2 days from specimen collection to result.

The figures below illustrate how turnaround time has evolved over the course of the pandemic and what turnaround times are currently.

Average Turnaround Time (Days from Specimen Collection to Lab Result (Days))*				
Lab Type	Commercial	Health System	Public Health	All labs
March	4.9	1.2	5.4	3.3
April	3.0	0.7	1.4	1.5
May	3.2	1.0	1.8	1.6
June	3.1	1.5	2.6	2.0
July	5.5	1.9	2.4	3.4
August	3.5	1.9	1.2	2.7
September**	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1
Overall	3.6	1.5	2.5	2.3

*21 of 84,768 results were excluded due to missing information

**to September 17th

COVID-19 Test Results by Turnaround Time

Days from Specimen Collection to Lab Result and Lab Type, Week of 8/30 to 9/5

Turnaround Time (Days)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	All Labs	% Total Tests
Commercial	824	227	920	366	73	12	6	1	0	1	2430	52%
Health System	859	984	256	79	0	9	4	0	0	0	2191	47%
PHL	1	11	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	0%
Total Results	36%	26%	25%	10%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4636	100%

What can Public Health say about outbreaks at businesses?

Typically, Placer County Public Health would not publicly disclose names of individual businesses linked to case(s) of COVID-19 – or any other infectious disease – unless there was a public health reason to do so.

Placer County Public Health has been notified of several outbreaks in business settings. In non-healthcare or non-residential congregate setting workplaces, an outbreak is three or more laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among employees who live in different households within a two-week period.

Under a new bill, AB 685, signed by Governor Newsom on [Thursday](#), effective January 1, 2021 employers must report an outbreak to local public health officials. Employers must also report known cases to employees who may have been exposed to COVID-19 within one business day.

Placer County Public Health has published a [packet](#) designed to help businesses who are responding to outbreaks in the workplace. This packet contains:

- A flowchart to help with testing decisions
- A contact tracing worksheet for employers
- Isolation instructions for employees who test positive and/or have symptoms of COVID-19 (English and Spanish)
- Quarantine instructions for employees who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (English and Spanish)
- A list of COVID-19 testing locations in Placer and nearby counties
- A playbook from the California Department of Public Health regarding outbreaks in workplaces
- A form employers can use for employee symptom screening each day
- A list of behavioral health resources

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Monitoring/Thresholds

Every county in California is assigned to a tier based on its testing positivity and adjusted case rate. After the initial placement process, counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving forward. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays. To move forward, a county must meet the next tier's criteria for 2 consecutive weeks. If one or both of a county metrics land in a more restrictive tier for 2 weeks in a row, a county must move backward to the more restrictive tier.

The State is considering the addition of a third Blueprint metric to address health equity. The metric is still under development; we will share details once they are available.

State Monitoring Indicators			
State Indicators	Week Ending 8/29	Week Ending 9/5	Current (Lagged 7 days)
Adjusted case rate per 100,000 (7-day average, 7-day lag)	6.1	6.1	3.9
Testing positivity rate (7-day average, 7-day lag)	4.5%	4.4%	3.5%
Current overall tier	Red (Substantial transmission) since 9/8		
Date of next State update	Tuesday 9/22		

Preventing Infection

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

- Remember: the safest gathering is a virtual gathering. The next safest gathering is a small, outdoor, distanced gathering with everybody wearing masks; washing/sanitizing their hands; and not sharing food, utensils, or other items.
- 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.
- Find [Guidance for Confirmed Cases \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#)) and [Guidance for Contacts \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#)).