



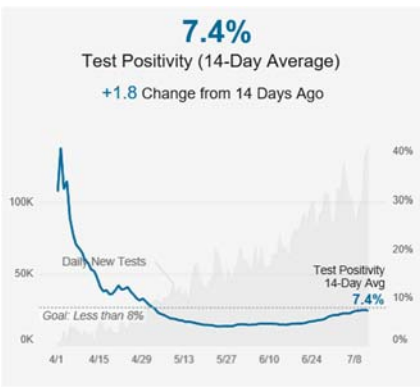
July 13, 2020

To: Distribution

From: Pandemic Working Group

Re: COVID-19: California Brakes ~ Adult/Child Transmission ~ AZ/FL ~ NYC

California Flips Dimmer Switch. As reported by the LATimes, citing a spike in coronavirus cases across the state, California Governor Gavin Newsom reversed course on statewide restrictions to again halt all indoor dining and close bars, family entertainment, zoos and museums, calling it a “dimmer switch” of his earlier stay-at-home order. Further, the 30 counties that had been on the “watch list” (including, e.g., Los Angeles and Orange) will also be required to shutter gyms, churches, hair salons, offices in non-critical businesses and malls. These measures affect the



state’s most populous regions, where 80% of the population resides. From the state’s Department of Public Health, the first chart shows the 14-day average number of infections per day trending upward,

while the second shows positivity edging up above 7%.

As reported by DesertSun.com, Governor Newsom stated that “When you start to see constraints in terms of ICU beds, an additional increase in use and utilization of ventilators, it then draws our attention.” Across the state, hospitalizations increased 28% over a two-week period, which is better than the 50% increase presented about a week ago. Further, with total bed capacity of about 50,000, the state has reached only about 13% of capacity. However, only 36% of ICU beds remain available statewide, and some counties, like Riverside, have hit 100% of ICU capacity.

Child-to-Adult Transmission. With fall approaching and the pandemic in its ascent in many regions, the subject of going back to school is everywhere in the press. Like the rest of the country, the Administration itself appears to be divided on the subject with the CDC having issued guidance, the President expressing dissatisfaction and insisting upon reopening (potentially as a condition of continued receipt of federal funding) and the CDC retrenching and promising new guidance. While the discussion continues, we can focus on whatever data we have. As reported in Pediatrics (the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics), a study was recently

published which focused on the clinical presentation of the coronavirus among 40 pediatric cases within the city of Geneva, Switzerland and how those cases occurred within their immediate family members.

Specifically, over the course of March 10 to April 10, all patients under the age of 16 were identified by the Geneva University Hospital surveillance network and subsequently tracked and traced into their households. As might be expected, most children in the study had mild presentations. Interestingly, in 79% of the households, an adult member was suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 before any child became symptomatic. In only 8% of the cases did a child develop symptoms before the adults. While the study has its limitations (small data set, potential confounding factors), it does suggest that adult-to-child transmission may be more prevalent than child-to-adult transmission. More studies along these lines could be useful in establishing a coherent direction toward reopening schools. We will be covering newly-announced plans for reopening among a few California counties tomorrow.

The Heat of the Summer. In various hot-spots for the pandemic, we are beginning to see hospital capacity approaching its limits. As reported by ABCNews, in Arizona, ICU's are 90% full with a seven-day trailing positivity rate at 27%. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego (CBSNews photo) was quoted as saying, "We opened way too early in Arizona. We were one of the last states to go to stay at home and one of the first to reemerge, and we reemerged at zero to 60. We had crowded nightclubs handing out free champagne, no masks. Our 20- to 44-year-olds, which is my demographic, really led the explosion." Similarly, last Sunday, Florida recorded the highest single day number of new infections (15,300) of any state since the start of the pandemic and, of its 309 hospital facilities being tracked, 47 have no available ICU beds, and 25 have just one. As reported by UPI.com, Miami Mayor, Francis Suarez, stated that rising numbers were "out of control" in his state.



New York, New York. On a brighter note, as reported by MSN.com, on Sunday, New York City, which had been the domestic epicenter of the coronavirus last April, reported zero fatalities from the virus for the first time since the pandemic struck in March. Overall, that city alone has recorded over 215,000 cases and nearly 19,000 fatalities from COVID-19. Also, it is consoling to know that if you're from any one of the 19 states (up from the original eight) on New York's out-of-state quarantine list, you can still carry out the Sinatra ambition to "wake up in the city that doesn't sleep." It's just that there's not much else you'll be able to do, as you will be quarantining in the same hotel room 14 days under pain of a \$2,000 fine. So, kind of mixed news, on balance.

If you have any questions or comments on this advisory, please contact either [kellyw@amvac.com](mailto:kellyw@amvac.com) or [timd@amvac.com](mailto:timd@amvac.com).