



July 23, 2020

To: Distribution

From: Pandemic Working Group

Re: **COVID-19: LA County ~ Gulf States ~ Post-discharge Effects ~ White House Briefing**

LA County. As reported on YahooNews, Los Angeles Public Health Officer Barbara Ferrer (pictured here from Bing.com) stated that the county had reported 3,266 new coronavirus cases yesterday for a total of 164,870. She added that the seven-day average of daily infections had more than doubled in the last month and that the daily positivity rate is at about 8.5%. She went on to say that, "COVID-19 appears to be on track to claim more lives in L.A. County than any



disease other than heart disease." She also reported a near record 2,207 hospitalizations from the virus, marking the fourth day in a row of 2,000+ hospitalizations. Dr. Ferrer noted that nearly 60 percent of the new cases are among young adults and that hospitalizations for that group are also on the rise. On a more encouraging note, she added deaths are on a downward trajectory, likely because of the proportionately lower age of persons who are newly infected. Also, hospital capacity is currently adequate and demand for ICU beds and ventilators has declined. Statewide, the number of cases at

about 425,000 has surpassed all other states, including New York, which is at about 409,000.

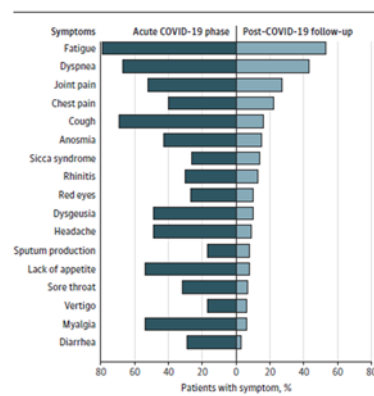
Gulf State Surge. Shifting our focus to the south and east, as reported today by the New York Times, the states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi are reporting a spike in coronavirus cases. On Tuesday, Alabama recorded its highest daily case number (over 2,300), Louisiana has now experienced more cases per capita than New York, and, in Mississippi, deaths are increasing at one of the highest rates in the nation. In many regions of the affected states, the hospital infrastructure is somewhat limited; accordingly, as per Tulane's Dr. Susan Hassig, intensive care units in rural areas have had to transfer patients to city hospitals. Interestingly, COVID protocols seem to have gone generally unnoticed in Mississippi, where 30 legislators, many of whom had been attending legislative sessions without any face coverings, have tested

U.S. hot spots >



positive for the virus over the past few weeks. The map above (from the NYT) shows the nation's most affected areas in darker hues. Cases on a nationwide basis have just passed 4 million and are trending upward in 39 states.

**Symptoms that May Last.** On a subject to which we adverted yesterday, as reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, coronavirus is showing post-infection effects among many patients who recover after hospitalization. The study in JAMA involved 143 coronavirus patients



The figure shows percentages of patients presenting with specific coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)-related symptoms during the acute phase of the disease (left) and at the time of the follow-up visit (right).

in Italy who presented symptoms of the disease, were treated, discharged and then assessed about 60 days after onset of the virus. Interestingly, only about 13% of those evaluated post-discharge were symptom-free, while 32% had one or more symptoms and 55% had three or more. On the whole, 44% reported worsened quality of life. The chart below shows, to the left, symptoms presenting prior to discharge and, to the right, symptoms that were identified post-discharge along with their relative rate of prevalence, the most common of which were fatigue, dyspnea (difficulty breathing) and joint pain. In addition, as reported by KTRK Houston, according to cardiologist Dr. William Zogby, the coronavirus tends to produce blood clots in severely-affected patients and otherwise attacks the lungs and heart muscle.

Consequently, recovered patients may be at a higher risk of stroke and cardio-pulmonary disease. In other words, unlike many other infectious diseases, the effects of COVID-19 in many patients may not end with the hospital discharge.

**White House Briefing.** This just in – during today's coronavirus briefing at the White House, President Trump covered the subject of school reopening. After noting the potential ill-effects of prolonged remote education upon children and families, particularly among the underprivileged, the benefits of in-person learning, and the importance of safety for both children and teachers, he stated that those districts which can reopen should reopen. Nevertheless, he added that in hotspots, districts may delay reopening schools subject to improvement in the pandemic, as shown by data. And, at any rate, for all regions, he stated that "it's up to the governors." Further, the President emphasized the importance of vigilant hygiene, social distancing and mask-wearing for school operations and the notion that parents should have a choice in directing their children to schools with which they are comfortable and, further, that federal aid should follow the students to their ultimate scholastic destination, be it public, private or at-home. Finally, he noted that the CDC would be issuing additional guidelines on the subject later today. We expect that those guidelines will be substantially similar to CDC's earlier set of recommendations which, in substance, the President largely endorsed during today's briefing.

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).