

Renegade Roundup



COVID Advisory

December 27, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you all are having a restful holiday break. I found myself unplugging and catching up on reading, cooking, phone calls with family and friends, and playing with Neo and Bessie



Before I get into my regular COVID advisory, let me take a moment to ask you to consider enrolling in this equivalent of a 1 credit class (a noncredit course) developed by our faculty in the Psychology department. In fact, encourage your students and loved ones to do the same. The course covers information on how to cope when life gets difficult. The first section of the Psychological Resilience course begins on January 4, and another section starts on January 11. Like the non-credit COVID-19 course, it is a course that you complete at your own pace. If you've never taken a class at BC before, [visit the Student Information Desk](#) for more information.

Course	CRN	Dates	Staff
PBHS B61NC	33861	1/4 - 1/18	David Riess
PBHS B61NC	33862	1/11 - 1/24	Isaias Hernandez

First Vaccines Rolled Out in the US, California, Kern County

The worldwide fight against coronavirus continues, and I wanted to keep you up-to-date on the latest developments as the first vaccines are rolling out in the United States and California's stay-at-home order looks to be extended.



On Monday, December 14, Governor Newsom was on hand to watch ICU nurse Helen Cordova of Kaiser Permanente become [the first person in California to receive a COVID-19 vaccine](#). My daughter received her vaccine on December 16. By December 18, [the first doses of the vaccine reached Kern County](#), and healthcare providers like Dr. Brij Bhambi of Bakersfield Heart Hospital were among the first to receive the treatment.

We are currently in Phase 1 of the vaccination process, where frontline health care workers are prioritized while manufacturers work to increase the supply of the treatments. To get a sense of when you might be eligible to receive the vaccine, you can fill out the online [Vaccine Calculator Tool](#).

Kern Among Worst Counties in the US for COVID

In the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) created by the US Health and Human Services Department, Kern County was listed as one of the worst counties in the nation for the spread of coronavirus. [Alex Fisher of KGET broke down the data in an article on December 21](#), noting that Kern was ranked 18th out of more than 3,000 counties after 7,266 cases and 14 deaths were confirmed between December 14 and December 21. In

the Community Profile Report, 8 out of the top 20 counties are in California, and the state leads the nation in the increase of confirmed cases and deaths.

On Sunday, December 27, [1,253 new cases and one death were reported in one day by Kern County Public Health](#). This brings the county's total to 64,810 confirmed cases and 486 deaths since the pandemic began.

California Stay-At-Home Order Likely to Be Extended

Our current stay-at-home order based on regional ICU capacity was initially scheduled to expire on Monday, December 28 in San Joaquin, but Newsom and other California officials have indicated that it will likely be extended, [according to Amy Graff of SF Gate](#). The stay-at-home orders in Southern California and the Bay Area, which are set to expire on December 30 and January 7, respectively, will likely be extended, as well. The official announcements will come during Newsom's weekly press conference on December 28.

US Census Bureau: 1 Out of Every 1,000 Americans Has Died of COVID

On Saturday, December 26, the US Census Bureau announced that 1 out of every 1,000 people in the US has died of COVID-19 with 331,116 lives lost since the start of the pandemic. Additionally, more than 19 million people have contracted COVID-19 in the US.

[An article in CNN](#) puts the devastation of the virus into perspective, noting that officials expect the surge to continue through January and February.

Federal Relief Package Includes \$23 Billion in Aid for Higher Education

Both houses of Congress passed a federal \$900 billion coronavirus relief package on Monday, December 22. [Kery Murakami of Inside Higher Ed delved deeper into the implications of the bill for higher education](#), which includes \$23 billion for colleges and universities, an additional \$1 billion for medical research, simplification of the FAFSA application process, and changes in Pell Grant eligibility that allow more low-income students and inmates to receive funds.

However, while the Inside Higher Ed article estimates that the bill would be signed by the White House, it still remains at the President's desk as of December 27 as unemployment benefits are running out for millions of Americans, [according to CNBC](#).

Blueprint For a Safer Economy Dashboard

[The State of California's Blueprint For a Safer Economy dashboard](#) has been modified to fit the new guidelines announced in August. A table with the comparison of test positivity rates from several counties on the monitoring list is below.

	December 13, 2020		December 27, 2020*	
	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate
California	34	8.4%	80.7	13.3%
Kern County	37.0	15.3%	77.6**	17.7%**
Kings County	31.8	9.7%	75.9	12.0%
Fresno County	22.2	11.3%	82.4	15.9%
San Bernardino	61.1	16.9%	149.4	22.5%
LA County	41.8	8.7%	106.0	14.3%

*Dashboard data updated on December 22

**Kern County is under a regional stay-at-home based on ICU capacity

Johns Hopkins Dashboard

As of 11:30 a.m. on December 27, the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) shows that there are more than 80 million confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide since the start of the pandemic. Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers since December 13.

	Dec. 13, 2020	Dec. 27, 2020	Difference	Percentage
World	72,168,829	80,587,536	8,418,707	11.7%
U.S.	16,226,561	19,031,403	2,804,842	17.3%
California	1,551,766	2,072,665	520,899	33.6%
Kern	50,624	64,810	14,186	28.0%

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear a mask, keep the 6ft distance separation, and wash your hands to slow down the spread and reduce the strain on our healthcare systems and providers.

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,
sonya

[See all issues of Renegade Roundup online](#)