The current wave has moved beyond urban centers like L.A. and into far northern rural reaches of the state.

By Robert-Green Lee II and Anah Steen

The ominous COVID surge in L.A. County appears to have stunted the economic recovery in the hardest-hit hard-hit areas. The virus has managed to break free from densely packed neighborhoods in urban areas and form communities in agricultural valleys, where the virus is found essential workers who could have had no business being in those places. Now, infections are spreading faster in other communities. In Marin, the county health officer, Dr. Matt Willis said the pandemic has moved from being “regional” to nation-wide. The infections are expected to rise faster in the state’s rural reaches of California, a troubling sign at the state level. The state has flirted with closing off business in the Northern regions that have long been hard-hit, but that could be difficult in this region, with people flocking to the mountains in the hottest of the holiday shopping season. But these concerns and restrictions did not deter some shoppers.

By Kevin Baxter

Shoppers in the Glendale Galleria were quiet Friday, though the GameStop store was busy. “Everyone’s trying to grab a PS5,” an employee said.

By Nabih Bulos

Shoppers in L.A. County have started to make plans for the season’s first holiday shopping sprees. The process is not as straightforward as usual, though.

By Tara Golshani

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