



**Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
Public Health Department**

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Alameda County Public Health Department Confirms First Death from COVID-19

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – Alameda County Public Health Department announced the first death in the county caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The person was elderly with underlying conditions that placed them at greater risk of serious illness and was hospitalized. With no history of travel nor known contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, their infection is indicative of community-acquired transmission. Our thoughts are with their loved ones.

Alameda County will not be sharing any additional information about this death.

Alameda County now has 112 cases as of March 23, with evidence of widespread community transmission. The County's shelter-in-place order and social distancing for essential activities and businesses remain in effect. These measures work to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and make the community safer for the most vulnerable by limiting contact among residents. Individuals should continue to practice good hygiene and handwashing techniques.

Most individuals with COVID-19 will experience mild disease. Severe respiratory illness and death is more common among adults who are 60 and over, and people with diabetes, heart disease, lung problems, cancer or other chronic health conditions. People with mild symptoms or people who are not ill but think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should not leave their home even for essential activities or work. They should monitor themselves for symptoms and ask others to assist with essential needs, if possible.

At this time, COVID-19 testing capacity remains limited, and people with mild illness should remain home until fully recovered. They should sleep in a separate room and use a separate bathroom from other household members when possible. Clean common areas regularly. If you have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, you must remain home until at least one week after the onset of symptoms and until 72 hours after your last fever.

Alongside increased public fear around the COVID-19 outbreak, incidents of discrimination and racism against Chinese and other Asian Pacific Island communities have increased. Alameda County encourages all residents and businesses to reject racist rhetoric and promote the health and safety of all people living in our communities. There is no racial, ethnic or cultural basis for COVID-19. If you witness racism, xenophobia or discrimination, please speak up and reinforce facts. Guide people to trusted resources, such as our Public Health website, the California

Department of Public Health, and the CDC for information on how to protect themselves and loved ones, and remind people that we're all in this together, as a community.

Alameda County updates the Public Health Department [website daily](#) with confirmed cases, and updated COVID-19 information and resources.