



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

Office of Emergency Services
4985 Broder Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency



ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2020

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No Cost Testing Available in Fremont for the Community
Saturday Pop-Up Testing Offered by Asian Health Services at the Fremont Resource Center
Monday-Saturday, Drive Through Testing Available at Bay Area Community Health
Both sites are by appointment only and offer multilingual services for non-English speakers.

FREMONT, CA – Free COVID-19 testing is available in the City of Fremont for area residents and workers. You do not need a doctor’s note or insurance and you will not be asked about immigration status.

On Saturday, September 19, Asian Health Services and Alameda County, with the support of the City of Fremont launched a free COVID-19 Pop-Up Testing Site.

Located at Family Resource Center at 39155 Liberty Street in Fremont (entry at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Liberty Street) testing will also be available on Saturday, September 26 from 9 AM – 3 PM. To make an appointment, please visit color.com/AHS. For assistance, please call the Asian Health Services Multilingual Helpline at 510/735-3222

This is the second community testing site Asian Health Services has launched with Alameda County. Like the Madison Park site in Oakland’s Chinatown, this pop-up site features testing, information, guidance, and support services in 12 Asian languages, including Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Ilocano, Mongolian, Hmong, and Laotian. Tests are available to everyone.

Fremont-area residents and workers can also access testing Monday - Saturday from Bay Area Community Health (BACH), 39500 Liberty Street. Drive through testing is available Monday - Friday from 1 PM – 5 PM and Saturday from 9 AM – Noon. Please schedule an appointment by calling 510-770-8040.

It is not necessary to be a patient of Asian Health Services or BACH to receive a test at either site and follow up support.

“As Alameda County progresses through the stages of reopening, ongoing access to testing will continue to be a critical part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Alameda County Board of Supervisors

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President, Supervisor for District 2 Richard Valle. “These testing sites in Fremont bring needed additional capacity to a diverse set of communities.”

A person can spread COVID-19 with or without having symptoms. Simple precautions like wearing a face covering when you leave home, maintaining six feet of distance, washing your hands frequently and avoiding gathering with people you don’t live with has helped slow the spread of COVID-19.

“To continue reopening our local economy, we need everyone to do their part to protect their families, friends and neighbors,” said District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “If you feel sick: wear a mask, get tested, and stay home. If you have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19: wear a mask, get tested, and stay home.”

Asian Health Services recently released data from a new study of 1,300 Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Alameda County. Key findings revealed a 3% rate of COVID-19 testing among Asian American, compared to an approximate 10% rate of testing of all ethnicities in California. The study cites high rates of fear and anxiety, depression, loss of jobs, and severe lack of income and food. The study also cited 6% having experienced physical/verbal discrimination based on their race.

Since opening their testing site in Madison Park in Oakland, over 60% of the over 3,000 tested are Asian American, highlighting the important need for culturally and linguistically appropriate testing services.

"This is an important milestone to open the second AHS Test Site in Alameda County," said Sherry Hirota, CEO of Asian Health Services. "It is all about access. Now we must ensure that each of us is safe and supported and has access to in language and in culture education, testing, counseling, case management, referrals, and compassion. We hope to see our community out in force to test and receive care, in language, and in culture."

Testing plays a vital role in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Alameda County has a coordinated strategy to place testing sites in areas to best reach disproportionately impacted communities of color, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Bay Area Community Health's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Harsha Ramchandani said, "As a Federally Qualified Health Center, it’s essential that we offer No-Cost testing to everyone in our community. Keeping our community healthy and safe is our top priority. The more people we test, the quicker we can tackle the

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COVID-19 pandemic and meet the healthcare needs of our neighbors and the community's most vulnerable."

Cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population among Pacific Islanders in Alameda County is 958.6, second only to the Latinx community.

"There are more Pacific Islanders (PI) living in Alameda County than all 10 counties in the Bay Area," said Taunuu Ve'e, Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce. "The opportunity to add more free Pop-Up sites like that at the Fremont Resource Center makes it easier for our PI families to access testing, especially those without transportation. Our hope is that this Fremont testing site will attract more PI families to get tested. We deeply appreciate the partnership with Asian Health Services for their outreach to help get us here."

Alameda County is well past its testing capacity goal of 3,100 tests per day. Additional free community testing sites are available in West Oakland, Fruitvale, East Oakland, San Leandro, Hayward and Pleasanton. More information is available at covid-19.acgov.org/covid19/testing.page.

"The City of Fremont and I advocated for increasing opportunities to expand access to free COVID testing in southern Alameda County. These testing services are extremely important to Fremont residents as well as our surrounding communities," stated Fremont Mayor Lily Mei. "I'd like to thank Asian Health Services for their responsiveness to my outreach in support of this partnership with the Alameda County Public Health Department and the collaboration with our City of Fremont staff. I'm also appreciative of Bay Area Community Health's presence in our community and the work they're doing to provide health services and COVID-19 testing to residents."

Translated copies of this statement will be available at: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/press.page>

Media Contacts

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