



# 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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 19, 2020

**Neetu Balram, Public Information Manager**  
Alameda County Public Health Department

**ADVISORY: Alameda County Is Experiencing Air Quality that Is Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (ORANGE)**  
**Children, older adults and those with breathing or heart issues should limit outdoor activities**

**ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA** – Alameda County residents and businesses are advised that due to smoke from fires in the region, the air quality has reached a level that is unhealthy for sensitive groups. That includes children, older adults and those with breathing or heart issues. These groups should limit outdoor activities.

Southern and eastern parts of Alameda County are experiencing air quality that is unhealthy for everyone, especially children, older adults and those w/ breathing or heart issues (RED). Everyone should limit outdoor activities.

A smoke advisory is in effect for the Bay Area through Thursday, August 20. Based on current air quality conditions, significant changes are not anticipated until the fires are better contained. Visit <https://www.airnow.gov/> and enter your zip code to see your local air quality rating. The Air Quality Index is monitored and reported by the [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#).

If possible, stay inside with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside, and if temperatures allow. If using AC or car vents, set to “recirculate.” Remember, cloth and surgical masks you may use to protect against COVID-19 provide very little protection against smoke and are not a replacement for staying inside.

N-95 masks are prioritized for health care workers and the general public should use them only if they do not have the option to stay indoors. Outreach providers who work with unsheltered persons should visit <https://www.achch.org/air-quality-emergency-resources.html> to learn about resources.

At this time, the following COVID-19 community testing sites operated in partnership with Alameda County are closed due to air quality considerations: La Clínica de La Raza and Native American Health Center (Oakland), Skywest Golf Course (Hayward), and Alameda County Fairgrounds (Pleasanton). If you have an appointment today at a site that has closed, please contact the testing site directly if you need reschedule.

Additional sites may be closed because they do not operate on Wednesdays. Please visit <https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing.page> as community testing sites continue to update their status.

Go to <http://www.baaqmd.gov/> for more information and [www.acphd.org/wildfire-smoke](http://www.acphd.org/wildfire-smoke) for tips.

**MEDIA**  
EOC-PIO@acgov.org

**PUBLIC**  
Covid19compliance@acgov.org

**PHONE**  
925.803.7890



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