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Neetu Balram
Public Information Manager
Alameda County Public Health Department
eoc-pio@acgov.org

COVID-19 Cases More than Double in Alameda County since Early June's Lows
Residents Are Strongly Encouraged to Get Vaccinated As Soon as Possible

Case rates are rising again, particularly in communities where vaccination rates are lower.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – Alameda County is experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases that threatens to exceed the Spring wave seen earlier this year. Hospitalizations are also on the rise. In early June, cases and hospitalizations were at their lowest levels since April 2020. The daily number of cases averaged as low as 28 per day. As of today daily cases are averaging over 70 per day, with over 100 new cases reported on some recent days. New cases are impacting those communities where vaccination rates are lowest, including in priority neighborhoods that have already been hit hardest by COVID-19.

The latest increases are likely due to reopened activities along with decreasing mask use. The Delta variant is likely having an impact too. While a small number of generally mild cases are reported among vaccinated residents, the vast majority of new cases are in unvaccinated people.

"We expect to see more COVID-19 with reopening, but the rate of this increase is concerning," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer. "COVID-19 is a serious threat to the health and wellness of unvaccinated residents. If you are still deciding about vaccination, continue to follow COVID safety precautions to keep from catching or spreading the virus, like wearing your mask in indoor public settings and outdoor crowded spaces. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please get tested and if you're positive, stay home until you have completed your isolation."

Getting COVID-19 can still lead to severe illness, hospitalization, and death for unvaccinated individuals, including youth and young adults. Vaccination is the best protection against severe COVID-19 infection.

"There are many reasons why a person may have chosen not to get vaccinated yet. Many of our residents have experiences with the medical industry that make them pause when considering whether to get vaccinated," said Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Alameda County Public Health Director. "My message right now to our community: COVID-19 has not gone away and it is still making people very sick. Get vaccinated to protect yourself and your family and friends."

Alameda County continues to prioritize vaccinating residents in our disproportionally impacted neighborhoods by partnering closely with community organizations on outreach and operating hyperlocal vaccination sites where vaccination rates are lower . The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

MEDIA
EOC-PIO@acgov.org

PUBLIC
ncov@acgov.org

PHONE
510.268.2101

issued a $12 million RFP last month to support and expand these efforts which have proven to be more successful at reaching residents where they are.

"Talk to your friends, family members, religious leader, or health care provider today. Ask your questions and get the information you need to make the decision that is right for you. When you are ready, we'll be ready for you and in your neighborhood," said Dr. Jocelyn Freeman Garrick, Alameda County's lead for COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. "Vaccine is free for everyone 12 and up and all currently available vaccines are recommended by medical professionals because they are effective. You don't need insurance and you won't be asked for your immigration status."

Resources:

- Vaccination rates by zip code and census tract are available on Alameda County's data dashboard webpage: https://covid-19.acgov.org/data.page?#zipcode

- COVID-19 vaccine FAQs: https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines-faq

- Find a vaccination clinic near you: https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines.page?#availability or call 510-208-4VAX (510-208-4829). Residents can drop by a location near them and don't need an appointment at County-supported vaccinations Points of Dispensing (PODs) and most pop-ups.

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