



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

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

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Neetu Balam

Public Information Manager

Alameda County Public Health Department

eoc-pio@acgov.org

Alameda County Reaches Milestone:

More than 50% of 5-11-Year-Olds Have Received At least One Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – Today, the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) announced that 51 percent of county residents, ages 5-11, have now received at least one dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. In marking this moment, Alameda County strongly encourages residents to continue wearing face masks, avoiding large and crowded indoor settings, and getting fully vaccinated and boosted with family and friends. With recent COVID-19 case increases and the highly transmissible Omicron variant, the Agency also asks residents to stay home if ill or tested positive, to test if symptomatic or exposed, to avoid crowded and poorly ventilated indoor settings, and to test if gathering or traveling, both before and after.

“We have eagerly awaited the ability to vaccinate our younger residents,” said Colleen Chawla, Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. “Vaccines and boosters are the most effective tool we have against COVID-19, and proven to reduce the severity of illness, hospitalization, and death. We encourage parents and caregivers to protect the health and safety of our children sooner than later.”

The Agency’s COVID Division partnered with the Alameda County Office of Education and the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities in late October 2021 to strategize and plan for the administration of the 5–11-year-old pediatric vaccines with Alameda County school districts that showed the highest need for vaccination services based on census-tract vaccination data.

“We aimed to create equitable access to vaccination services for schools/districts where students/parents may have had difficulty accessing services elsewhere in the community. Each district submitted a list of equitably prioritized campuses and (where needed) proposed a central campus that multiple schools could access,” said HCSA’s Public Health Department Director Kimi Watkins-Tartt.

Prior to the schools' winter break, 2,425 pediatric first doses were administered by working with school districts throughout Alameda County, including San Leandro Unified, San Lorenzo Unified, Newark Unified, Hayward Unified, and Oakland Unified.

“We are grateful for our partnership with Alameda County Health Care Services Agency to get vaccines out into our school communities,” said L.K. Monroe, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools. “Vaccines are such a critical part of the measures our families are taking to ensure that students can keep learning in the safest possible classroom environments. We continue to advocate for the vaccination of all eligible students.”

MEDIA
EOC-PIO@acgov.org

PUBLIC
ncov@acgov.org

PHONE
510.268.2101



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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include children 5–11-year-old in late October 2021. The pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is one-third the dosage given to teens and adults. Like older age groups, 5–11-year-olds must also get two shots at least three weeks apart to get the maximum protection from the vaccine. The vaccines are available for free to every person, ages 5+, regardless of residency or immigration status. Parents or guardians can make an appointment here: <https://my.primary.health/l/alco-vax-signup> or by calling **510-208-4VAX (4829)**.

Alameda County Pediatric Vaccine Key Facts:

- 51.3% of Alameda County 5-11-year-olds (over 71,379 children) have had at least one dose, and 38.7% (over 53,930 children) are fully vaccinated.
- Children should get the appropriate dose for their age. The immune response to the 5 to 11 vaccine dose was the same in 11-year-olds as 5-year-olds. Parents are encouraged to protect their child now that we are in a winter surge.
- There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility in either men or women.
- Anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to component of the COVID-19 vaccine or has known diagnosed allergy to a component of the vaccine should not get the vaccine. Parents should talk to their child’s doctor if they are concerned about allergic reactions.
- A child should get vaccinated even if they previously had COVID-19. Immunity after infection varies from person to person, and the duration of this immunity is unknown. The Omicron variant may be more likely to cause re-infections than previous variants.
- Children are less likely to experience vaccine side effects than adults.

The COVID vaccine will continue to be available to all residents. Vaccines are also readily available directly through health care providers, at pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens, at the San Leandro Adult School, San Lorenzo High School, Allen Temple Baptist Church, The Center-West Oakland, Weekes Community Center and Coyote Hills Elementary School.

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