Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Equity Strategies

To ensure health for all in Alameda County, we must keep health & social equity at the center of our response and recovery.

We must protect health of all, but especially those most marginalized and vulnerable to COVID-19.

Older adults, people with pre-existing health conditions, people experiencing homelessness, people in congregate living settings (including long-term care facilities, jail/prison, shelters), people/workers/communities of color, immigrants

Some factors that can increase vulnerability include:

- Health risks due to co-morbid conditions
- Socio-economic risks that limit ability to protect health
- Environmental risks due to crowded conditions
- Structural inequities that increase risk of these risks

COVID-19 Case Rates (per 100,000 pop) by Zip Code in Alameda County
da as of 5/4/20

Reflecting long-standing racism, communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 across the country and county.

The highest case rates of COVID-19 are reported in zip codes in East Oakland and unincorporated central County – including parts of Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, and Hayward.

In Alameda County, Latinos and African Americans disproportionately account for COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

African Americans are disproportionately represented among COVID-19 deaths.
Public health measures are critical to control the spread of COVID-19 and continue “flattening the curve” in Alameda County, including:

- Testing
- Isolation of Sick
- Contact Tracing
- Quarantine of Exposed
- Physical Distancing
- Hygiene

We must work to ensure that all community members – and especially those most marginalized/vulnerable – can adopt protective measures.

**INDIVIDUAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACTS OF COVID-19**

**PHYSICAL**
- Morbidity: COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations
- Mortality: COVID-19 deaths
- Indirect Health Impacts: Other patients who cannot access needed care

**PSYCHO-SOCIAL**
- Social Isolation: Decline in family, social, community connections
- Stress
- Mental Health: Depression, anxiety, trauma
- Substance Use
- Violence: Family violence, community violence

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC**
- Loss of Wages & Work
- Unemployment
- Small Business Strain
- Education: School closures, school meal barriers
- Housing: Cost burden, instability, homelessness
- Basic Living Needs: Food, utilities, transportation, healthcare, medicine

**INSTITUTIONAL/STRUCTURAL**
- Health System Burden
- Social Safety Net Strain
- Racism & Xenophobia: Anti-Chinese/Asian racism, institutional/structural racism, anti-immigrant bias
- Health & Social Inequities: High risks/cumulative impacts for low-income, people of color, immigrants, homeless, incarcerated

COVID-19 is broadly and deeply affecting individual and community health at multiple levels.

Multi- and cross-sector action – in partnership with impacted communities – is critical to provide immediate resources/supports and longer-term policy/systemic changes.

To support health/racial equity and groups/communities hardest hit by COVID-19, key institutional and community priorities for action include:

- Expanded & Targeted Testing
- Data Surveillance
- Isolation/Quarantine Supports & Protective Measures for High-Risk
- Targeted Resources, Messaging, & Supports for Marginalized/Impacted
- Emergency Economic Assistance & Social Benefits
- Moratorium on Evictions, Foreclosures, & Utility Shutoffs
- Protective Measures for People Experiencing Homelessness
- Protective Measures for People who are Incarcerated
- Healthcare, Emergency Assistance, & Sanctuary for Immigrants