

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

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Week of October 4

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

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As decisions to vaccinate and wear face coverings indoors drive down COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations, Health Officers for nine Bay Area health jurisdictions have [reached consensus](#) on criteria to lift those health orders under certain conditions. Each jurisdiction will rescind its order when criteria are met in that respective county or city. The criteria were developed to assist in determining the safest time to lift the indoor masking orders, based on regional scientific and medical consensus. (See [Criteria for Lifting Indoor Mask Mandate below](#).)

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended and authorized Pfizer vaccine boosters. This is a distinct recommendation from the earlier guidance to provide people who are immunocompromised with an additional dose of vaccine. (See [FDA Provides Additional Guidance for Boosters below](#).)

We are asking our community to **fight the flu** by getting the annual vaccination now. It takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to become effective after you get the shot, so getting vaccinated early offers the best protection. While the flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, it is especially important for pregnant women, children younger than 5, adults 65 and older, and those with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes. People in the same household with someone at high risk can help protect that person from severe flu by getting a flu shot. [Find](#) a flu vaccination site near you and stay healthy.

We remain grateful for the dedication and commitment our employees and partners have shown to serving and protecting our communities. Thank you all for your ongoing efforts to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help save lives.

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Criteria for Lifting Indoor Mask Mandate

The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara,

Sonoma, and the City of Berkeley will lift the indoor masking requirement in public spaces not subject to state and federal masking rules when all the following occur:

- The jurisdiction reaches the moderate (yellow) [COVID-19 transmission tier](#), as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and remains there for at least three weeks; **AND**
- COVID-19 hospitalizations in the jurisdiction are low and stable, in the judgment of the health officer; **AND**
- 80% of the jurisdiction's total population is fully vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson (booster doses not considered) **OR** Eight weeks have passed since a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by federal and state authorities for 5- to 11-year-olds



Lifting a local indoor mask mandate would not prevent businesses, nonprofits, churches, or others with public indoor spaces from imposing their own requirements. As COVID-19 easily spreads through airborne droplets, face coverings remain highly powerful in preventing its spread. And [California's health guidance for the use of face coverings](#) may remain in effect after local masking requirements are lifted, meaning that people who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 must continue to wear masks in businesses and indoor public spaces. The state also requires face coverings for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in health care facilities, public transit and adult and senior care facilities. [California's masking guidelines in K-12 schools](#) would also not be affected by changes to local health orders.

FDA Provides Additional Guidance for Boosters

People who **should** receive a Pfizer booster six months after completing their initial vaccination series include:

- Ages 65 years and older,
- Long term care residents, and
- Ages 50 through 64 years with underlying medical conditions or at increased risk of social inequities (including communities of color and others at risk of inequities).

People who **may consider** receiving a booster based on their individual benefits and risks include:

- Ages 18 through 49 years with underlying medical conditions, and
- Ages 18 through 64 who are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to their occupation or institutional setting.



Boosters are not yet authorized for anyone who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Please talk to your health care provider to determine what's best for you. Visit the California Department of Public Health's [website](#) for more information. Alameda County supported vaccination clinics will continue to prioritize vaccinating eligible yet unvaccinated individuals and those who are not fully vaccinated. We are not currently offering boosters. Residents who are eligible for a booster should visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov) or contact your health care provider or local chain pharmacy. Additional info can be found on our [Public Health website](#).

Halloween and Día de los Muertos

Alameda County and the City of Berkeley issued [guidance](#) for commonly celebrated Halloween and Día de los Muertos observances. These activities carry risk for spreading COVID-19. Limit yourself to small gatherings and implement extra safety measures, especially when everyone is not vaccinated. To help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19:

- Get fully vaccinated,
- Stay home if you have, or think you may have, COVID-19,
- Wear a face mask: A costume mask is not a substitute and should not be worn over a protective cloth mask,
- Gather outdoors,
- If participating in traditional trick-or-treating, wear a face mask or keep your distance from others, and sanitize your hands to help reduce your risk of getting COVID-19, and
- Keep gatherings small and follow for events with 1,000 attendees indoors or 10,000 outdoors.

Together, we must take steps to protect ourselves and those around us, including young children who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

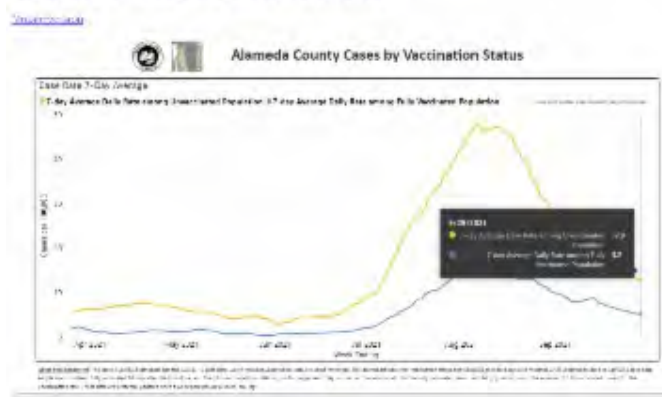


COVID-19 Data Update

Reflecting 7-day average and 7-day lag:

- Daily case rate 8.7 per 100,000
- Test positivity 1.6%
- HPI first quartile 2.4
- 114 patients, 39 ICU
- Vaccinations: ages 12+ one dose, 91.5%, fully vaccinated 78.6%

CASES BY VACCINATION STATUS



K -12 Students to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine to Attend School

We strongly support the Governor's [announcement](#) to require K-12 students to get the COVID-19 vaccine to come to school. Students will be required to be vaccinated for in-person learning starting the term following FDA full approval of the vaccine for their grade span. The State's action highlights the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines which remain our best tool to end this pandemic by protecting individuals against severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to



COVID-19. An FDA advisory committee is scheduled to consider an application from Pfizer-BioNTech to grant emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds on October 26. Visit our Youth Vaccination Facts [webpage](#) to find a vaccination clinic or answers to frequently asked questions.

State Public Health Officer Order

Last week, CDPH issued a new State Public Health Officer [Order](#) requiring all workers in adult and senior care facilities as well as workers in settings where direct care and services are provided to be vaccinated.



This new order applies to all workers in:

- Adult and senior care facilities licensed by the Department of Social Services,
- All in-home direct care services workers, including registered home care aides and certified home health aides (excepting those who live-in or are family members), all waiver personal care services (WPCS) providers as defined by the California Department of Health Care Services, and
- In-home supportive services (IHSS) providers (excepting those who live-in or are family members),
- All hospice workers, and all regional center employees as well as service provider workers who provide services to a consumer through a network of regional centers serving individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities (excepting those who live-in or are family members).
- All individuals must have the first dose of a one-dose regimen or the second dose of a two-dose regimen by November 30, 2021.

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