

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

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Week of October 18

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

Alameda County is in Week One of the yellow (moderate) level of community transmission, as measured by the [CDC Data Tracker](#). We must remain in yellow for three weeks to meet local criteria for lifting our indoor mask requirements. Alameda County could meet the criteria mid to late December, assuming FDA Emergency Use Authorization of COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-to-11 years old and some fully vaccinated after December 10. Although hospitalizations continue to decline, a late fall or winter surge could slow our progress. It takes a community to keep us moving towards lifting the masking requirement. Please keep up the effort and encourage eligible yet unvaccinated family, friends, and colleagues to please get vaccinated, especially as we head into the holiday season.

Booster shots of the Pfizer vaccine are recommended if you are aged 65 and older, 50-64 and have an underlying medical condition, or are a long-term care resident who is 18 or older. You may consider getting a booster if you are 18-49 and have an [underlying medical condition](#) or live or work in a high-risk setting. Residents who are eligible for a booster should visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov) or contact their health care provider or local chain pharmacy. Additional information can be found on our [website](#).

As we approach Halloween and Día de Los Muertos activities, we want to remind and thank our residents for helping to reduce and prevent the risk of COVID-19 as we gather for holidays and observances. By taking steps to prevent this disease, we show consideration for our neighbors, friends, and people who are at higher risk like older adults who may be immunocompromised as well as children who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

We will continue publishing updates biweekly and you can visit our COVID-19 website to find information. We appreciate your readership, encourage your feedback, and ask that you share this newsletter with others.

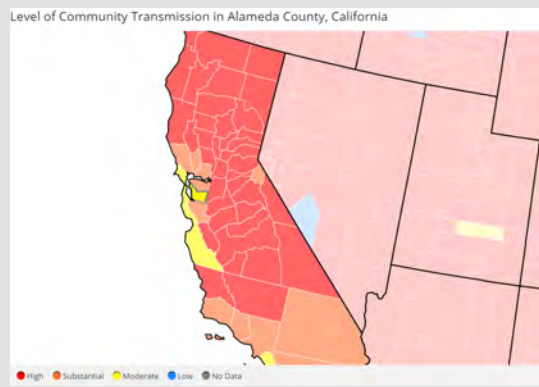
[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

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## Criteria to Lift Alameda County Mask Requirements

Alameda County is in the yellow (moderate) transmission level according to the [CDC Data Tracker](#), which represents less than 50 cases per 100,000 per week. To lift our mask criteria, Alameda County would need to stay at this transmission level (or improve) for three weeks. Alameda County still needs to meet the other metrics as follows:



- 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. [California's health guidance for the use of face coverings](#) may remain in effect after local masking requirements are lifted. State and Federal masking requirements that would not be affected if our County lifted the mask criteria are:

- [K-12 school masking](#) which is still required,
- Unvaccinated people must stay masked in indoor public settings,
- CalOSHA mask rules, and
- Public transit mask requirements.

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## Updated List of Underlying Medical Conditions



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated their [list of underlying medical conditions](#) associated with higher risk for severe illness due to COVID-19.

The following conditions were added based on evidence published between December 1, 2019, and August 31, 2021:

- Chronic lung disease, including bronchiectasis, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary embolism, tuberculosis)
- Chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, alcoholic liver disease, and autoimmune hepatitis
- Mental health disorders, such as mood disorders including depression, and schizophrenia spectrum disorders

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## Reaffirming Prevention and Containment Approach in Schools

The California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, and California Department of Public Health Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón recently issued a [joint statement](#) reaffirming the state's



approach to preventing COVID-19 in schools and protecting our students' health by continuing the state's successful masking requirements in K-12 settings. California will maintain the universal indoor mask mandate in K-12 schools and will continue to monitor conditions through the winter. Recent studies from the 2021-2022 school year confirm that

**schools with universal masking requirements are less likely to experience outbreaks.** California continues to assess conditions on an ongoing basis to determine whether to update mask requirements or recommendations.

## Guidance for a Safe and Spooky Halloween

As Halloween and Día de Los Muertos draw closer, please visit the Alameda County and City of Berkeley [guidance](#) for safer options:

- Get fully vaccinated.
- Stay home if you don't feel well.
- Keep gatherings small and outdoors. If indoors, improve airflow by opening windows and doors if it is safe to do so.
- Avoid indoor haunted houses where people may crowd together and laughing or screaming risks exposure to tiny air droplets. The droplets can build up indoors, increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19 if someone is infected.
- Avoid crowded places, especially indoors, which put you at higher risk.
- Incorporate a face mask that covers your nose and mouth snugly with your costume. **A costume mask is NOT a substitute for a face mask** that protects against COVID-19. Wear the mask whenever you are inside with other people or in crowded outdoor spaces.
- Be willing to change your plans or leave if you feel uncomfortable or find yourself in a place where COVID-19 can spread more easily. For example, indoors in a loud crowded bar or restaurant with a lot of people who are not wearing face masks.



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## COVID-19 Data Update

Reflecting 7-day average and 7-day lag:

- Daily case rate 6.8 per 100,000
- Test positivity 1.4%
- HPI first quartile 2.0%
- Hospitalized 94 patients, 36 ICU
- Vaccinations: ages 12+ one dose, 89.1%, fully vaccinated 83.7%

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## Vaccines are Available Weekly

**Saturdays:**

- [OUSD Central Kitchen](#), 29th Street, Oakland,

10am-2pm

- [Weekes Community Center](#), 27182 Patrick Ave., Hayward, 10am-2pm
- [Allen Temple Baptist Church](#), 8501 International Blvd., Oakland, 10am-2pm
- [Our Lady of the Rosary Church](#), 703 C Street, Union City, 10am -2pm



You can find [more vaccine locations](#) and [testing locations](#) by visiting our website.

## Oakland Citywide Guaranteed Income Pilot



[Oakland Resilient Families](#) has opened applications for phase 2 of the citywide **Guaranteed Income Pilot**. Eligible families may apply to be randomly selected as one of 300 families who will receive \$500/month for 18 months as part of a

research project conducted by the [Center for Guaranteed Income Research](#). [Spanish](#) and [English](#) flyers and [information on timeline and eligibility](#) are available. Interested residents can visit [www.oaklandresilientfamilies.org](http://www.oaklandresilientfamilies.org) to **apply before midnight, November 3**.

A **Train the Trainers** info session for frontline CBO staff and service providers will be held Friday, October 22 from noon to 1 pm. [REGISTER HERE](#) and please share.

[Click here to join our mailing list.](#)

[COVID-19 Update PDF Version](#)

