

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of November 15

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

Last week, Alameda County [announced](#) a health order mandating vaccinations for workers employed in specified settings. Workers engaged in 9-1-1 ambulance transport, non-emergency medical transport, and first responders (including law enforcement and fire) must be fully vaccinated by December 21, 2021. This Order allows weekly testing for COVID-19 in lieu of showing evidence of full vaccination. Workers must provide a signed declination letter to claim exemption under state or federal law due to a sincerely held religious belief or qualifying medical reason.

This week we [announced](#) continued improvements for vaccination rates within Alameda County. Over 81% of Latinx and 74% of Black/African American residents have received at least one dose of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine. Seventy-five percent of Hispanic/Latino and 68% of Black/African American residents, 12 years and older, are fully vaccinated. We continue efforts to reach every Alameda County resident who might be interested in getting vaccinated or needs more time. Using multiple strategies, we are expanding access to accurate information and combatting misinformation that deters or discourages residents from getting vaccinated.

Thanksgiving is next week and we want to express our gratitude to our staff, community partners, and residents. We are fortunate to live in an area where many people have chosen to get vaccinated, and continue to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As always, you can visit our COVID-19 website to find information including this week's [briefing](#) to our Board of Supervisors. We appreciate your readership, encourage your feedback, and ask that you share this newsletter with others.

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

## Make Plans for a Healthy Holiday Season

As you make plans to gather with friends and family this holiday season, keep COVID-19 in mind and take steps to prevent its spread:

- The best way to protect yourself and your family is to get vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated Californians are **6.8 times** more likely to be infected with COVID-19, and **12 times** more likely to be hospitalized.
- Anyone 18+ can get a COVID-19 booster.
- It's safe to get a flu shot and a COVID-19 vaccination or booster at the same time.
- Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms and stay home if you are sick.
- Your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 increases as you interact with more people for longer periods of time. If the vaccine status of a guest is unknown, keep gatherings small, short, and outdoors.
- If gathering inside, help keep COVID-19 at bay by opening doors and windows, running HVAC systems, and installing high-quality air filters.



**COVID-19 vaccines are available for free to every person, ages 5 and older, regardless of residency or immigration status.**

- Visit [MyTurn.CA.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov) or [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find locations offering Pfizer for patients ages 5 to 11, or
- Find a [vaccine site](#) in Alameda County.

Visit our website for facts about [COVID-19 vaccines and children](#).

## Holiday Travel

We urge Alameda County residents to follow the [State's guidance](#) to prevent the risk of spreading COVID-19 when traveling for the holidays.

### Domestic Travel:

- Delay travel until you are fully vaccinated.
- Check your destination's COVID-19 situation before traveling. State, local, and territorial governments may have travel restrictions in place. See [CDC Domestic Travel Guidance](#)
- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required in indoor areas of public transportation (including airplanes) and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports).
- Do not travel if you have been exposed to COVID-19, you are sick, or you test positive for COVID-19.
- If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, get tested both before and after your trip.

### International Travel:

- There are travel recommendations by destination, See the [CDC International Travel Guidance](#).

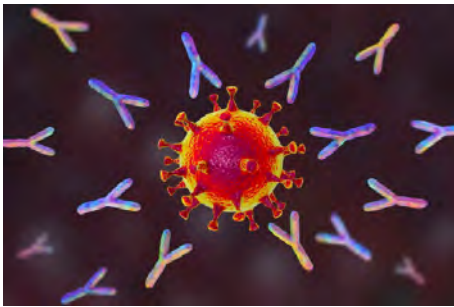


## COVID-19 Data Update

Reflecting 7-day average and 7-day lag:

- 86.9% of Alameda County residents ages 12 + fully vaccinated
- 13.3% case rate among unvaccinated population
- 3.6% case rate among fully vaccinated population
- 5.7% among total (vaccinated and unvaccinated) population
- 19.5% ages 5-11 with at least one dose (5-11 comprise 8.4% of total population)
- Daily case rate 5.7 per 100,00
- 1.2% test positivity overall
- 1.4% test positivity Healthy Places Index (HPI) first quartile
- 54 patients hospitalized, 19 intensive care unit

## Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for High-Risk Persons Ages 12+



Free, FDA-authorized monoclonal antibody (mAB) treatment is available for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and meet criteria. Treatment can help reduce symptoms and avoid hospitalization. Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that help boost the immune system to fight off viruses and may be used to treat adults and adolescents who are at high risk of

developing severe illness from COVID-19. [Learn if you qualify](#) for this life-saving treatment:

- Are ages 12 or older and at least 88 lbs, *and*
- Recently tested positive for COVID-19 and are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms OR were exposed to someone with COVID-19, *and*
- Are part of a group of people who are at high risk for hospitalization or death.

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

## Saturday Vaccination Availability at Health Care Partner and Alameda County Supported Sites

Vaccines are available throughout the week, and some offer Saturdays to serve people who may not be able to get away during the week.

- [Native American Health Center](#), Saturday, November 20th, 1- am - 4 pm, 3050 International Blvd. Oakland
- [OUSD Central Kitchen](#), 29th Street, Oakland, corner of West St. and 29th St., 10 am-2 pm
- [Weekes Community Center](#), 27182 Patrick Ave., Hayward, 10 am-2 pm
- [Allen Temple Baptist Church](#), 8501 International Blvd., Oakland, 10 am-2 pm

Find [more vaccine locations](#), [testing locations](#), or [make an appointment](#) by visiting our [website](#).



### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**Alameda County community sites will be closed on November 27, December 25, and January 1, to let our staff and volunteers spend holiday time with family and friends.**

## Covered California Open Enrollment



The open enrollment period for Affordable Care Act marketplaces began on November 1 and closes on January 31, 2022. Californians can sign up for, or renew, their health insurance coverage. People who are uninsured or are paying for insurance directly may be able to get the same plan they have, or shop for other coverage at possible cost-savings. California residents can view their options by visiting [Covered California](#) or by calling 1-(800) 300-1506.

## Native American History Month

As Native American History Month draws to a close, we are reminded of the history, spirit, traditions, culture, and the land of indigenous communities across this nation. We are grateful for the [Ohlone people and lands](#) upon which we live, work, and play.

In honor of Native American History Month, our Behavioral Health team presented *The Cultural Toolbox: An Indigenous Perspective on Deep Healing* to take a deep dive into community-defined healing practices and strategies for mental health and addiction recovery. You can [email](#) for more information about the session.



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

[COVID-19 Update PDF Version](#)

