

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

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Week of December 13

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

Earlier this week, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) mandated that everyone in California wear a mask in indoor public spaces and workplaces, and posted [recommendations and requirements](#). Alameda County's local [face covering order and amendment](#) remain in effect as noted by the State for local jurisdictions with existing mask orders. *(See Mask Mandate below.)* CDPH also issued a travel advisory and updated its mega event guidance this week. *(See Travel Advisory and Mega-Events below.)*

Next Tuesday, December 21, our [Health Care for the Homeless](#) team is holding a memorial service for countywide homeless care providers and advocates to observe [National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day](#). The virtual event will be held from 12 pm to 1 pm via zoom. Together with localities across the country, we pause to honor residents who died while homeless in Alameda County and we strengthen our resolve to work for a world where no life is lived or lost in homelessness.



We are also reminded of our Alameda County families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. With the Omicron variant rapidly spreading and the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines waning over time, we urge everyone eligible to obtain a vaccination or booster shot right away. The need for a booster is particularly critical for persons age 50 and older, and those with significant underlying health conditions. Everyone 16 and older who is 6 months out from their second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two months out from their Johnson & Johnson vaccine, is also eligible for a COVID-19 booster shot.

Here's to a happy and healthy holiday season. We appreciate your readership, encourage your feedback, and ask that you share this newsletter with others.

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

[Mask Mandate](#)

Alameda County's [local face-covering order and amendment](#) remains in effect as noted in the State's [Face Covering Q & A](#). Residents will not experience any differences in policy. Everyone aged two and older, regardless of vaccination status, is required to wear a mask in indoor public settings, with a [limited exemption for certain controlled settings](#) with a small, stable group of fully vaccinated people. Alameda County modified its mask [Order](#) by adding exemption language to align with the State's modifications to masking for youth sports and musical instruments. Children who play sports indoors who remove their masks due to heavy exertion during play will not be in violation of our local mask requirements now.



An additional reminder from The Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) and Alameda County Public Health in a joint statement: [Best Practices for Addressing COVID-19 During Upcoming Winter Closure](#). Along with vaccination and boosters, masks are one of the best tools we have to prevent spreading COVID-19 to family, friends, and community members. We will continue to monitor emerging evidence and the local epidemic to determine if changes to local mandates will be needed.

## Travel Advisory and Mega-Events



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued a [new travel advisory](#) effective immediately to recommend that all travelers arriving in California test for COVID-19 within three to five days after arrival, regardless of their vaccination status. The CDC posted a [quick reference](#) guide for travel to the U.S. along with guidance for activities, gatherings, and holidays. The CDC also offers COVID-19 [travel recommendations by destination](#).

CDPH updated the [requirements](#) for attending mega-events, like concerts and sporting events. Prior to attending an event, attendees will now need to provide either proof of vaccination, a negative antigen COVID-19 test within one day of the event, or a negative PCR test within two days of the event.



## Booster Eligibility for 16- and 17-Year-Olds

The California Health and Human Services Agency and the California Department of Public Health issued a [joint statement](#) recommending expanded Pfizer-BioNTech Booster eligibility for 16- and 17-year-olds. The State's recommendation follows the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup's recommendation to expand eligibility for boosters at least six months after completing their primary vaccination series. Currently, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and



recommended for adolescents aged 16 and 17. [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) is currently being updated to reflect the expanded eligibility. Parents and guardians are encouraged to check with their teen's health care provider to schedule their booster appointment.

## COVID-19 Data Update

Reflecting 7-day average and 7-day lag:

- 75.1% of Alameda County residents ages 5 + fully vaccinated\*
- 18.9% case rate among unvaccinated population
- 4.7% case rate among fully vaccinated population
- 7.4% cases among total (vaccinated and unvaccinated) population
- 43.8% ages 5-11 with at least one dose (5-11 comprise 8.4% of total population)
- Daily case rate 6.5 per 100,000
- 1.4% test positivity overall
- 1.6% test positivity Healthy Places Index (HPI) first quartile
- 64 patients hospitalized, 13 intensive care unit

The COVID-19 [dashboard](#) for more data.

\*The COVID-19 dashboard now uses the full population as the denominator. This results in lowering the percentage of fully vaccinated. Previously the 12+ population was used as the denominator.

## Health Care Partner and Alameda County Vaccination Sites

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

- [OUSD Central Kitchen](#), 29th Street, Oakland, corner of West St. and 29th St., Sat., 10 am-2 pm
- [Weekes Community Center](#), 27182 Patrick Ave., Hayward, Sat., 10 am-2 pm
- [Allen Temple Baptist Church](#), 8501 International Blvd., Oakland, Sat., 10 am-2 pm
- [San Leandro Adult School](#), 1448 Williams St., San Leandro, Wed., 2 pm- 7 pm
- [San Lorenzo High School](#), 50 E. Lewelling Blvd., Thurs., 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- [Coyote Hills Elementary](#), Sun., 10:30 am-3:30 pm, 3627 Cherry St., Newark

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

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

*Alameda County community sites will be closed on, December 25-26, and January 1-2, to allow our staff and volunteers to spend holiday time with family and friends.*



## Peers Organizing Community Change (POCC)



The holiday spirit was in full display during the recent virtual Peers Organizing Community Change (POCC) Holiday and Cultural Celebration. Music and cultural expressions highlighted the diverse backgrounds of the POCC community. From the beginning, POCC has operated with a recovery vision that is consumer-driven, culturally responsive, and holistic in its services and supports. POCC

Manager Mary Hogden said, "Mutual peer support is the glue that holds the POCC

together and is built on hope, equality, respect, personal responsibility and self-determination.” Peer support describes relationships between people with similar "lived experience" who understand each other’s situation. The holiday and cultural celebration provided a way to acknowledge the resilience and accomplishments of [POCC](#) while looking forward to another year of growth and support.

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[COVID-19 Update PDF Version](#)

