

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of January 24

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

While onsite testing availability and supply kits at retail sites continue to vary by location, every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. In addition to requesting tests now, we urge residents to be aware of illegitimate testing practices. Both the Alameda County District Attorney and the California State Attorney General issued consumer warnings this week. We are educating residents about what to look for and have asked Bay Area media to join us in getting this important message out to our community. *(See Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests below.)*

Although we are beginning to see declines in reported COVID-19 cases, we ask residents to continue taking all precautions to stop and prevent the spread of this disease. We know the virus is circulating in our community as a result of high case rates and hospitalizations, and current testing limitations may not provide the full picture. *(See Alameda County Seeing a Decline.)*

Finally, we complete our EMS Redesign community feedback sessions next week. If you have questions to submit, or would like to register to attend, please see the article and links at the end of this week's update.

Thank you for taking time to review our updates on COVID-19. We appreciate your partnership and ask that you share this newsletter with others.

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four **free at-home COVID -19 tests** through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Postal Service. We encourage residents to request tests now to have on hand when needed while onsite testing availability and over the

GET YOUR AT HOME TEST KIT



counter kits continue to vary by community and provider.

We also urge residents to **be careful when choosing testing providers**. This week, the Alameda County District Attorney issued an alert to raise greater awareness on compliance with testing standards set by the State, and guidance on what to look for at any site. The State Attorney General also issued a warning this week for Californians to beware of illegitimate testing practices. We are educating residents about what to look for when testing for COVID-19 and remain

focused on delivering testing, vaccinations, and boosters to our community.

Expanded Isolation and Quarantine Capacity

Alameda County expanded isolation and quarantine (IQ) capacity in congregate shelter living dramatically last week, more than tripling units by converting and adding sites. We accepted more referrals in mid-January than we have in many months. We continue to receive 30-70 referrals per day and have not stopped accepting new guests.



We currently have ~320 IQ rooms, having recently added another 230 while working around the clock to keep up with referrals. Daily referrals have ranged from 35 to 75 over the last week, from 2 to 5 per day in mid to late-December. Isolation averages 8 days with variations based on vaccine status and symptoms.

Alameda County Seeing a Decline in Reported COVID-19 Cases

According to the state, data from the last 90 days shows that the Alameda County case rate rose above previous surges, likely a result of the highly transmissible Omicron variant. However, the daily number of cases is declining and slowing shown in graph.

Epidemic Data Points (7 day lag)

- 219 cases per 100,000 residents per day
- 87.6% of residents vaccinated with at least one dose
- 81% of residents are fully vaccinated

- 57.9% ages 5-11 with at least one dose (5-11 comprise 8.4% of the total population)
- 19% test positivity overall
- 442 hospitalized, 61 ICU

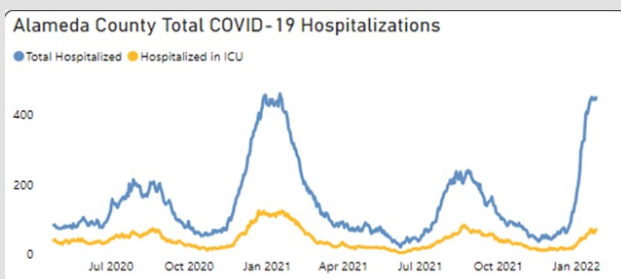
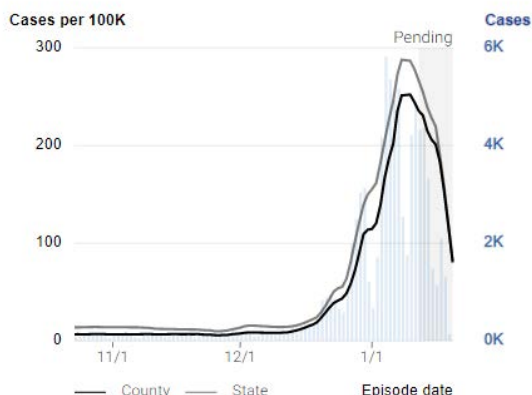
Confirmed cases in Alameda County

Episode date ▼ 90 days ▼

203,927 total confirmed cases

4,188 new cases (2.1% increase)

230.9 cases per 100K (7-day average)



Total Hospitalized and ICU

Alameda County hospitalizations reached last winter's peak. Approximately half of the patients hospitalized have COVID-19.

Visit our [dashboard](#).

Alameda County is Aligned with CDC

Alameda County is aligned with CDC guidance in which mRNA vaccines are now preferred over Johnson & Johnson. Alameda County-operated vaccination clinics continue to make Johnson & Johnson vaccine available on request with education for an individual to make an informed decision including why the other available vaccines are recommended by the CDC. We respect residents' choices and will administer the vaccine of their choosing. [Locate vaccines and resources](#).

Stay Vigilant and Continue Precautions - Mask Up to Move On!

We must remain vigilant and take steps to lower the risk of COVID-19:

- **Keep gatherings small**, short and, if possible, outdoors.
- When gathering inside, ventilate well. Open doors and windows, run HVAC systems, and install high-quality air filters.
- Everyone must **wear a mask** in indoor public settings.
- [Vaccines and boosters](#) continue to provide strong protection.
- If possible, [get tested](#) to know your

COVID-19 status before gathering with friends and family. Plan to **test 3-5 days** after gathering or traveling too.

- **Stay home if you are sick** especially if you have a fever or test positive, even if you use an at-home test.
- **Upgrade your mask.** An effective mask has both a good fit and good filtration. A well-fitted mask has no gaps between the face and mask. With gaps, air that has virus particles can easily leak in or out around the sides of the mask.
- A good fit forces the air that you breathe to go through the mask and be filtered. [Get the most out of your masking.](#)



The SHIE & CHR Close Gaps in the Safety Net to Accelerate Care

This week the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved our [proposal](#) to maintain the Social Health Information Exchange (SHIE) and Community Health Record (CHR) as part of the County's transition from [whole person care](#), the State's Medi-Cal innovation pilot, to [CalAIM](#), the multi-year, multi-system redesign of Medi-Cal financing and service delivery. Alameda County's CalAIM implementation builds upon the services and infrastructure developed over the last six years within the [Care Connect](#) pilot and delivered through many partner providers. Our progress and transition to CalAIM would not have been possible with our partners, and we encourage you to learn more about the work by viewing [Leroy's story](#).

Emergency Medical Services Redesign Community Forum II



Join us online on Wednesday, February 2, from 5:30 to 7 pm, for our Health Care Services Agency Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system redesign. A Q&A session will follow the panel discussion. Join us to contribute your vision for EMS services in Alameda County. You can [submit questions](#) in advance to help shape the forum. [Register](#) today!

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[COVID-19 Update PDF Version](#)

