

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of December 21

## *Special Update*

### **Alameda County Health Care Services Agency**

*Please share with your networks*

It's the season of hope, and as we send this message two COVID-19 vaccines have been approved, the first shipment has arrived, and our team has vaccinated the first group of health care workers and first responders at highest risk of exposure. The mere fact that vaccines are available just 11 months after we activated our Department Operations Center last January feels surreal. It can normally take 10-15 years to bring a vaccine to people and until now the fastest ever – the vaccine for mumps – took four years.



And while there is hope with vaccine, we must remain diligent in our ongoing efforts to stop and prevent COVID-19. As we continue through our largest surge in cases to date in Alameda County, we urge everyone to **please stay home for the holidays, avoid all gatherings, and wear a mask whenever outside your home.** Your continued support and efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our community are much appreciated.

As we await the arrival of the second vaccine in our County this week, we imagine the year ahead: widespread vaccination, ongoing prevention and community supports, and the continued success of science. By this time next year, we could very well be together again with our loved ones, our friends, and our colleagues.

We're not publishing the update next week to give the team some time away. We'll be back the first week in January and look forward to new beginnings along with the hope and promise that 2021 brings.

## COVID-19 Vaccines

We held our first COVID-19 Vaccine Community Advisory Group (CAG) on December 21. The group includes residents and representatives from a variety of organizations across Alameda County. While the State's framework prioritizes vaccinations for different groups of people over four phases, Alameda County has some local control over how those priorities are put into practice.

We are seeking community input on vaccine prioritization, how to build more trust, effective messaging, and managing misinformation. CAG meeting materials are posted on our website [here](#). You can watch the December 21 meeting [here](#). More information about both vaccines, federal, state, and local activities, and regular updates can be found on our [COVID-19 Vaccination](#) webpage.

On Friday, December 18, we held our first Point of Distribution (POD) for COVID-19 vaccinations at Sr. Rose Hospital in Hayward, to serve their health care workers and Alameda County first responders at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19. We anticipate receiving 4,875 doses in the next round of the Pfizer vaccine, in addition to the first 12,675 doses received on Thursday, December 17.

The Moderna vaccine received [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on December 18. This is the second EUA issued for a COVID-19 vaccine and we anticipate receiving 14,800 doses on 12/23-24. We are working with our health care providers on prioritizing health care workers at highest risk of exposure.

We know our community will have questions about vaccines in general as the basis to begin a conversation about the COVID-19 vaccines. We developed a general vaccine FAQ and posted to our [website](#). Translated versions coming soon, along with information more specific to COVID-19 vaccines.

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## Hospital Capacity - Please Help Us Reach Our Community



### STOP THE SURGE.



Wear a mask.



Stay 6 feet apart.



Stay at home.

[covid19.ca.gov](https://covid19.ca.gov)



As of December 21, the COVID burden on inpatient beds in Alameda County was nearly 14.74% and ICU 22.30%. We continue to see a concerning rise in the number of people being hospitalized for [COVID-19](#) and we remain in touch with hospitals across the County.

Our social media streams feature key topics including [Stop the Surge](#), [Holiday Tips](#), and [CA Notify](#) in addition to vaccine and guidance on our social media platforms. Please amplify this information by sharing our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) content within your networks.

## Project Roomkey and Homekey Updates

We are continuing to adapt Project Roomkey, taking into account: COVID-19 cases,

move-in rate into funded housing opportunities, availability of ongoing funding sources, and vaccination schedules. Our priorities are: decreasing the spread of COVID 19 by providing isolation and quarantine locations; safe shelter for people at high risk for COVID 19 impacts; and taking advantage of the time-limited opportunities for long-term housing.

Due to the surge in COVID 19 cases the following changes have been made:

- The Comfort Inn, now a Homekey site, will temporarily run as an Isolation and Quarantine site (and not convert in December to referrals for people on the PSH target list).
- Springhill suites will extend one month and will NOT close on December 30 as Safer Ground
- Quality Inn Berkeley WILL close on December 30. Clients with a housing plan who are not yet housed may be offered continued services at other Safer Ground sites including the Rodeway, Days Hotel, and the Radisson.
- Ramp down plans will continue to be evaluated for Roomkey sites in January.

Please watch for regular updates and announcements on our efforts to identify and develop more housing units to transition Project Roomkey guests to safe and stable housing. Updates will also be posted to the Office of Homeless Care and Coordination's [Project Roomkey website](#).

*\*FEMA announcement did not increase potential revenue but did clarify timeline for eligible claims. Although used for most of the county portion of costs, CARES Relief Funds were not increased by the Federal government.*

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