

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of February 21

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

Alameda County is still emerging from a major pandemic wave and not yet at an endemic phase for COVID-19. It may be difficult to know when we reach an endemic phase until after-the-fact, and then *endemic* may not mean *benign*. COVID-19 will continue to circulate and cause severe disease in some people, and it will likely continue to have a disproportionate impact on frontline workers and communities of color. We may see major waves of illness and hospitalization, particularly if more concerning variants emerge or if our vaccines become less effective at preventing severe disease. Bay Area Health Officers continue to strongly recommend masks be used as an effective tool to prevent the spread of the virus. Continuing to mask in indoor public settings, especially crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, remains the [healthiest choice](#) for an individual, and protects those who are medically vulnerable or are not able to get vaccinated like young children. As evidence continues to show, vaccinations and boosters remain the best defense against the virus.

COVID-19 is still with us, and future waves or new variants may come. The healthiest choices to avoid this disease include these tips:

- Get vaccinated and boosted.
- Keep gatherings small and outdoors.
- If gathering indoors, wear a high-quality mask and [improve ventilation](#).
- Get tested if exposed, sick, and before and after gatherings or travel.
- Stay home if ill, whether you can get tested or not, and even if it “feels like” allergies.



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

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)



On February 17, Governor Newsom unveiled the California SMARTER plan charting California's path forward. Building on lessons learned over the past two years and the state's ongoing commitment to equity, the [SMARTER Plan](#) will guide California's strategic approach to managing COVID-19 while moving

the state's recovery forward. Emphasizing continued readiness, awareness, and flexibility, the Plan will ensure California can maintain its focus on communities that continue to be disproportionately impacted, and stay prepared to swiftly and effectively respond to emerging COVID-19 variants and changing conditions.

Corrected Epidemic Data Points (7-day lag)

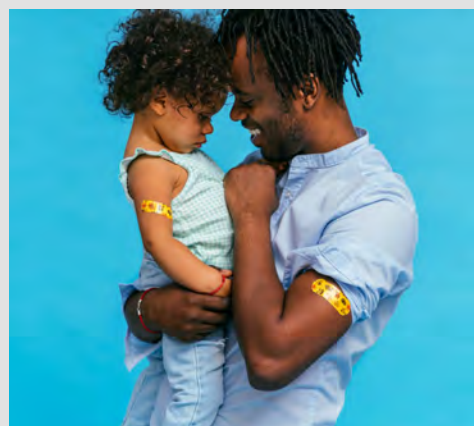
- 73.7 per 100,000 positive cases among unvaccinated
- 20.5 per 100,000 positive cases among fully vaccinated
- 89% of residents vaccinated with at least one dose
- 82.6% of residents are fully vaccinated
- 63.2% ages 5-11 with at least one dose
- 7.4% test positivity overall
- 10.4% in Healthy Place Index (HPI) low-income areas
- 213 hospitalized
- 39 in ICU

Please visit our [dashboard](#) for more data on COVID-19.

Vaccine Locations and Resources for COVID Safety

Vaccines are available throughout the week and some locations offer weekend hours for people unable to get away during the week:

- [Allen Temple Baptist Church](#), East Oakland: Saturdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- [The Center](#), OUSD Central Kitchen, West Oakland: Saturdays, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- [Weekes Community Center](#), South Hayward: Saturdays, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- [Coyote Hills Elementary School](#), Newark: Sundays, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- [San Lorenzo High School](#): Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Find [vaccine locations](#), [testing locations](#), or [make an appointment](#) by visiting our [website](#). Resources include a [ventilation interactive tool](#); guidance for [isolation and quarantine](#), [mask and face coverings](#), and [workplace](#) recovery; and [community resources](#).

Reducing Hospitalization Risk in Babies Younger Than 6 Months Old



New [evidence](#) from the CDC shows that COVID vaccination during pregnancy might help protect babies younger than 6 months old from hospitalization due to COVID-19. Mothers who get vaccinated against COVID-19 while pregnant are likely to pass on protection against the virus to their newborn babies. According to the findings, infants who were younger than six months and had a mother who received a 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccination during their pregnancy were 61% less likely to be hospitalized with the virus. The CDC continues to recommend vaccination for those who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or looking to conceive.

Behavioral Health Receives 100% Overall Rating

Every year, our Behavioral Health Department participates in two annual quality review visits for mental health and substance use services. This year, we received an overall rating of **100%** across all performance and quality management key components for FY 2021-22, as compared to 96% for FY 2020-21. These reviews are standard practice for every county across California, and focus on four key areas: quality, outcomes, timeliness of care, and access to care. The review was conducted in October 2021, and questions may be directed to [Behavioral Health Communications](#).



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