

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of May 16

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update



Please share with your networks

We are in the midst of Emergency Medical Services Week and we honor EMS practitioners and the lifesaving work they do in service to Alameda County residents. Integral to COVID-19 response, these professionals are on the front line, risking their own safety to care for those in need. We cannot thank them enough for their resilience and dedication.

Alameda County is experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases comparable to the Delta wave last summer. Hospitalizations have shown only modest increases so far, and taking protective measures now can help keep it that way. Alameda County [joined](#) 10 other Bay Area counties and the City of Berkeley to remind residents to mask up, get tested if feeling sick or if exposed, and stay up-to-date on vaccinations by getting boosters when eligible. Stay home if sick or tested positive. As we transition to a season of celebrations and summer gatherings, these precautions continue to be important. *(See [Stay Healthy and COVID Free](#))*

Families across the country are also facing an infant formula shortage due to a recent Abbott Nutrition company recall and supply chain problems caused by the pandemic. Families are encouraged to speak with their child's pediatrician before seeking substitutions and should avoid diluting formula, making it at home, or replacing it with toddler or animal/plant-based products. *(See [CDPH Infant Formula webpage](#))*

This month, the Board of Supervisors [endorsed](#) the Home Together 2026 Community Plan. The Plan helps the Alameda County community understand the resources and actions needed to end homelessness in the County. The countywide homelessness response system has made significant strides over the past decade, and this is the next step in prioritizing the health and wellbeing of unhoused residents. *(See [Home Together 2026 Community Plan](#))*

Lastly, we must acknowledge the leaked draft opinion from the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark case legalizing abortion access. As an Agency, we work tirelessly to advance health equity for the community — overturning *Roe v. Wade* would be a massive set back to these efforts. Limiting access to safe, legal abortions will affect everyone, but restrictions will disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income families, continuing cycles of poverty and deepening health inequities for mothers and

children.

But let us be clear, women and birthing people continue to have access to safe, legal abortion services in Alameda County.

The Board of Supervisors' swift action and firm support of abortion access, reproductive freedom, and the advancement of health equity sends a clear message to residents that everyone deserves to lead a healthy, fulfilling and productive life, and that the right to plan a family is part of that. ([Resolution, 5/10/22](#))

We appreciate your time and support in helping us maintain a safe and healthy Alameda County. Help us distribute this information to others by sharing this newsletter.

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

Home Together 2026 Community Plan

On May 10, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors endorsed the Home Together 2026 Community Plan, a 5-year strategic initiative centered on racial equity that lays out the strategies, activities, and resources needed to dramatically reduce homelessness in Alameda County. Over the past decade, Alameda County has seen dramatic increases in homelessness, as well as racial disparities amongst unhoused individuals. The [Home Together 2026 Community Plan](#) aligns with Alameda County's overarching goals to end homelessness and achieve greater equity in the region.

Learn more about the Home Together 2026 Community Plan from key partners of the initiative in this short [video](#).

Alameda County Releases Point-in-Time Count Results



A [preliminary report](#) of the 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count was released on May 16, the first official homeless count since the start of the pandemic. Led by [EveryOne Home](#), the collective impact initiative that facilitates the Alameda County Continuum of Care, the data from the February 23 count show the investments and policies enacted across the county significantly reduced the number of people newly entering homelessness.

The [PIT Count](#) results showed a 22% increase (approximately 7% per year) in homelessness since 2019 and a decrease in homelessness among veterans and people living with HIV/AIDS. The full report will be released by July and will include more detailed information, including demographics, health conditions, and case studies on ways homelessness could have been prevented.

Emergency Medical Services Week

This year's Emergency Medical Services Week theme, "EMS: Rising to the Challenge," is a reminder that our first responders continue to rise above and respond to this pandemic. Join us in celebrating and thanking the emergency medical services providers in our community.



COVID-19 Treatment Available at OptumServe Testing Sites

California [launched "Test to Treat"](#) services at their [OptumServe-operated COVID testing sites](#). These sites align with the federal government's [Test to Treat initiative](#). The State's sites provide access for people who are uninsured or unable to obtain timely testing and treatment through their usual health care provider. Services are free of cost.

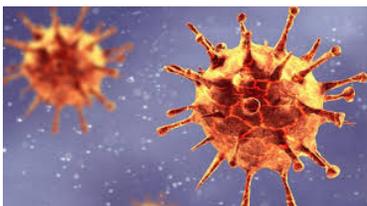
[COVID treatment](#) isn't a replacement for vaccine, but can lower risk of severe illness and hospitalization. Treatment is for persons who test positive, have symptoms and are at high risk for severe disease, even if vaccinated. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested. Treatment works best when started *as soon as possible* after symptoms start and before symptoms worsen.

Epidemic Data Points (7-day lag)

- 31.8 cases per 100,000 residents per day - total population ↑
- 6.0% test positivity in the general population ↑
- 4.8% test positivity in low-income areas ↑
- 28.6 cases per 100,000 residents per day - fully vaccinated ↑
- 50.8 cases per 100,000 residents per day - unvaccinated ↑
- 69 hospitalized, 5 in ICU ↑
- 63.5% of residents who are fully vaccinated have received boosters ↑

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

Help Us Learn More About COVID-19



Alameda County residents, and residents of six other California counties, are encouraged to complete and return a CalScope survey if they receive an invitation by mail. [CalScope](#) is a population-based study that will help the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) learn how many residents have antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in their blood. The study helps researchers understand how many people in California may have been infected with the virus or vaccinated up to this point.

Alameda County Awards Final Community-Led Coalition

On May 10, the Board of Supervisors [approved](#) the sixth and final community-led Coalition contract. This coalition completes the funding awards that started in

[December 2021](#). The [coalition](#) will be led by Resources for Community Development and focus on Deep East Oakland and unincorporated areas of Alameda County (Ashland/Cherryland and San Lorenzo), where vaccination gaps remain in populations hardest hit by COVID-19.

Stay Healthy and COVID Free

Together we can have a Safe and SMART graduation season. Use [California's checklist](#) if [planning](#) or [attending](#) graduation events. Masks may not be required, but they are strongly recommended. Wear a well-fitted mask, get vaxxed and boosted, and test. If you're positive or feeling sick, [stay home](#). Click [here](#) for current safety measures, including mega-event and travel recommendations.



May is National Foster Care Month



It's time to celebrate foster children and youth as well as the dedicated people providing love, support, and resources to help them thrive. In Alameda County, there are approximately 1,200 children and youth in foster care, and 46% were placed with relatives, kin, or unrelated kin.

Alameda County [Case Appointed Special Advocates](#) (CASA) is recruiting for volunteers and board members. Volunteers ensure, no matter the circumstances of the case, that the child has a stable, caring adult on their side, which research shows improve the trajectory for children long-term.

Congratulations Sally Zinman!

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) Director Colleen Chawla and Behavioral Health Director Dr. Karyn Tribble honored Sally Zinman at a Lifetime Achievement Celebration for her impact on the mental health community. Ms. Zinman emerged from her pain as a mental health patient and pioneered the [Mental Health Peers movement](#). The Behavioral Health Peers Organizing Community Change (POCC) team helped make the tribute possible. HCSA applauds Sally Zinman for her vision and passion.



Older Adult Virtual Awareness Events

The Adult and Older Adult team in Behavioral Health wraps up its webinar series recognizing Older Americans Month. You are invited to the remaining Interactive [Virtual Awareness Events](#) on May 24 and 31, from noon



to 1 p.m. The events are co-hosted by the [Older Adult Division](#) and Peers Organizing Community Change (POCC) Elders Committee. Contact [Michael Kessler](#) for more information and visit [Age Friendly California](#).

COVID Vaccine Locations and Resources

At the time of writing, the CDC has recommended boosters for the 5-11 age group. If the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup accepts the recommendation, boosters will be available at County-operated clinics after Memorial Day weekend.

- [Allen Temple Baptist Church](#) East Oakland: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Closed May 28*
- [Hoover Elementary](#) West Oakland: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Closed May 28*
- [Weekes Community Center](#) South Hayward: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Closed May 28*
- [Coyote Hills Elementary School](#) Newark: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Closed May 28*
- [San Lorenzo High School](#) Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Mobile Vax Clinic:

- [Livermore Springtown Library](#) Tuesday, May 31, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. [Pre-Registration](#)

Find more [vaccine](#) and [testing](#) locations or [make an appointment](#) by visiting our [website](#). Additional resources on our COVID-19 website include a [ventilation interactive tool](#), guidance for [isolation and quarantine](#), [mask and face coverings](#), [workplace recovery](#), and [community resources](#).

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

[COVID-19 Update PDF Version](#)