Week of June 13

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

The longest day of the year is around the corner and we hope you are finding ways to enjoy the additional daylight hours. Please join us this weekend and throughout the month in the traditions and Black joy that will be displayed as we celebrate Juneteenth and the freedom of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War.

This weekend we also honor and remember the fathers and father figures in our lives. The virtual Fatherhood Summit, this Saturday, from 9:30-12:30 p.m., will recognize the powerful role of fathers and father figures in the lives of their children and the community. Mentors and allies are welcome to attend.

As we participate in these events and gather with friends and family to celebrate LGBTQI+ Pride Month, we cannot forget that COVID is still circulating at a high level in our communities. We strongly recommend wearing masks in public indoor settings in Alameda County. Well-fitted, high-quality masks protect the wearer AND those around you. Simply put, masks work!

Masks and vaccines work together as layers of protection against infection and severe disease. We continue to promote the importance of vaccination, including for children and young adults. Our digital vaccine ad campaign is reaching priority communities through web, social, and streaming ads.

Earlier this week, the FDA's vaccine advisory committee voted to recommend emergency use authorization of COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months to 4 years. At the time of this writing, the FDA still needs to accept this recommendation. Before children as young as 6 months old can be eligible for vaccination, the CDC will need to accept the recommendation of its advisory committee, which meets this weekend, and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup will need to align with the recommendation. All of this could occur in the coming days.
The best place for families to get their children in this age group vaccinated is their pediatrician’s office. Only children 3 and older can get their vaccination at pharmacies. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain a child’s routine vaccinations and learn about other programs and services that can support a child’s healthy start.

As the pandemic evolves, Alameda County’s COVID response strategy is pivoting based on the latest COVID-19 data and in consultation with community partners. The County’s vaccination strategy for 6 months to 4-year-old children is focused on increasing the number of pediatric practices able to vaccinate their patients.

For other residents, we are focusing on mobile and in-home vaccination and prioritizing vaccination strategies that are proven to be more successful at reaching unvaccinated residents and remove additional barriers to access. This strategy is evolving toward new and different approaches to reach residents who are unvaccinated or not yet eligible. We are also prioritizing our support for community-led pop-up clinics and events like health fairs where residents can receive a comprehensive range of health information and services. See COVID Vaccine Locations

Thank you for your continued support. Help us distribute this information to others by sharing this newsletter.

Have COVID? Get Treatment Right Away!

COVID-19 treatment is available for people who test positive and have mild or moderate symptoms. Getting treatment right away reduces the risk of hospitalization and death. People with health care providers should contact their doctors right away to determine if treatment is right for them. Oral treatment must begin within 5 days after symptoms start. Treatment given by IV must start within 7 days of symptoms. People without a health care provider or who are unable to get treatment from their provider can visit state-supported or federal test-to-treat sites. Alameda County's COVID-19 Inquiries Team can help residents understand their options: (510) 268-2101.

Request for Qualifications for Continuum of Care Operations Support

The Alameda County Housing & Community Development Department (HCD) in partnership with the Office of Homeless Care and Coordination (OHCC) requests submittals of qualifications and proposals from organizations and consultants with demonstrated experience in Continuum of Care (CoC) operations support.
The Virtual Bidders’ Conference will be held on Thursday, June 23rd and submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 14th. Contact for questions: HCDRFP@acgov.org.

**Washington Hospital Healthcare System to Become Alameda County’s Next Trauma Center**

This week the Health Care Services Agency announced that the Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency (ACEMSA) approved Washington Hospital Healthcare System (WHHS) to be designated as the County’s next level II adult trauma center within five years. While this decision follows an extensive year-long evaluation of the County’s current trauma system and trauma needs, Washington Hospital has been preparing to become a trauma center for more than two decades.

Results of the study commissioned by ACEMSA found that Alameda County’s trauma system is currently functioning well, and the County will need one additional level II trauma center to meet the needs of trauma victims in the South County Area. We commend ACEMSA for their disciplined analysis and WHHS colleagues for their foresight and preparation to ensure South County residents receive care within the critical moments following an injury.

**Next HIV Forum is June 23rd at 5 p.m.**

Register in advance for Alameda County Public Health Department’s Community Forum to share ideas about how to expand access to and improve the quality of services for people living with and affected by HIV in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. If you are living with HIV but can't attend a forum, take a survey to share your experiences accessing HIV-related services in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
COVID Chats is Live!

Alameda County’s youth-created COVID Chats provides information for young people on COVID-19, vaccines, and other ways to stay healthy. The site is in its “soft launch” phase and more content will be added throughout the summer. Youth peer educators, schools, districts, and other youth-serving organizations can draw from it when they are providing education and outreach to youth and preparing for back-to-school.

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Epidemic Data Points (7-day lag)

- 48.5 cases per 100,000 residents per day - total population ↑
- 9.9% test positivity in the general population ↑
- 10.5% test positivity in low-income areas ↑
- 41.4 cases per 100,000 residents per day - fully vaccinated ↑
- 100.9 cases per 100,000 residents per day - unvaccinated ↑
- 112 hospitalized, 12 in ICU ↑

As of June 6, there were 10,937 cases reported over the past 14 days. This exceeds the number of cases reported during the Delta wave and is similar to the January 2021 wave. Please visit our dashboard for more data on COVID-19.

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Monkeypox is Circulating in California

As more probable and confirmed cases are reported in California and the United States, it’s important to note that Monkeypox isn't new and does not spread as easily as COVID-19. Vaccine and treatment are available. Monkeypox can affect anyone and many U.S. cases have involved men who identify as transgender, gay, bisexual, or have sex with men (MSM) without a history of travel to an endemic country. The current risk of getting Monkeypox is low for the general public.

The California Department of Public Health Monkeypox webpage has prevention information and symptoms to look for if exposed. Alameda County is providing guidance to health care providers.

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Mental Health Moments Series: Substance Abuse Disorder

Substance Use Disorders affect people of different ages, races, and backgrounds. Alameda County Behavioral Health's Interim Director of the Substance Use Continuum of Care Dr. Clyde H. Lewis, Jr., Ed.D discusses the challenges people experience with substance use disorders and the services available.
Alameda County Hosting 8th Annual Safe Kids Day on June 25th

Registration is full for Safe Kids Day - Safe Kids Alameda County’s annual event at the Oakland Arena. Two hundred and fifty families will receive free booster seats for their children who are at least 5 years old and weigh between 50-100 pounds. Additional items and safety education from partnering agencies will be included in a resource bag. Caregivers interested in the event have been redirected to the EMS monthly Car Seat Inspection Station as an alternate resource.

Safe Kids Alameda County, led by Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency, has a goal to decrease unintentional death and injuries to children. Focus areas include child passenger, wheeled sports, and pedestrian safety, as well as drowning prevention, safe sleep, fire, burn, and poison prevention.

Temperatures are Rising

When it's hot out, adults over 65, children under 4, people with existing medical conditions, and those without access to air conditioning are at a higher risk for heat-related illnesses, but ANYONE can be affected by a heat-related illness. Monitor yourself and your loved ones for heat-related illness and take steps to keep cool. During heat advisories, individuals who unmask due to heat are not in violation of the County’s Masking Order.

COVID Vaccine Locations and Resources

- **Allen Temple Baptist Church** East Oakland: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
  Last day is June 18th
- **Hoover Elementary** West Oakland: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
  Last day is June 25th
- **Coyote Hills Elementary School** Newark: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
  Last day is June 25th
- **Weekes Community Center** South Hayward: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Closed July 2nd for the holiday weekend
- San Lorenzo High School Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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