Last week, Alameda County lifted its local masking Health Officer Order and realigned with the State's Face Masking Guidance. COVID is still circulating at high levels in our communities and residents should exercise caution. Wearing a mask in indoor public settings protects the wearer and those around them from infection. Watch "Why I Mask" a message from the Health Care Services Agency's Public Health Department Director Kimi Watkins-Tartt.

Alameda County also announced that it is aligning with the State's quarantine guidance and definition of close contact. Aligning with this guidance doesn't present a public health risk as most Alameda County residents are exempt from the County's previous quarantine requirements due to vaccination status. Alignment provides clarity for workplaces, which can now look to Cal/OSHA for guidance without also considering differing local rules. Anyone who develops symptoms should test immediately and stay home. Anyone who tests positive must follow isolation requirements.

With summer gatherings, celebrations, and travel in full swing, continue taking precautions to keep yourselves and each other healthy. Read The Pandemic is Not Over and Monkeypox Cases Continue to Emerge in the Bay Area

If you do test positive for COVID, treatment is available for those who have symptoms and are at higher risk for severe illness. Alameda County's COVID-19 phone line can help residents understand their options. Read Treatment Reduces the Risk of Severe Illness

As always, thank you for your support. Help us distribute this information to others by sharing this newsletter.
Vaccinating children 6 months and older against COVID-19 is recommended by the CDC, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The best place to get your child vaccinated is at their doctor's office. This is an excellent opportunity to catch up on your child's routine vaccinations and learn about other programs and services that can support a healthy start. Appointments may also be available through myturn.ca.gov or by calling 1-833-422-4255. Talk to a health care provider or visit Vaccinate All 58 to learn more about safe and effective vaccines available for all Californians aged 6 months and older.

The Pandemic is Not Over

COVID isn't going away. Make the best choices for you and those around you:

- Get vaccinated and boosted.
- Gatherings that are small and outdoors are safer.
- If gathering indoors, wearing high-quality masks and improving ventilation add layers of safety.
- Get tested if exposed or symptomatic.
- Stay home if ill or positive.

Treatment Reduces the Risk of Severe Illness

If positive for COVID-19 and have mild or moderate symptoms, treatment is available for people at high risk for hospitalization and death. Talk to a health care provider right away to learn if treatment is right for you or call Alameda County's COVID-19 line, (510) 268-2101, to learn about treatment options and conditions that may make you at higher risk for hospitalization and death.

Don't wait until symptoms get worse! Treatment must start soon after symptoms appear. If you don't have, or can't reach a health care provider, make an appointment at a free, State-supported Test-to-Teat location.

Epidemic Data Points (7-day lag)

- 38.5 cases per 100,000 residents per day - total population
- 31.9 cases per 100,000 residents per day - fully vaccinated
91.6 cases per 100,000 residents per day - unvaccinated
12.4% test positivity in the general population
11.9% test positivity in low-income areas
136 hospitalized, 17 in ICU
Please visit our [dashboard](#) for more data on COVID-19.

### Help Improve HIV Services in Alameda County

The Alameda County Public Health Department needs your support to collect 1,000 [survey](#) responses from persons living with HIV and reside in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Understanding experiences in accessing HIV-related services—from both persons in care and persons not in care—will help inform future strategies for expanding access and improving the standard of care. Contact OTGA@acgov.org or (510) 208-5983 with questions.

### Monkeypox Cases Continue to Emerge in the Bay Area

[Monkeypox](#) is not new, but this is the first time this [virus](#) has spread in so many countries at once. The risk of getting monkeypox continues to be low for the general public unless they engage in [higher-risk](#) behaviors, like having sex with multiple partners.

Many of the cases currently appearing are within networks of self-identified gay and bisexual men, trans people, and men who have sex with men. [People in these networks](#) are currently at higher risk, though people of any sexual orientation or gender identity can become infected and spread monkeypox.

### First-Ever Medical Detox Pilot in Alameda County Launches July 1

Alameda County Behavioral Health Services (ACBH) is partnering with Sutter Health to launch a new, two-bed pilot at Merritt Peralta Institute (MPI) for Medi-Cal beneficiaries requiring medically supported substance use detoxification, the first of its kind in the region. Under this pilot, ACBH will offer medically supported three to six-day medical detox services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Patients will receive twenty-four hour care by multi-disciplinary professionals to address withdrawal symptoms while keeping patients safe. This service will also provide the appropriate level of intervention and reduce hospitalizations in emergency departments.
Annual Celebration Honors the Resiliency and Strength of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

On June 21, the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Consumer/Community Advisory Board (HCH CCAB), hosted Summer Solstice, a celebration of the strength and resiliency of people overcoming barriers to gain housing, and advocates fighting to end homelessness.

Held at Oakland's Oscar Grant/Frank Ogawa Plaza, the annual event included an award ceremony honoring homeless participants and advocates. Osha Neumann, a homeless advocate and supervising attorney at the East Bay Community Law Center, was recognized as this year's "Hero to People Experiencing Homelessness Award" for his work representing hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Special thanks to Alameda Health System, Alameda Health System Foundation, LifeLong Medical Care, and countless other partners for their support. For questions about Summer and Winter Solstice events, please contact David Modersbach, Grants Manager at the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless.

Prepare for Wildfire Smoke

Wildfire smoke can carry particulate matter (PM) and gases that can impact our health. Reduce exposure by staying indoors, using an air filter, or properly wearing a N95 mask if a person must be outside or can't come indoors. Use AirNow.gov for local air quality status.

COVID Vaccine Locations and Resources

- Coyote Hills Elementary School Newark: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Closed July 2 for the holiday weekend; will reopen July 9 and 16.
- Weekes Community Center South Hayward: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Closed July 2 for the holiday weekend
- San Lorenzo High School Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Mobile Vaccination Locations:

- Mexico Tortilla Factory Newark: Fridays, July 1 and 22 and July 8 and 15, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Roots Community Health Center Oakland: Saturdays, July 2, 23, 30 and July 9 and 16 (Drop-in or call 1-888-763-0007), 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- The Black Cultural Zone Oakland: Wednesday, July 6, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- BOSS & Adamika Village (Town Nights) Oakland: Friday, July 8, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Drop-in or call 1-888-763-0007)
- Hoover Elementary School (Town Nights) Oakland: Fridays, July 8, 15, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Roots Community Health Center (Town Nights) Oakland, Friday, July 8, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Drop-in or call 1-888-763-0007)

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.