



AGENCY UPDATE

Public Health - Emergency Medical Services - Behavioral Health - Environmental Health
Homeless Care & Coordination - HealthPAC - Center for Healthy Schools & Communities

Week of December 5, 2022



Please share with your networks

As families and friends gather to celebrate the season, residents are reminded to continue taking precautions against the spread of COVID-19, flu, and RSV. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are rising rapidly, and we expect to move from CDC's Low (Green) COVID-19 Community Level to Medium (Yellow). COVID-19 spreads through the air, and residents who are not masking should consider wearing high-quality, well-fitting masks again to reduce the risk of becoming infected. *See CDC COVID-19 Community Levels*

Other protective measures include getting the updated COVID-19 booster, testing if symptomatic or exposed and before and after gathering, staying home if sick or positive, and keep gatherings small and outdoors or increasing [ventilation](#) indoors to limit the impacts of COVID-19. Make a [treatment](#) plan now.

Everyone 6 months and older should also get their annual flu vaccination. No vaccination is available for RSV, but masking, washing hands often for 20 seconds at a time, and covering coughs and sneezes add layers of protection against RSV and flu.

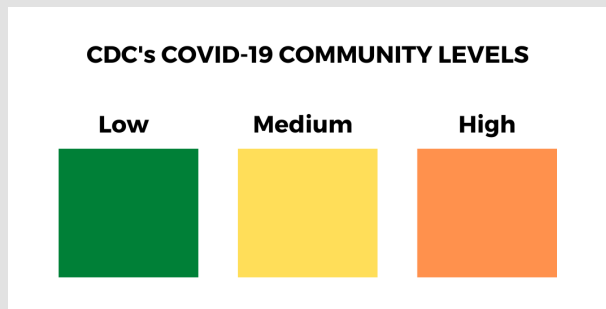
On November 21, the Health Care Services Agency celebrated Public Health Thank You Day with a [video](#) featuring Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, HCSA Agency Director Colleen Chawla, Alameda County Administrator Susan Muranishi, Director of Public Health Kimi Watkins-Tartt, and representatives from The Unity Council and CAL-PEP.

Last week we observed World AIDS Day, and the World Health Organization's theme "Equalize" called attention to addressing inequalities that hold back progress in ending HIV infections and deaths and limit access to essential services for communities most impacted. To address inequities in accessing HIV and STI testing services in Alameda County, the Public Health Department recently launched self-testing for HIV, Hepatitis C (HCV), and STIs via [takemehome.org](#).

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are also seeking feedback from residents who are living with HIV. A [15-minute survey](#) is an opportunity to share experiences in accessing HIV-related services.

We appreciate your continued readership. Please share with your networks.

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels



At the time of this writing, Alameda County may move from the CDC's "Low" (Green) [COVID-19 Community Level](#) to "Medium" (Yellow) as soon as this week. To comply with California's [face masking guidance](#), homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling and heating centers will be required to reinstate

universal masking requirements for all staff and residents, and Alameda County correctional and detention facilities will be subject to both local and statewide masking requirements. Indoor masking continues to be required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in health care settings and long-term care facilities. Residents at [risk for severe illness](#) are recommended to wear a mask in crowded indoor places. Other residents who want to add a layer of protection against getting COVID-19 can choose to mask too. Masks protect the wearer and those around them. Children under age 2 should not mask.

Protect Your Business or Home From COVID-19 and Flu

Many viruses spread easily indoors. [Ventilation](#) can help prevent viruses like COVID-19 and the flu from spreading, especially during the holidays when more people are visiting homes and businesses.



Take steps to improve indoor air:

- Open doors and windows if the weather is nice and the outdoor air is good.
- Make a filter [fan in 10 minutes](#).
- Make sure the HVAC system is working well and maintained.

Thank you to our neighbors in Santa Clara County for creating an informative [resource webpage](#).

Food Resources for Residents Facing Food Insecurity



Are you or a loved one in need of food? Help is available this holiday season and year-round. The Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) connects residents to free groceries or hot meals. Use the [ACCFB Food Locator](#) to find locations near you. You also can call the [ACCFB Emergency Food Helpline](#) at 510-635-3663 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Virtual Event

Join Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) on Wednesday, December 21 from noon to 1:00 p.m. for a virtual event in observance of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. On December 21, known as the Winter Solstice or the longest night of the year, homeless providers and advocates throughout Alameda County will convene to honor community members who passed away while experiencing homelessness as well as share a virtual space to heal, learn, and recommit to improving health and reducing preventable deaths of people served.



Guest speakers include Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder from City of Refuge UCC and Dr. Aislinn Bird, Psychiatrist at HCH. For more information, contact HCH at ACHCH@acgov.org or (510) 891-8950.

COVID-19 Vaccine Locations and Resources

A poster for free COVID-19 vaccines. At the top, it says "Free COVID-19 Vaccine" with icons of people wearing masks. Below that, it says "Weekes Community Center" and provides the address "27182 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, CA 94544" and "Close to W. Tompkins Road | ADA Accessible". It lists the hours "Saturdays: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM". There are two columns of vaccine information: "UPDATED BOOSTERS (5+) AND FLU VACCINES (6 MONTHS+) NOW AVAILABLE!" and "VACCINES" including Pfizer (5+), Moderna (5+), Novavax (12+), and Flu (6 Months+). It also mentions "Walk-ins Welcome! Appointments Encouraged" and "NO identification (ID) required". At the bottom, it says "Safe Effective Free" and provides appointment information: "Call 510-268-2101" and "Text VAX to 855-315-1373" with the website "alamedacountyvax.org". Logos for Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, NAACP, and others are at the bottom.

Updated COVID-19 boosters and flu vaccine are available at **Weekes Community Center**, 27182 Patrick Ave, Hayward on Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Closed on 12/24 and 12/31.**

Find more COVID-19 [vaccine](#) and [testing](#) locations on 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](#).

COVID-19 Epidemic Data Points

- 15.4 cases per 100,000 for the total population
- 8.6% test positivity in the general population; 7.4% in low-income areas
- 122 hospitalized, 14 in ICU

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

White House Equity Summit

On November 16, the White House held a [COVID-19 Equity and What Works Showcase Summit](#) to highlight interventions and approaches that have moved the needle on equitable COVID-19 outcomes.



Dr. Noha Aboelata, Founder and Director of Roots Community Health Center in Oakland, was invited by the White House to share Roots' equity work. HCSA is fortunate and grateful for the continued partnership with Dr. Aboelata and her team. The recording of the event and the panel can be found [here](#). The panel, "From COVID-

19 Equity to Health Equity", starts at 1:49:46.

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