



AGENCY UPDATE

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

Week of February 6, 2023



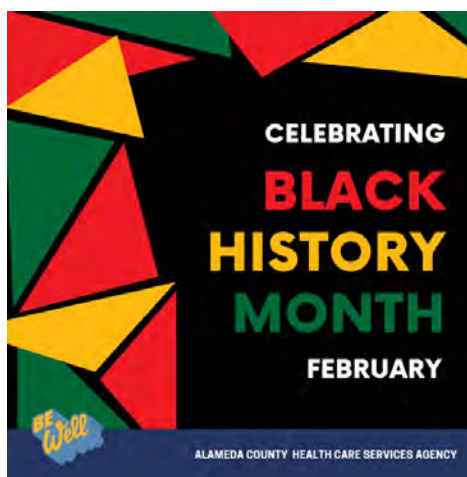
Please share with your networks

Recently the federal government announced that the national emergency and public health emergency (PHE) will end on May 11. This wind-down aligns with plans to give at least 60 days' notice prior to the termination of the national PHE. Ending the COVID-19 emergency declarations does not mean the virus has been eradicated. States of emergencies are intended to be temporary, and when emergency powers expire, that does not mean that all policies related to COVID-19 end. In the next three months, we will continue to closely monitor any changes to policies as we have throughout the pandemic.

Resources from the Kaiser Family Foundation:

- [What Happens When COVID-19 Emergency Declarations End? Implications for Coverage, Costs, and Access](#)
- [The End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: Details on Health Coverage and Access](#)

This month we honor and uplift Black History. The rich and diverse culture and important contributions of Black and African American people have shaped this country since its inception. To recognize the Black heroes in HCSA staff's personal lives, you will find heartwarming employee stories on our social media platforms. We hope you follow along [@Dare2BWell](#).



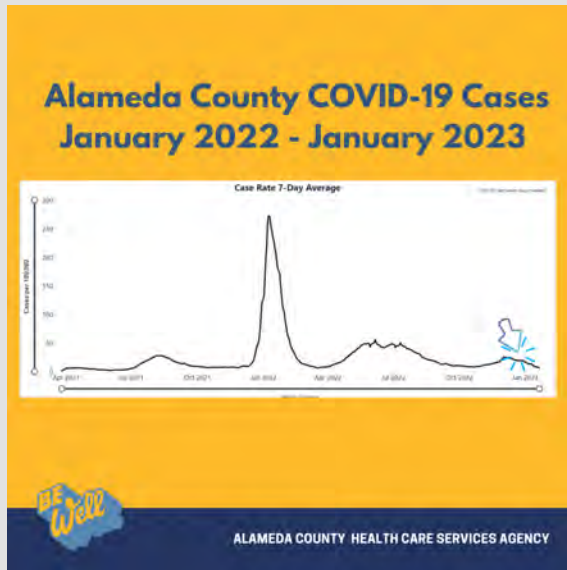
February is also Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and 2,109 deaths happened in Alameda County in 2021 due to heart disease. African Americans are disproportionately impacted by heart disease. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, African Americans are 30% more likely to die from heart disease than non-Hispanic white people and comprise 18.4% of annual deaths in Alameda County despite being 11.5% of the overall population.

These numbers highlight the importance and need for ongoing work to reduce health

disparities through approaches that go beyond healthy eating and physical exercise to include strategies that counter the negative health impacts of systemic racism.

To learn more about heart disease prevention, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) site.

Thank You



We thank residents for staying home when sick, getting vaccinated and boosted, testing, and all the safety precautions taken over nearly three years! On February 7th, Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss provided an update to the COVID-19 Community Advisory Group.

A few highlights: County residents' daily lab-reported COVID-19 cases rate is flat after a 2-month decline, Alameda County is currently in the CDC "Low" COVID-19 community level, wastewater monitoring has seen a slight uptick in the past couple

of weeks and could be driven by the variant XBB1.5. [COVID-19](#) is still with us, and we need to continue to stay vigilant and healthy. For a recording of Dr. Moss's presentation, click [here](#).

Recipe4Health

Recipe4Health – ALL IN's flagship initiative – transitioned to Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) on July 1, 2022. Under HCSA, Recipe4Health is part of Alameda County's network of Community Support Providers. The Recipe4Health is a nationally recognized, award-winning model for health care to address food insecurity and other social determinants of health. This model is transforming the health care system's capacity to increase access to and utilization of affordable, nutrient-rich, medically supportive food and to provide ongoing behavioral change support to improve the overall health of communities. Recipe4Health uses medically supportive food from farms using regenerative farming practices that improve soil health, human health, and planetary health with an equity lens.



The program is now a covered benefit for Medi-Cal recipients in Alameda County. For more information, visit the [website](#).

CDC Health Alert

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory](#) about infections with an extensively drug-resistant strain of Verona Integron-mediated Metallo-β-



lactamase (VIM) and Guiana-Extended Spectrum- β -Lactamase (GES)-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-GES-CRPA) in 12 states.

Most patients reported using artificial tears. Patients reported using more than 10 different brands, and some used multiple brands, but the majority of patients who used artificial tears reported using EzriCare Artificial Tears, a preservative-free, over-the-counter product packaged in multi-dose bottles. CDC testing identified the presence of the outbreak strain in opened EzriCare bottles with different lot numbers collected from two states.

Patients and health care providers should immediately discontinue using EzriCare artificial tears pending additional guidance.

Alameda County Continuum of Care (CoC) Awarded \$15 Million

Alameda County Continuum of Care (CoC) was [awarded \\$15 million](#) in new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to address unsheltered homelessness. Alameda County CoC is one of only two California CoCs that received unsheltered funding, which will support direct services and housing resources. The proposal included outreach to seniors, Rapid Rehousing, Mobile Access Points by the Alameda County Office of Homeless Care and Coordination's (OHCC) Coordinated Entry Team, and 100 new housing subsidies for direct placement from unsheltered settings. View the [award report](#).



Community Climate Action Plan and Safety Element



Has your community been impacted by extreme weather events, flooding, or wildfire? Alameda County wants to hear from you! The County is updating its Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and Safety Element to respond to your concerns and to support resilient, climate-smart unincorporated communities. The Planning Department is hosting a Virtual Community Climate Action

Plan Kickoff Workshop on February 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. to get your input. Spanish and Chinese interpretations are available. [To learn more and register](#).

February is Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (NTDVAM). This is an issue that impacts everyone – not just teens – but also their parents, teachers, friends, and communities. Nationwide, youth aged 12 to 19 experience the highest rates of sexual violence. Studies show that approximately 10% of adolescents report being the victim of physical violence at the



hands of an intimate partner during the previous year. Adolescents in abusive relationships often carry these unhealthy patterns of violence into future relationships. Children who are victimized or witness violence frequently bring this experience with them to the playground, the classroom, and later into teen relationships, and, ultimately, they can end up the victims and perpetrators of adult intimate partner violence. For more information, click [here](#).

- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)
- [National Safe Place](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Locations and Resources



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.

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

- 6.7 cases per 100,000 for the total population
- 4.4% test positivity in the general population; 4.1% in low-income areas
- 81 hospitalized, 8 in ICU

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

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