

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of May 11, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

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It's another busy week across our [Health Care Services Agency](#):

- Our Public Health teams continue monitoring and mitigating outbreaks, tracking and collecting data and directly supporting high-risk settings.
- We issued community guidance for [summer camps](#) and [graduations](#), and clinical guidance for the [resumption of non-urgent procedures](#) and [testing](#) priorities.
- We are currently supporting 340 homeless individuals in the [isolation hotels](#) and working to expand mobile testing capacity in encampments.
- We're about 25 percent of the way to meeting our goal of 3100 tests per day, and this week we announced [four new free sites](#).

We also conducted another round of updates with our stakeholders including the Board of Supervisors [Health Committee](#), elected officials, health care providers, and faith based organizations.

Getting through COVID-19 is a marathon and not a sprint. The Health Care Services Agency remains ready to pivot over the next 12 to 18 months as the pandemic warrants, and we will continue to rely on your collaboration and efforts to get us through this. We are truly in this together.

[Public Health Department Website](#)

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

Alameda County Progress

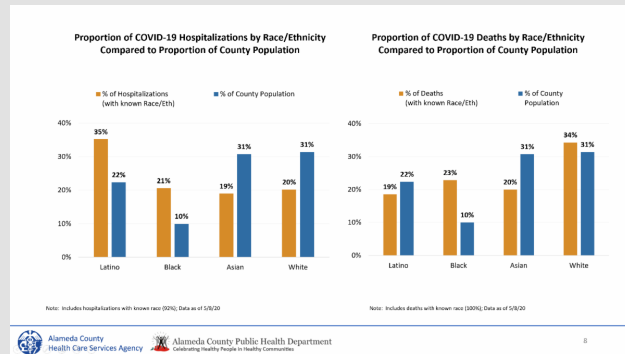
Indicator Status	Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing	Sufficient Hospital and Surge Capacity	Sufficient Testing Capacity	Sufficient Disease Containment	Sufficient PPE
Related Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter in Place • Clinical guidance • Public guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care systems planning • ~6% of hospital beds COVID+ /suspected • ~15% ICU beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countywide testing network @ 31 sites • Goal 3100 tests/day • As of 5/4 >one-fourth of the way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing expansion • Isolation & Quarantine support • Encampment response • Surveillance • LTCF Task Force • Equity lens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and fulfillment through EOC • Still significant PPE requests from healthcare partners

As we look toward the next step in relaxing restrictions, we continue to balance risk and safety, and appreciate the collaboration and reinforcement of public health messaging by our partners. While we are seeing trends in the neutral to positive direction, allowing too much at once makes us vulnerable to a big spike in cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

We have to move deliberately and at the speed of safety. Using a color scale that progresses from red to orange to yellow to green, you can see that have two indicators in the green, one in yellow and two in orange. In order to avoid big spikes in cases and to protect people at high risk, we must move in a measured an incremental way.

Disparities and Equity

HCSA has formed an internal Health Equity Task Force that focuses on the communities with the highest COVID-19 disease burden. The team is integrated throughout the response and augments strategies to increase testing, improve race and ethnicity data quality, ensure cultural sensitivity in case and contact investigations, provide tailored and multilingual messaging, and supports to help people safely isolate and quarantine.



Updated race and ethnicity data show significant disparities among people who are hospitalized or die from COVID-19.

- Latinx and African American populations are disproportionately represented in hospitalized cases. Latinos are 22 percent of the county population but are 34 percent of hospitalized COVID-19 cases.
- African Americans comprise 10% of the county population but are 21% of the hospitalized cases and 23% of COVID-19 deaths.
- Pacific Islanders are 0.8% of the county population but are 1.3% of the COVID-19 cases.

Trends, Physical Distancing and Sheltering

Having distancing modifications and [universal face coverings](#) in place will be critical for a safer reopening. [The Big Cities Health Coalition](#) (BCHC) released estimates this week that Oakland has saved over 7,000 lives and avoided over 70,000 hospitalizations from sheltering-in-place for 60 days.

Given the enormous number of lives we save by continuing to shelter-in-place and our higher burden of disease, the Bay Area is not reopening as quickly as other areas within California. We are optimistic that we will be able to move into early Stage 2 of the [California Resilience Roadmap](#). We plan to phase in more activities starting next week, moving at a slower pace than the rest of the state due to our County's higher case rates.

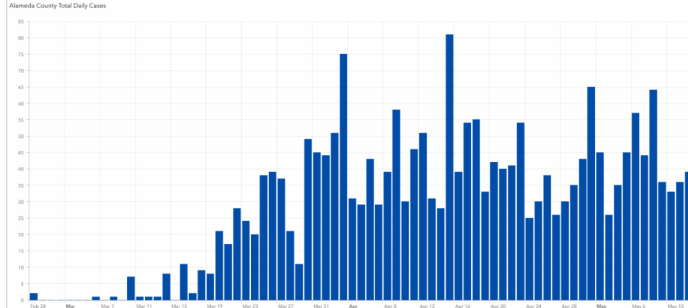
We released a [health advisory](#) this week, encouraging health care providers and facilities to gradually resume a full scope of services when possible and safe to do so. This is due to the trend of cases and hospitalized patients that we observe to be flat or decreasing:

- Over the past 2½ weeks, the trend of new cases has decreased and the trend of hospitalizations has been flat with mild decreases.
- As of May 14, there were [2234 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 and 79 deaths. This represents 4.5 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 7.4 deaths per 100,000 people in California State overall.
- As of May 11, there were [131 hospitalized patients](#) (the highest was 198 on 4/14), including 49 ICU patients (the highest was 71 on 4/10) with confirmed or suspected COVID.

Updated predictions using the

Local Epidemic Modeling for Management & Action (LEMMA)

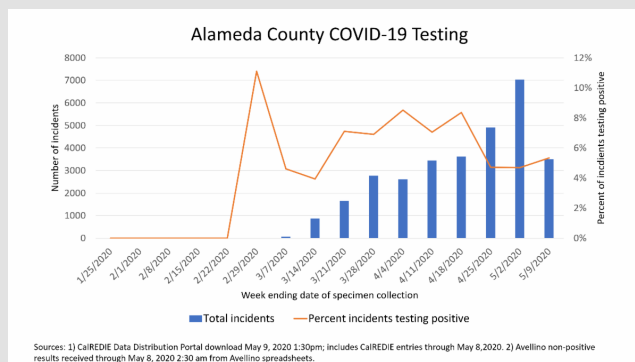
tool shows that increases in contact and COVID-19 transmission rates increase the number of hospitalized patients exponentially. A 50 percent increase in the transmission rate in early June would result in more hospitalized patients than our system can currently handle, with a median peak of about 4,000 hospitalized cases per day in September.



We will take incremental steps towards more allowable activities and encourage all businesses and organizations to plan for modifications to maximize a safer reopening, including:

- Accommodations for six or more feet of physical distancing.
- Increased work from home.
- Universal face coverings.
- Enhanced cleaning and safety protocols.

Testing



We currently have the capacity to conduct at least 1000 COVID-19 tests per day, which is 30 percent of our goal of 3100 tests per day.

If your facility conducts COVID-19 diagnostic testing in Alameda County and has not completed the [testing survey](#), please take a few moments to do so by May 22 so that we can scale up testing and better support your efforts.

Newly opened sites include Roots Community Health Center, the REACH Ashland Youth Center, and Alameda County offices in Hayward. A list of over 30 testing locations in Alameda County can be downloaded from the [COVID-19 testing webpage](#) in eight languages and searchable in this [interactive map of COVID-19 services](#) (click to filter for COVID-19 testing).

[New COVID-19 testing guidance](#) was released this week encouraging diagnostic COVID-19 testing (RNA or antigen) for the following populations:

People with [COVID-19 symptoms](#):

- When testing resources are limited: people residing in congregate settings, people who are ages 65 and over, or have chronic medical [conditions](#).
- When testing resources allow: all people with COVID-19 symptoms, according to clinical judgment.

Regardless of symptoms:

- Hospitalized patients.
- Health care workers seeing patients, first responders and other essential workers.
- People identified by the Public Health Department for case or outbreak investigations.
- People residing or working in congregate settings in certain situations, such as outbreak response, resident placement or transfer, and for grouping residents by COVID status.

[COVID-19 antibody testing](#) is still not proven to be accurate or reliable enough to be recommended outside of a research study.

Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

We estimate that we are currently meeting our goals to reach at least 90 percent of cases and contacts and ensure safe isolation or quarantine for at least 90 percent of people reached. We aim to train more contact tracers to prepare for increased cases and outbreaks as we loosen restrictions and allow for more physical contact.

We are exploring the use of California State's new contact tracing platform. The plan is to use a scalable model with teams of 7 to 10 contact tracers, mixing experienced public health staff with newly trained staff drawn from county and community organizations.

Special task forces and partnerships have focused on rapid responses to cases and outbreaks at long-term care and skilled nursing facilities, Santa Rita Jail, shelters and encampments. The long-term care partnership met this week to establish goals around testing coordination and support for outbreak prevention. Providers are reminded to [report COVID-19 cases](#) in these high-risk settings within an hour of receiving the positive result.

For people experiencing homelessness:

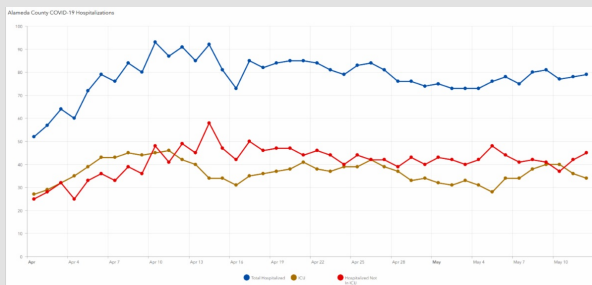
- There are now four hotels leased in Oakland and Alameda to shelter up to 522 people through the [Project Roomkey](#) with additional hotels in development. Please continue [to refer COVID cases](#) and contacts among people experiencing homelessness.
- The hotels will soon accept referrals until 10 pm, and expand eligibility to include those who live in group homes and other similar congregate settings, preventing them from isolating on their own.
- Healthcare for the Homeless and Public Health teams are continuing to work directly in encampments and shelters to contain cases and test contacts.

Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

As of May 11, in Alameda County:

- Less than six percent of the patients in hospital beds were COVID-19 positive, which is within our goal of 50 percent or less. About 15 percent of the patients in ICU beds were COVID-19 positive.
- Hospitals reported 4 to 14 days of personal protective equipment (PPE) available while continuing to request assistance from the County. More work is needed to maintain a 30-day supply of PPE without requesting County assistance.
- Hospital data also shows that 38 percent of the 327 staffed ICU beds and 85 percent of the on-site 739 ventilators are available.

If your facility needs COVID-related supplies or staffing, please go to the [Emergency Medical Services website](#) to [request PPE](#), [request staffing](#), and [request testing supplies](#).



Daily COVID-19 hospitalizations in Alameda County

The blue line indicates the total number of people hospitalized, the red line indicates people hospitalized (not ICU), and the brown line indicates people in the ICU.

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