

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of May 25, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

Alameda County is committed to getting our residents back to work, kids back to school and play, and communities back to a time of backyard barbecues and religious services. To do this, we need to keep the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations low, protect our health care system and workforce and others at high risk, and continue expanded testing, contact tracing and ensuring people can isolate and quarantine safely.

We're measuring progress against a set of COVID-19 indicators that help us determine when it's safe to lift restrictions, moving in phases based on risk. We reduce risk by not allowing gatherings, reducing physical contact, wearing face coverings and practicing good hand hygiene. Risk increases as people move about more, interact in large groups (especially indoors), or share surfaces and space in close proximity to one another. While a small gathering outdoors with a few friends is lower risk than a large house party, which is still lower risk than a crowded sporting or concert venue, there is always risk of infection from a highly contagious virus when people outside of a single household come together.

We currently have the [highest number of cases and rate of increase](#) in the Bay Area along with a large increase in hospitalized cases. It is imperative that we proceed with caution. In-person gatherings are prohibited at this time. The [Health Officer Order issued on May 18](#) does not have an end date. This order is in effect until it is amended, replaced, or rescinded. As we move forward together, please note this virus is highly contagious and has a two to three-week incubation period. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 indicators with each change in the Health Officer Orders to decide on next steps.

In the coming weeks, we plan to release new guidance and opening timelines for moderate risk activities:

- Summer camps and child care
- Outdoor museums
- Outdoor restaurant dining
- Religious services
- Safe ways to expand household social connections
- Additional outdoor activities (outdoor fitness classes)

Higher risk settings where people are in close contact, like hair salons and barber shops, gyms, bars, and indoor museums will be considered at a later date. Decisions will depend on our local disease activity and progress on the COVID-19 indicators.

The following types of activities are permitted under the current [Order](#): essential businesses, outdoor businesses and activities, curbside and delivery retail, and outdoor vehicle-based gatherings. You can view the list of [authorized businesses](#) on our website, along with [FAQs](#) for more information.

We are grateful that the large majority of our residents, faith organizations, and local

businesses, large and small, are complying with the [Health Officer Orders](#). We know variations among counties can be confusing and frustrating. For our vibrant retail and restaurant industries in particular, this has been a trying time. We appreciate your patience and ongoing collaboration to keep our community safe.

Over the next 12-18 months we will all need to adjust to a new normal. We all play a role in safe reopening by staying home as much as possible, wearing face coverings outside our homes, and staying six feet away from others. Together, we are resilient and by adhering to these precautions we can help keep each other safe. Thank you all for your ongoing efforts.

[Public Health Department Website](#)

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

Alameda County Progress

Indicator Status	Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing	Sufficient Hospital & 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 COVID-19 patients <4% of hospital beds and <12% of ICU beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 3100 tests/day As of 5/27 @ one-third of goal 	<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

+ INDICATOR MOVEMENT -

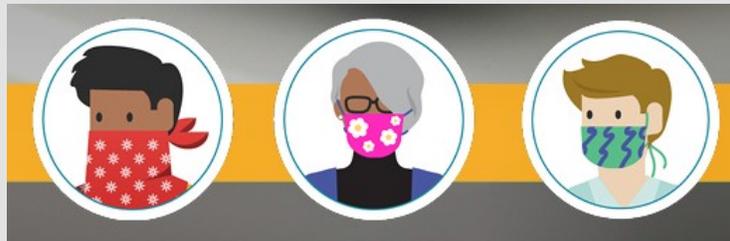


Universal Face Covering Requirements

We all must help protect each other to contain the spread. **Wearing face coverings in combination with physical distancing and hand hygiene will help us move the indicators in the right direction, to safely ease restrictions and return to work and school.** [Click here](#) for FAQs and signs about face coverings in multiple languages.

Why should we all wear face coverings?

Anyone could have and transmit COVID-19 including many people without symptoms. In US screening studies, up to 88 percent of



people with COVID-19 didn't have symptoms. Respiratory droplets carrying the COVID-19 virus can travel more than 6 feet (up to 26 feet with a sneeze).

- Face coverings, including [homemade ones](#), are effective in blocking droplets from being emitted from talking, singing, sneezing, and coughing.
- Most double-layer cotton blocks more than 90 percent of droplets. A single layer of t-shirt fabric can block more than 70 percent of droplets.
- Non-woven [polypropylene](#) from matte reusable grocery bags can also be used as an outer layer with repellent properties.
- The better the covering fits around the nose, chin, and cheeks, the better it blocks droplets.
- If most of us wear masks that are at least 60 percent effective, we will reduce the

- transmission rate from ~2.4 to below 1.0 (one person infects one other).
- Cloth face coverings should be cleaned after each use (especially in crowded areas) by washing with detergent in hot water and drying in a hot dryer or in direct sunlight. Clean or sanitize hands before and after handling face coverings.



Q: Do we have to wear face coverings if we intend to stay or work 6 feet apart?

Yes, we need to wear face coverings *in combination* with at least 6 feet of distance. Neither of these interventions alone is perfect, so we need to do both.

Q: Do we have to wear face coverings when working or exercising outdoors?

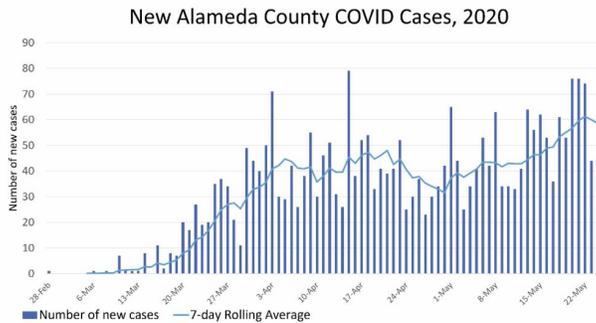
Yes, when outdoors, we need to wear face coverings and maintain distance. While air circulation is better outdoors, you may not intend to get close or talk with others, but be prepared for when it happens by wearing a face covering.

Wearing face coverings whenever we leave our homes is a good habit we will need for the next two years. We must continue to shelter in place as we have already saved over 7,000 lives in Oakland alone over the past 60 days. Help us continue saving lives by staying in place, maintaining your space, and covering your face.

Trends, Physical Distancing and Sheltering

The rates for new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have increased 27 percent over the past two weeks. We downgraded our progress on this indicator from green to yellow.

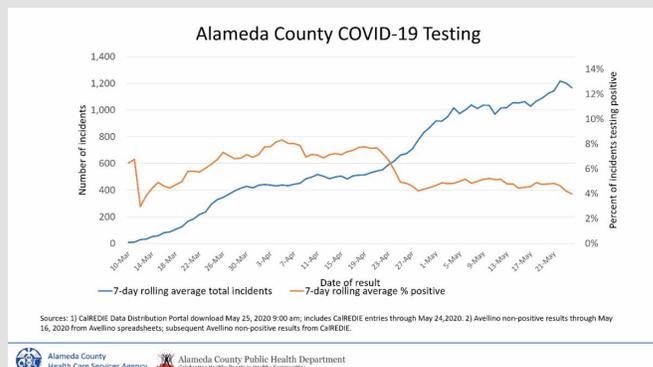
- As of May 27, there were 3,049 reported cases of COVID-19 and 93 deaths. This represents 5.7 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 9.8 deaths per 100,000 people in California State overall.
- As of May 26, there were 93 hospitalized patients (matching the prior high of 93 on April 10), including 37 ICU patients (the highest was 46 in early April) with confirmed COVID.



Source: CalREDIE Data Distribution Portal download May 25, 2020 9:00 am; includes CalREDIE entries through May 24, 2020.



Testing, Facility Survey, Partnerships, and Locations



Sources: 1) CalREDIE Data Distribution Portal download May 25, 2020 9:00 am; includes CalREDIE entries through May 24, 2020. 2) Avellino non-positive results through May 16, 2020 from Avellino spreadsheets; subsequent Avellino non-positive results from CalREDIE.



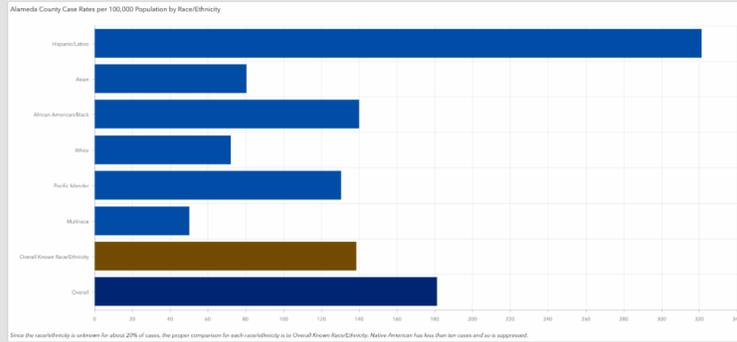
We are currently conducting about 1,200 COVID-19 tests per day and have a 4 percent positive rate, with steady progress toward our goal of conducting 3,100 tests per day. This indicator remains orange.

A new community testing site is planned for open on June 1 at West Oakland Health Council. Allen Temple and Roots Community Health Center will test any

community member with symptoms and all essential workers regardless of symptoms, without cost, and regardless of insurance status. Testing locations can be downloaded

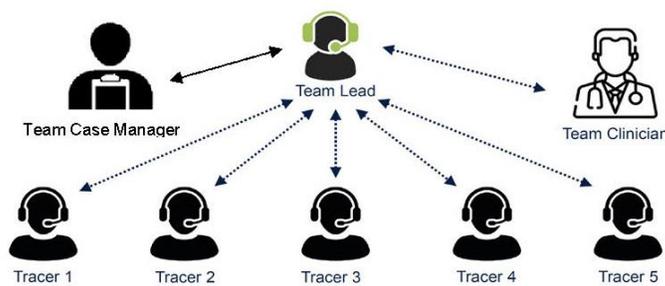
from the [COVID-19 testing webpage](#) in eight languages and searchable in this [interactive map of COVID-19 services](#) (click to filter for COVID-19 testing). Download [testing guidance here](#).

Latinx people in Alameda County continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with the highest case rates of any racial/ethnic group seen in the top blue bar, compared to the overall rate in the brown bar. Please note that we offer COVID-19 resources in seven languages including Spanish. We also have PSAs and symptom and prevention flyers in [Maya Mam](#).



Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine, Resources

Alameda County Proposed Contact Team Tracing Model



We are meeting our goals to reach at least 90 percent of cases and contacts, and support 90 percent of those reached to isolate or quarantine safely. We are working hard to prevent and contain outbreaks in long-term care facilities (nursing homes) and shelters. This indicator remains yellow.

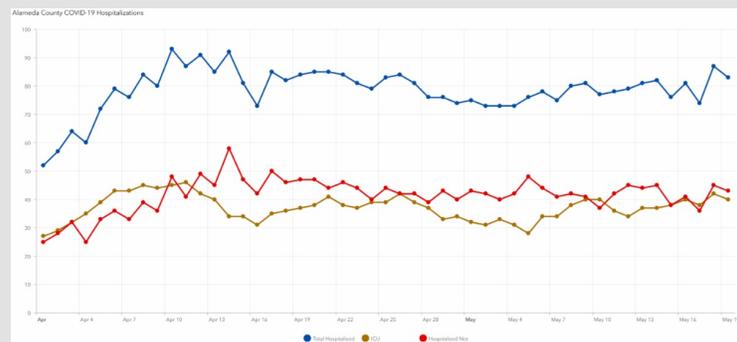
Our Public Health Department is moving into the next phase of developing a team-based, scalable model for contact tracers who will provide health and social support for people who need to isolate and quarantine.

- 300 contact tracers will be needed, trained and ready for at least two years.
- The model is a combination of county teams, community-based teams staffed by CBOs and clinic partners, and specialized teams for specific high-risk populations such as people experiencing homelessness, living in congregate settings and jails.
- Teams will consist of a team lead, clinician, case manager, investigators/tracers, and a health equity lead.
- Expansion from 70 to 100 contact tracing staff with the new structure will begin in June with a goal to reach 300 contact tracing staff in up to 40 teams by September 2020.
- Volunteers from the community will be considered after this initial expansion and may contact phplsc@acgov.org.

Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

As of May 26, our hospital capacity indicators are:

- 4 percent of the patients in hospital beds across Alameda County were confirmed COVID-19 positive, which is within our goal of 50 percent of less.
- 11 percent of the patients in ICU beds were confirmed COVID-19 positive. This indicator remains green.



- Most hospitals have sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) and still requesting assistance which means we have more work to reach our goal for maintaining a 30-day supply of PPE without assistance from the county. This indicator remains orange.

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

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