

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

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Week of June 15, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

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Tomorrow we honor Juneteenth, the day commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S. when Union soldiers reached Galveston, Texas, and informed the last slaves that they were free. That event took place two years after the Emancipation Proclamation and before the 13th amendment was ratified in December 1865.

This year's Juneteenth takes place while the country is responding to a pandemic and grappling with grief and anxiety sparked by the killings of Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other Black Americans. There is a reinvigorated cry for social justice and a rising collective voice calling out racism and discrimination. We understand the need to express frustration and hope, and ask that people consider the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We encourage people to find safe activities that promote healing and joy to connect with the tradition of Juneteenth.

If you join a protest, please wear a face covering, stay six feet away from others, bring hand sanitizer, and get tested within a few days at one of our free community sites. Tomorrow and in the following days, please consider a day of service and reflection, helping our community address food insecurity, or engaging in education. The health of our community depends on individual actions. We remain hopeful that our residents will choose to safely engage in meaningful activities that honor and celebrate freedom in the Black community.

Health Officer Orders Updated Today

Today, we issued the new [Health Officer Orders](#) to [reopen outdoor museums, outdoor restaurant dining, limited religious and cultural services, indoor and outdoor retail including malls, and outdoor fitness classes](#) effective tomorrow, June 19. These additional activities are listed on our updated [Reopening Plan](#).

All businesses allowed to operate under the Health Officer Orders must complete a [Site-Specific Protection Plan](#). Protocols and procedures to protect customers and employees must be in place when businesses reopen. Restaurants are expected to work on zoning regulations with the city where their restaurant is located to ensure the safe use of contiguous sidewalks and/or parking lot spaces for seating. Restaurants must submit [Restaurant Operating Procedures](#) to our [Department of Environmental Health](#) for review to ensure compliance with the [Outdoor Dining Guidance](#).

Visit our Public Health website for a [summary](#) and [full list](#) of businesses and activities.

Public Health Department Website

Alameda County Dashboard

Face Coverings

Today, the State released [updated guidance](#) for [face coverings](#), **mandating state-wide compliance** in a variety of circumstances. We have learned that people who are infected and don't show symptoms, or are pre-symptomatic, play an important part in community spread. [Properly worn face coverings](#) are a critical link to continued reopening, preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and keeping case rates low.

In Alameda County, face coverings must be worn at all times when around people outside of your home. Carry a face covering when biking or running and plan to put it on as you get within 30 feet to allow time to have the mask on as you pass others. All businesses and organizations, must follow the [updated safety protocols](#) to reduce infections:

- Ensure physical distancing of six feet in all areas,
- Provide and wear [face coverings](#) and consider eye protection,
- Facilitate good ventilation,
- Provide temperature or symptom screenings at the beginning of each shift,
- Support employees to stay home when ill,
- Support employees to [get tested](#),
- Implement regular cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and,
- Facilitate frequent hand washing and/or sanitizing.

Progress on COVID-19 Indicators

After a peak at the end of May, the rate of new cases has flattened. Hospitalizations have stabilized in the past two weeks, holding the indicator at a three this week. If the cases continue to decline for another week, we can upgrade this indicator to a four. Testing is now at over 1800 tests conducted per day, with progress to our goal of 3,100 tests per day. The indicators on hospital capacity, disease containment, and personal protective equipment (PPE) remain at the same indicator levels this week.

	Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing	Sufficient Hospital & Surge Capacity	Sufficient Testing Capacity	Sufficient Disease Containment	Sufficient PPE
Indicator Status	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Related Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter in Place • Physical Distancing • Face Coverings • Clinical guidance • Public guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care systems planning • LTCF Partnership • COVID-19 patients 4% of hospital beds and 9% of ICU beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 3100 tests/day • As of 6/10 ~1800/day • >30 sites 	<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 • Continued PPE requests from healthcare partners

Indicator Movement

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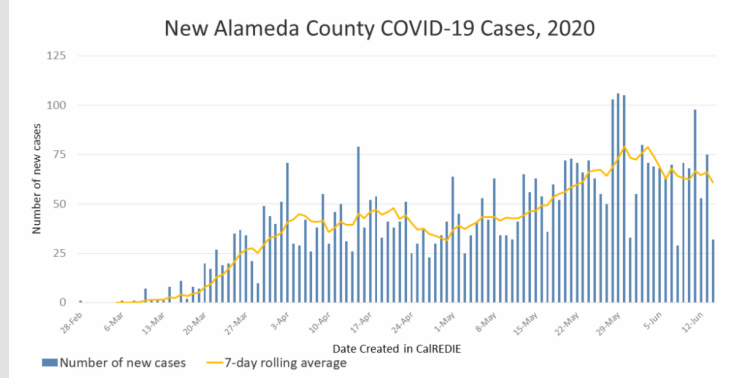
Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

Our case rates have stabilized over the past two weeks and this indicator remains at three.

- As of June 17, there were [4,533 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 and 116 deaths. This represents 6.8 deaths per 100,000 people,

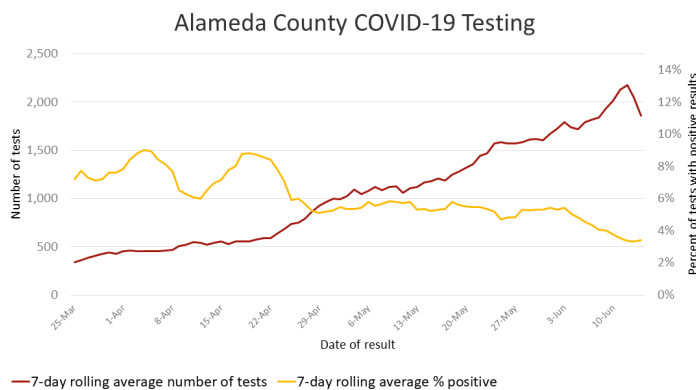
compared to 13.3 deaths per 100,000 people in California State overall.

- As of June 16, there were 95 hospitalized patients including 36 ICU patients with confirmed COVID-19.



We're keeping a close eye on new cases and

hospitalizations, as updated modeling predicts a 20 percent increase in transmission rate in June would lead to a median of 1,000 total hospitalizations in October. A 20 percent increase in transmission rate is possible with the recent reopenings and gatherings. If there is a 50 percent increase in transmission rates in June, our health care system would be overwhelmed with a median of over 5,000 hospitalizations in September.



Testing

We are conducting over 1,800 COVID-19 tests per day and making progress towards our goal 3,100 tests per day. The positivity rate has decreased to 3.5 percent overall, but much higher positivity rates persist in disproportionately impacted communities. This indicator remains a three.

In response to the pandemic, a **\$20 million COVID-19 Testing Vendor Pool [Request for Qualification \(RFQ\) application has been released](#)** to allow an opportunity for clinics, hospitals, and organizations to expand COVID testing and related outreach/engagement. Once an organization applies and is approved into the vendor pool, we are able to enter into contract discussions.

Symptom data from testing provider Verily shows that the most common presenting symptom for those who are COVID-positive is a recent loss of smell or taste (23%), followed by fever (12%), shaking chills (10%), and cough (7%).

Download testing locations from the [COVID-19 testing webpage](#) and searchable in this [interactive map of COVID-19 services](#) (click to filter for COVID-19 testing). Eight sites offer free tests for any community member with symptoms and all essential workers regardless of symptoms as per [Alameda County COVID-19 testing guidance](#). Staff in skilled nursing facilities are recommended to get tested at least monthly.

Testing providers, please submit complete contact information for positive cases and distribute [isolation orders](#) for all people getting tested.

If your facility needs COVID-related supplies, please complete these forms to [request PPE](#) and [request testing supplies](#).

Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

New metrics for case and contact investigations are in development. This indicator remains a three.

The Public Health Department discourages the use of negative clearance tests for

returning to work, and recommendations instead to use the time and symptom-based strategy. Providers and health facilities may provide this guidance when asked to conduct negative clearance tests.

The isolation period for cases is at least ten days. A person with COVID-19 can be released from isolation after ten days, if:

- They never had any symptoms.
- They haven't had a fever for the past three days without using fever-reducing medications, and/or
- Their other symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath have been improving for the past three days.

Providers are encouraged to refer people living in crowded conditions or experiencing homelessness who need isolation housing to [Project Roomkey](#) hotels. There are currently five hotels and 100 trailer sites open, which includes beds for people needing isolation housing and people experiencing homelessness at high risk for severe COVID-19.

Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

As of June 15, 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 or less. This indicator remains a five out of five.
- 11 percent of the patients in ICU beds were confirmed COVID-19 positive.
- Most hospitals report 30-day supplies of most types of personal protective equipment (PPE) but are still requesting assistance for certain PPE items from the County. Our goal is for 30-day supplies of PPE to be maintained without County assistance. This indicator remains a three.

The blue line indicates the total number of people hospitalized, and the brown line indicates people in the ICU.

Alameda County Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations

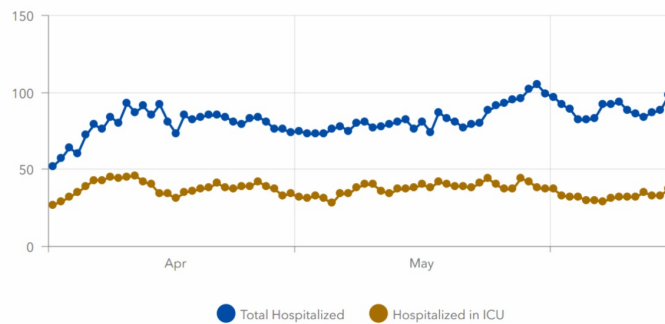
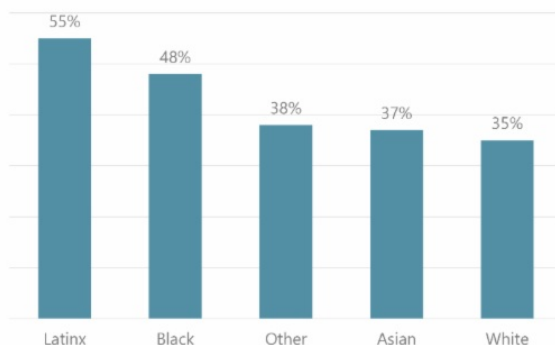


Figure 3: Percent of workers employed in front-line essential jobs, by race and ethnicity, California 2018



Source: Authors' analysis of IPUMS American Community Survey, 2018. See Data and Methods for details.

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Disparities and Equity

Updated race and ethnicity data as of June 16 show that Latinx people continue to have six times the rate of COVID-19 diagnoses compared to Whites. Black/African American people have almost twice the death rate of Whites. UC Berkeley Labor Center data shows that a majority of workers employed in essential front-line jobs are Latinx and Black. This data shows the urgent need to address racial inequities in workplace safety, education, and access to precautions, rapid access to testing and safe isolation and quarantine.

COVID-19 Cultural and Linguistic Initiative

On June 1, health promotion and prevention messages began posting at transit shelters and billboards throughout communities in Oakland, Hayward, and Fremont as part of the COVID-19 Cultural and Linguistic Initiative launched by our Behavioral Health Department. The initiative is designed to counter negative narratives while supporting our continued efforts to promote equity and inclusivity while honoring cultural diversity throughout Alameda County. Campaign images will be refreshed every 4 to 6 weeks and rotate to new locations. Campaign posters were made available to our contract providers and offered to businesses in Alameda County. For more information, please contact [Javarre Wilson](#), Ethnic Services Manager, Behavioral Health.



**BLACK PEOPLE
ARE NOT TO BLAME
FOR DYING OF COVID-19**



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