

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of July 6, 2020

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

Last week we paused on reopening plans due to steep increases in new cases and hospitalizations in our county, and do not plan to open additional sectors until the data indicate otherwise. Similar trends are occurring around the region, state, and nation. We do not plan to open additional sectors or activities until Alameda County data trends in a favorable direction. While we had planned to apply for Variance last week, we pulled it back because of the pause and will continue to monitor data for movement in more favorable directions.

[Variance Attestation](#) is a process that allows counties to move at a faster pace through the [State's Resilience Roadmap](#). We recognize this slowdown presents challenges for certain sectors and we are assessing the timing of a Variance application alongside data trends. It's important to note that Variance approval by the State does not mean automatic opening of any sectors. We would still rely on data trends and local disease conditions to inform next steps in reopening, and our focus is the public health and safety of Alameda County residents.

In other news this week, the [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) (CDCR) began [releasing eligible people](#) with 180 days or less remaining on their sentence to parole or probation supervision, due to outbreaks within their facilities. None of the individuals returning home to Alameda County are serving time for domestic violence, or a violent or serious crime including a sex offense. All individuals being released early from a facility with positive cases will isolate/quarantine in one of the Operation Comfort facilities in order to protect their health and that of their families, and the community. Alameda County officials responsible for supporting re-entry are taking steps to protect the safety and welfare of all involved.

Each week we bring you a digest of updates and new information about services. We remain grateful for your collaboration and partnership in helping our communities move forward together.

Public Health Department Website

Alameda County Dashboard

**Mask On Alameda County!**

The County introduced the “Mask On Alameda County!” campaign over the Fourth of July weekend. More than 7,000 masks were distributed along with education on the importance of:

- [face coverings](#),
- maintaining physical distance,
- hand hygiene, and
- staying home when ill to reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Newly formed “Strike Teams” of state inspectors contacted thousands of California businesses over the holiday weekend, issuing citations to businesses failing to meet the new statewide requirement to wear face coverings. Alameda County has a face covering [Order](#) as well.

All residents are reminded to wear [face coverings](#) whenever out in public as a critical and effective way to prevent transmission. In addition, Alameda County residents should scale back on some activities, particularly those that include gathering in groups. We cannot move forward on reopening until the increases in case and hospitalizations decline. We are all in this together and need to consider how our choices affect whether we move forward or backwards.

## Progress on COVID-19 Indicators

The rate of new cases and hospitalizations continued to increase in the last week, including the highest numbers of hospitalized and ICU cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Testing has reached the goal of conducting 3,100 tests per day and expects to exceed the daily goal this week. The percentage of people hospitalized and COVID-19 positive has increased to 4.7% this week compared to 3.7% two weeks ago. The personal protective equipment (PPE) indicator was downgraded from a three to a two due to increased requests and demands corresponding with the increase in cases. The other indicators remain at the same status levels this week compared to last week.



### Alameda County COVID-19 Indicators

7.6.2020

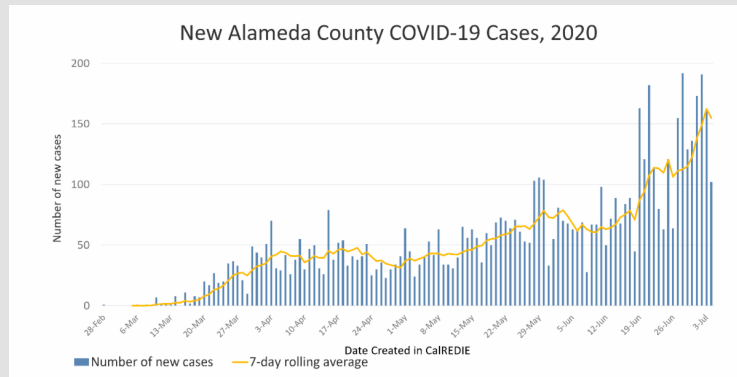
Indicator Movement

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	Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing	Sufficient Hospital & Surge Capacity	Sufficient Testing Capacity	Sufficient Disease Containment	Sufficient PPE
Indicator Status	■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■	■ ■ ■
Trends & Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6,887 cases</li> <li>• Cases rising in last 7 days</li> <li>• 146 cases hospitalized</li> <li>• Percent change in average daily number of hospitalized cases 18.2% (goal 0%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,200 (53%) inpatient hospital beds available</li> <li>• 868 (100%) surge beds available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positivity rate: 4.7% (goal &lt;8%)</li> <li>• Over 3,150 tests/day (goal 3,100)</li> <li>• Tests per day 206 per 100,000 population (Goal &gt;200)</li> <li>• 75% of residents w/in 30min drive to site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90 case investigation &amp; contact tracing staff (goal 300)</li> <li>• 785 isolation/quarantine rooms operating (goal 1,203)</li> <li>• Special settings teams: LTCF, Outbreaks, Encampments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 152 requests for PPE in last 14 days (goal 0)</li> <li>• 324 requests for PPE in last 30 days (goal 0)</li> </ul>

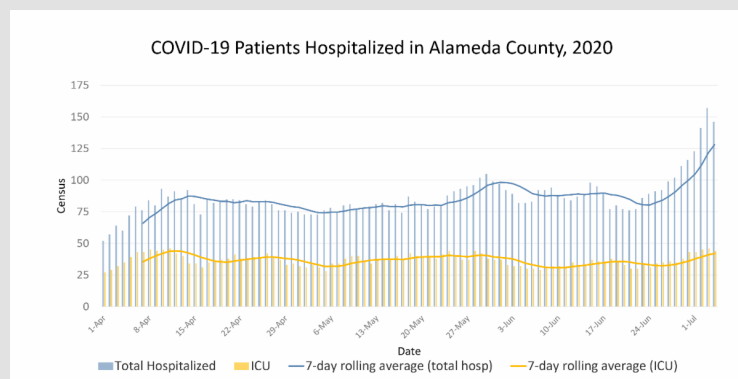
## Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

We reached a new high of 157 hospitalized patients confirmed for COVID-19 on July 3, with the 7-day rolling average of daily hospitalizations increasing 18.2%. On July 7, we also reached a new high of 51 patients in the ICU confirmed with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Our goal is for cases to be flat or decreasing.



- As of July 7, there were [7,245 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 and 142 deaths. This represents 8.5 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 16.5 deaths per 100,000 people in California State overall.
- As of July 7, there were [145 hospitalized patients](#) (the highest was 157 on 7/3), including 51 ICU patients (a new peak) with confirmed COVID.

Alameda County could be added to the State monitoring watch list if the increases in cases and hospitalization rates continue. Data indicate that new infections are among younger adults (20 to 40) and we are working to determine the impact of recent sector reopenings.



County-level transmission rates and predictions from the [California COVID Assessment Tool \(Cal-CAT\)](#) and [Local Epidemic Modeling for Management & Action \(LEMMA\)](#) are now both publicly available. Cal-CAT is estimating the effective reproduction

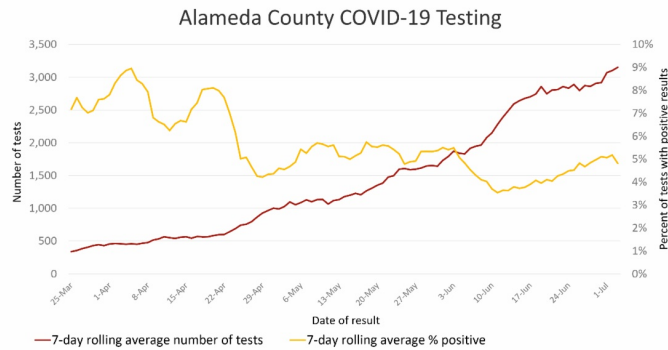
number ( $Re$ ) to be 1.07 for Alameda County, which means each person who is infected will, on average infect 1.07 other people. The statewide  $Re$  is currently estimated to be 1.09. When the  $Re$  is greater than 1, cases increase exponentially.

The LEMMA model predicts that our current hospital capacity of 2,551 staffed beds will be exceeded by about mid-August if the transmission rate ( $Re$ ) remains the same, reaching a peak of nearly 5,000 cases on a given day in October. The Cal-CAT Johns Hopkins model shows a similar prediction for a slow reopening schedule, while a faster reopening schedule would overwhelm our hospital capacity within a month.

These data emphasize the importance of having preventive measures securely in place, such as [universal face coverings](#) and [distancing modifications](#), along with a careful pace of reopening based on case and hospitalization trends. We will need to improve the rate of universal face covering to at least 80% or higher and ensure everyone is following distancing modifications to get the  $Re$  back down to 1 or below and flatten this case curve.

## Testing

We have reached and exceeded our goal of conducting 3,100 tests per day. The positivity rate has increased over the past month to 4.7%. Much higher positivity rates persist in disproportionately impacted communities.



New testing sites opened in the Fruitvale District last week at Native American Health Center and La Clínica to serve disproportionately impacted communities. Updated testing locations and appointment links are posted on the [COVID-19 testing webpage](#) and searchable in this [interactive map of COVID-19 services](#) (click to filter for COVID-19 testing). 10 sites offer free tests for any residents regardless of symptoms.

The [COVID-19 Testing Vendor Pool RFQ](#) (Request for Quotation) continues to be available for clinics, hospitals, and organizations to provide COVID testing as part of the Alameda County response to the pandemic. \$20 million has been allocated for this effort, and the goal is to get the testing services funded and set up quickly.

### Providers please:

- submit complete contact information for positive case reports,
- distribute [isolation orders](#) for all people getting tested,
- remind people to stay home until they get test results, and
- pick up and return calls from the Health Department.

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

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

### What is contact tracing?

Testing and tracing help prevent the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19

Testing and tracing are completely private! You will not be asked for your social security number or your immigration status.

The Public Health Department and its community partners will contact people who test positive for COVID-19.

We "trace" or find others who have been in recent close contact with them.

Contacts will be assessed and offered testing but they will **NOT** be told your name.

Contacts are asked to quarantine themselves even if they are not showing symptoms.

If they are showing symptoms or have already tested positive they are asked to isolate themselves to prevent the spread of COVID to others.

Answering the phone can save lives.

**Stay Informed**

Please click to view, "How COVID-19 Can Spread in the Community."

Call 2-1-1 or text "COVID19" or "coronavirus" to 211211 to receive general information.

Check Public Health Department's website: [www.acphd.org](http://www.acphd.org)

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Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

Alameda County Public Health Department  
Celebrating Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Alameda County currently has 90 case investigators and contact tracers with a goal to reach 300 in the fall. Case investigators and [contact tracers](#) have had difficulty keeping up with the recent increase in the number cases and contacts and have had to prioritize outreach to the highest priority cases.

Last week, leases for three additional hotels were approved to provide rooms for the Safer Ground initiative to provide housing

for people experiencing homelessness and at risk for severe COVID-19.

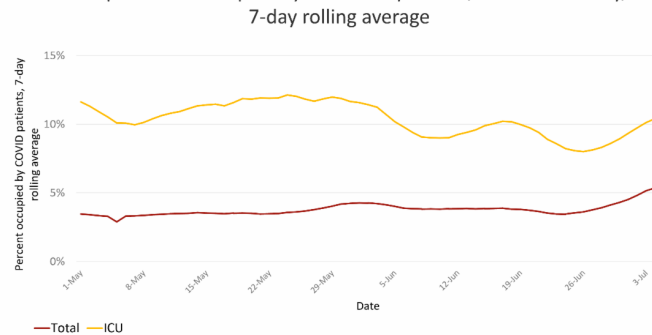
Providers are encouraged to refer people living in crowded conditions or experiencing homelessness who need isolation/quarantine housing to [Project Roomkey](#) hotels. There are currently 785 rooms in operation, which is 65% of our goal of 1,203 rooms.

## Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

As of July 7, our hospital capacity indicators are:

- 5.6% of the patients in hospital beds across Alameda County were confirmed COVID-19 positive, which is within our goal of less than 50%.
- 12% of the patients in ICU beds were confirmed COVID-19 positive.
- 50% of the 2,602 total inpatient hospital beds were available, and 100% of the 738 surge beds were available.
- There were 324 requests for personal protective equipment (PPE) from the County in the last 30 days (up from 158 a week ago), and our goal is zero requests. The increase in PPE demand is thought to be due to the increase in cases and hospitalizations.

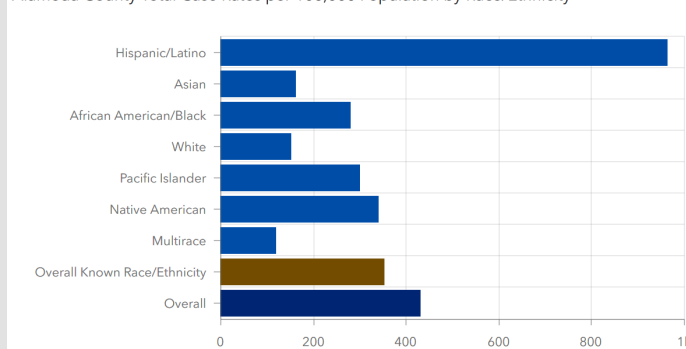
Percent hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, Alameda County, 2020



The medication remdesivir continues to be in very short supply. Remdesivir is the only antiviral drug shown so far to have activity against COVID-19 in randomized controlled trials. Its allocation program is transitioning from the State to AmerisourceBergen at the direction of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. Remdesivir will have to be purchased by hospitals at approximately \$3,200 per treatment course or \$520 per vial under this program.

## Health Disparities and Equity

Alameda County Total Case Rates per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity



Updated race and ethnicity data as of July 7 show persistent and significant disparities. Latinx people have 6.4 times the rate of COVID-19 diagnoses and 1.6 times the death rate of Whites. Black/African American people have almost twice the case rate and 2.1 times the death rate of

Whites. Native Americans have 2.3 times the rate of cases compared to Whites. Pacific Islanders have 2 times the case rate compared to Whites. The data continues to show the persistent and urgent need to address racial and socioeconomic inequities in workplace safety, education and access to precautions, rapid access to testing, safe isolation, quarantine, and medical care. HCSA continues expanding testing sites in communities where we are observing higher rates of disease including



new partnerships with community-based organizations in the Fruitvale District and Hayward to provide outreach to day laborers and Latinx communities.

## Fond Farewell to Dr. Erica Pan from the Medical Community

Members of the Alameda County medical community took a moment to wish Dr. Erica Pan a fond farewell during their meeting this week. Each of the participants was asked to submit a word that best

described Dr. Pan's contributions and the result was this word cloud. We are all proud of Dr. Pan's achievements and thank her for her years of leadership and dedication to Alameda County. Best wishes to Dr. Pan!



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