

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of July 13, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

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It's another eventful week beginning with the July 12 notification that Alameda County would be placed on the [California State Data Monitoring List](#) due to sustained increases in COVID-19 cases. The Monitoring List includes 31 other counties and identifies those that are not meeting statewide benchmarks.

On July 14, the Alameda County Board of Supervisor approved a letter of support for Variance Attestation, and we submitted our application the same day. Less than 24 hours later we learned the State approved our Variance, which means that:

- Outdoor outdoor dining can resume, and Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) permitting issues should be resolved. It's important to note that face coverings are required at all times, except when eating or drinking.
- The [Oakland Zoo](#) can open for outdoor operations.

July 14 also marked our third day on the [State's Monitoring List](#), which makes us subject to restrictions per [State Orders issued on July 13](#). This means:

- Indoor worship services are no longer permitted; outdoor services may continue.
- Indoor malls are no longer permitted; other indoor retail is not affected at this time.

Monitoring list restrictions will remain in place until further notice. We are updating our orders, website and other informational materials to reflect these changes and reduce the confusion caused across these three levels of authority: allowances with state variance attestation, the state monitoring list requirements, and state orders.

This week we presented [updates](#) during the Health Committee and the Board of Supervisors regular session. We hope you find this summary useful and we appreciate your readership and your support.

[Public Health Department Website](#)

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

COVID-19 Strategy

Our [COVID-19 Strategy](#) is

updated regularly to guide and reflect the evolution of our response to the pandemic. The plan reflects work happening across four goals:

- Prevent and control the spread of COVID-19;
- Find, test, and isolate cases and their contacts to prevent further spread;
- Support care of COVID-19 patients; and
- Coordinate an effective response.

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency COVID-19 STRATEGY			
This strategy highlights key components of HCSA's COVID-19 response framework. Community engagement and equity considerations are infused throughout HCSA's work to reduce near and long-term impacts of the pandemic on disproportionately affected communities.			
GOALS	Prevent & control the spread of COVID-19	Find, test, & isolate cases and their contacts to prevent further spread	Support care of COVID-19 patients
OBJECTIVES	Minimize community transmission Protect high-risk populations	Test widely Investigate cases and trace contacts Isolate infected people and quarantine their contacts	Ensure availability of critical care capacity Provide high-risk populations with needed support through their illness and recovery Distribute available treatment and vaccines
			Coordinate an Effective Response
			Establish a functional incident management system Use data to drive decisions Engage communities and the organizations that serve them Clearly communicate through multiple means

We recently posted this document on our website to provide our community with an overview.

Do Your Part



To help us stop the spread of COVID-19 and continue reopening it is imperative that we have community and city support with compliance and enforcement.

Employers can help stop the spread of COVID-19 by supporting employees' decisions to stay home, and ensuring that they follow the state and local guidelines in implementing [Site-Specific Protection Plans](#).

The State has launched Strike Teams that include Alcoholic Beverage Control, CalOSHA, the California Department of Public Health and several other agencies, to enforce face coverings and restrictions per State orders.

To join in our *Mask On Alameda County!* message campaign, we have posters available for [download](#) or [pickup](#).

Progress on COVID-19 Indicators

The rate of new cases and hospitalizations continued to increase last week, reaching new levels on July 14. We are exceeding our goal to conduct 3,100 tests per day with more than 3,200 per day. The percentage of people hospitalized and COVID-19 positive has increased at 5.7% this week compared to 3.7% three weeks ago although this is still well below our goal of <50%. The personal protective equipment (PPE) indicator remains a two due to increased requests and demands corresponding with the increase in cases. All indicators remain at the same status levels this week as compared to last week.

Alameda County COVID-19 Indicators

Updated 7.15.2020

Indicator Movement

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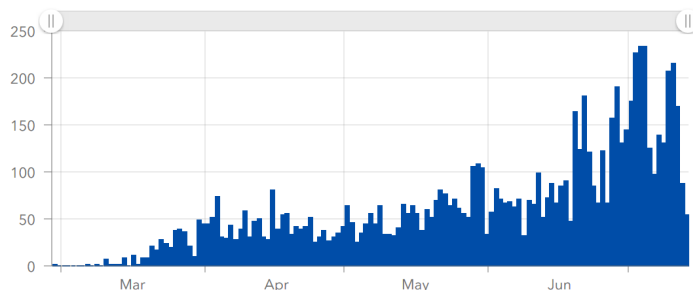
	Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing	Sufficient Hospital & Surge Capacity	Sufficient Testing Capacity	Sufficient Disease Containment	Sufficient PPE
Indicator Status	■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■	■ ■
Trends & Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8,043 cases Cases rising in last 7 days 150 cases hospitalized 7-day avg % change in daily hospitalizations 0.5% (goal <5%) Rates of new cases and hospitalizations continue to be elevated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,197 (46%) inpatient hospital beds available 868 (100%) surge beds available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-day avg positivity rate: 5% (goal <8%) 7-day avg 3,235 tests/day (goal 3,100/day) Tests per day 207 per 100,000 population (Goal >200) 75% of residents w/in 30min drive to site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93 case investigation & contact tracing staff (goal 300) 810 isolation/quarantine rooms operating (goal 1,203) Special settings teams: LTCF, Outbreaks, Encampments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 137 requests for PPE in last 14 days (goal 0) 341 requests for PPE in last 30 days (goal 0)

Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

Case and hospitalization rates have continued to increase over the past week and our goal is for cases to be flat or decreasing.

- As of July 15, there were [8,478 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 and 154 deaths. This represents 9.2 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 18.5 deaths per 100,000 people in California State overall.
- As of July 14, there were [158 hospitalized patients](#) (new high), including 56 ICU patients (new high) with confirmed COVID.

Alameda County Total Daily Cases



As of July 12, the county-level transmission rate (R_e , or effective reproductive number) is estimated to be 1.09 using a composite of 6 models on the [California COVID Assessment Tool \(Cal-CAT\)](#). California state's R_e is also 1.09. This means each person who has

COVID-19 will, on average, transmit the virus to 1.09 other people. When the R_e is greater than 1, cases increase exponentially.

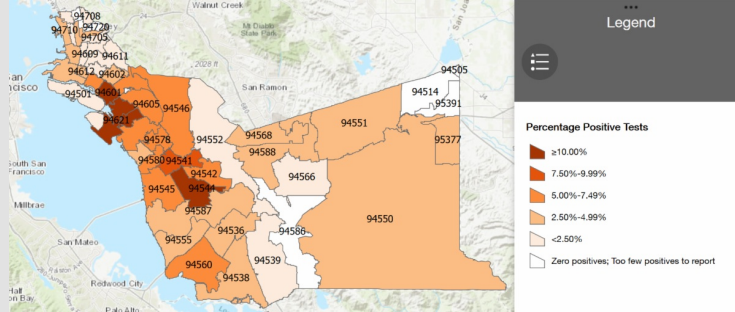
The Alameda County transmission rate (R_e) increased in late June and is now trending down slightly, leading to more favorable hospitalization predictions. Our goal R_e less than 1, which requires improvements in the adoption rate of preventive measures including universal face coverings and physical distancing in all settings.

Testing

We are conducting an average of 3,235 tests per day, exceeding our goal of 3,100. The positivity rate increased again over the

past week to 5%, though still within the threshold of 8% or lower.

Positivity rates are the highest for people living in zip codes 94601 (Fruitvale, 10.4% positivity), 94621, 94603 (Coliseum, 16%, and 14.8% positivity) and 94544 (Hayward, 10.5% positivity), showing ongoing disproportionate impact in predominately Latinx and Black/African American 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 community member with symptoms and all essential workers, people who have protested, and those at higher medical risk regardless of symptoms.

Providers are reminded to please:

- Submit full names, addresses, race/ethnicity, dates of birth and phone numbers for all positive case reports,
- Distribute [isolation orders](#) for all people getting tested,
- Remind people to stay home until they get test results, and
- Urge clients to pick up and return calls from the Health Department.

Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

Alameda County currently has 93 case investigators and contact tracers with a goal to reach 300 in the fall. New community-based organizations are partnering with Alameda County to provide additional case investigators and contact tracers. La Clínica de la Raza, West Oakland Health Center, Roots Community Health Center, and Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center are among the first organizations to provide these services through immediate action contracts.

Providers are encouraged to refer people living in crowded conditions or experiencing homelessness who need isolation/quarantine housing to [Project Roomkey](#) hotels. The Board recently approved three additional properties totaling 210 rooms that will open within in the next two weeks, bringing our total operating units to 1020. The Board also approved a scattered site program for Safer Ground that is launching later this month with up to 100 rooms that will bring the total to 1120 which is very close to our total goal of 1,203.

Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

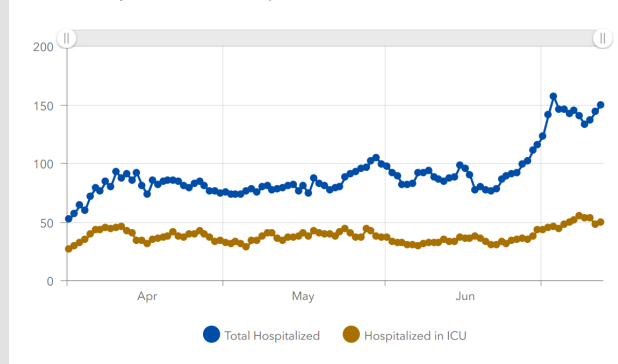
As of July 15, our hospital capacity indicators are:

- 5.7% of the patients in hospital beds across Alameda County were confirmed COVID-19 positive, which is within our

goal of 50% or less. This indicator remains a five.

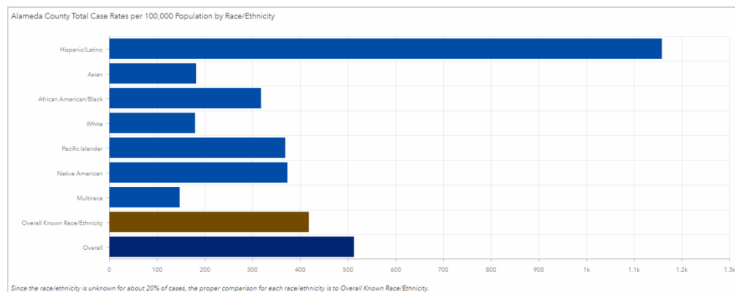
- 13% of the patients in ICU beds were confirmed COVID-19 positive.
- 47% of the 2,760 total inpatient hospital beds were available, and 100% of the 934 surge beds were available.
- There were 341 requests for personal protective equipment (PPE) from the county in the last 30 days, and our goal is zero requests. This indicator remains a two.

Alameda County Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations



California State has released an 8-page document around surge planning, which can be [downloaded here](#). Alameda County will be reaching out to hospitals to review the guidance and understand everyone's surge plans.

Health Disparities and Equity



Updated [race and ethnicity data](#) as of July 15 show persistent and significant disparities. 1.2 per 1,000 Latinx residents in Alameda County have been diagnosed with COVID-19, which is 6.4 times the

COVID-19 case rate of Whites. Black/African American people have almost twice the case rate.

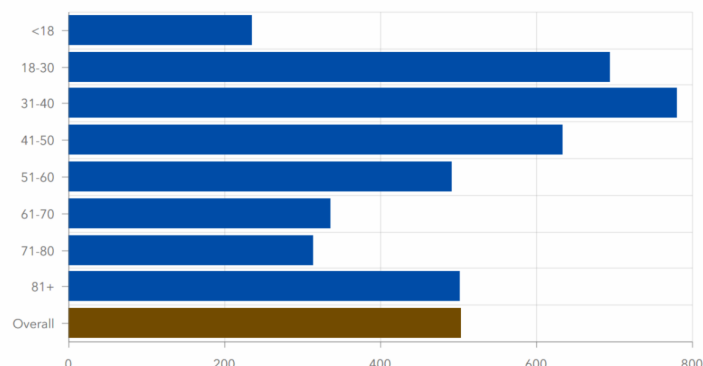
Black/African American rates have increased to 2.2 times the death rate of Whites, compared to 2.1 times a week ago. Native Americans have 2.2 times the rate of cases compared to Whites. Pacific Islanders have 2 times the case rate compared to Whites.

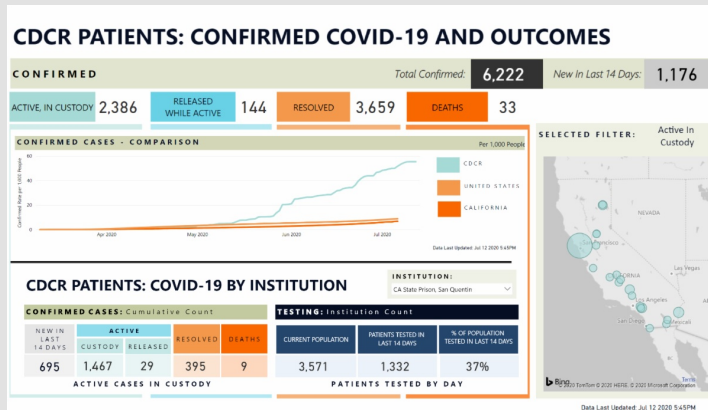
This data continues to show the persistent and urgent need to address racial and socioeconomic inequities in workplace safety, education, and access to precautions, rapid access to testing, safe isolation, quarantine, and medical care.

By age, most cases are among people ages **18 to 40**, which may be due to those who are working in essential sectors and could be living with more people in their households.

Deaths remain primarily in adults after the age of 50.

Alameda County Total Case Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group





Last week we shared the [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation \(CDCR\)](#) plan to release eligible inmates with 180 days or less remaining on their sentence to parole or probation supervision prior to their original release date. Alameda County is providing isolation and quarantine housing at

[Operation Comfort](#) for all early-release probationers returning from a facility with an outbreak regardless of COVID test results. As a reminder, these individuals have no current or prior sentences that require them to register as a sex offender under Penal Code 290.

As of July 15, the CDCR reported 6,570 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 37 deaths among California prison inmates, with 2,037 confirmed cases in San Quentin which represents 57% of the population. During the same time frame, there were 17 San Quentin inmates hospitalized in Alameda County.

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