

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of July 20, 2020

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

Last week, we received the State's approval for [variance attestation](#), which helped preserve outdoor dining and allowed for the opening of the zoo. We also reported that we were placed on the State's [monitoring list](#) due to ongoing elevated case rates. As such, we are subject to State-ordered restrictions on certain sectors until further notice.

In our county, this means indoor malls must close and indoor religious services must be suspended. Monitoring list restrictions also mean that schools may not open for in-person learning until the county has been off the monitoring list for two weeks.

We remain paused on reopening due to high rates of new cases and do not plan to open additional sectors at this time. It's worth noting that nearly all of our neighboring counties are also on, or close to being placed on the Monitoring List, and we continue to closely watch the data to determine next steps.

We also continue to scale up our infrastructure and prepare for various scenarios:

- While we do have sufficient hospital capacity at this time, our Surge Planning team is ramping back up to ensure our systems are able to quickly pivot from readiness to action as needed.
- Our Schools Team continues to partner with the Alameda County Office of Education to support school districts with their decisions for the upcoming school year. The State has issued [guidance for schools](#) and we expect more to be issued in the coming weeks.
- We've entered into immediate action contracts with four clinical partners serving communities with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection to expand case investigations and contact tracing.
- We've also held listening sessions with a broad range of providers and community members to inform our Contact Tracing RFP to expand our integrated teams-based model. The RFP is expected to post in early August.

Finally, we passed a milestone for [Project Roomkey](#) last week, having assisted more than 1,000 households who were homeless. We are on track to reach our goal of 1,200 units in the next few months. As one of four counties selected to participate in the Governor's 100-Day Challenge to permanently house 400 people through Project Roomkey, and we have already moved 60 residents into stable, permanent housing.

We are proud of the work our team and partners are doing to protect our unhoused communities from COVID-19 and make progress in systemwide coordination. This shows that with collective action and a significant infusion of resources, much can be achieved in a short amount of time. We remain grateful for your collaboration and partnership in helping our communities move forward together.

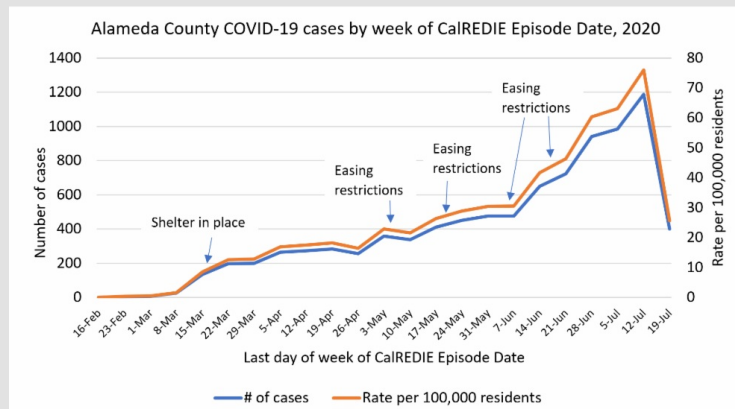
[Public Health Department Website](#)

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

## The Relationship Between Case Rates and Restrictions

This graph shows the relationship between easing restrictions and COVID case increases. This trend underscores the need to proceed cautiously, using data to guide decision-making that prioritizes the health and safety of our communities. Case investigations for Alameda

County residents found that, of cases with close contact to another known case, about 2/3 of transmissions in June occurred through household contacts, with many people exposed at parties and gatherings. Gatherings outside our households or social bubbles are currently prohibited. Data for the week of July 19 is still being collected.



COVID-19 is widespread in our county and region. In order to be removed from the State's Monitoring List and move forward with a safer reopening, we all need to:

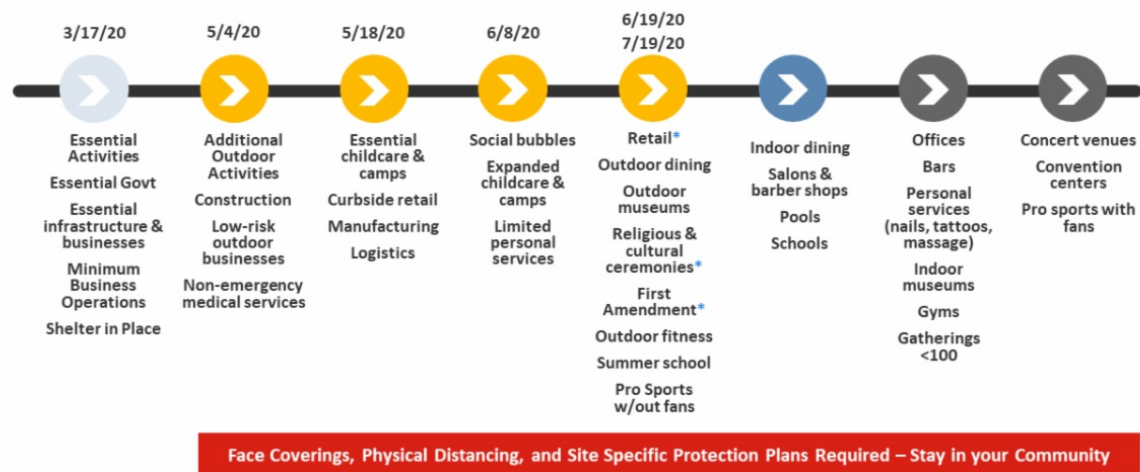
- [Wear face coverings](#) each time we leave our home or vehicle,
- Maintain at least six feet distance from others,
- Sanitize or wash hands frequently, and
- Stay home when sick.

[Face coverings are mandatory statewide](#) for everyone over the age of 2. In [Alameda County, face coverings](#) must be worn outside our homes and within 30 feet of others, including outdoors. If everyone wears face coverings, we can get this pandemic under control in six weeks. Please model this behavior and help others with this simple, important, and effective preventive measure.

# Alameda County Reopening Plan

Added to the State's Monitoring List on 7.12.20, activities with \* [subject to restrictions per State Orders](#)

Variance approved on 7.15.20, and reopening remains paused due to continued elevated disease transmission and State restrictions



The Alameda County COVID-19 strategy document is updated regularly and can be [downloaded here](#).

## Progress on COVID-19 Indicators

The rate of new cases and hospitalizations continued to increase over the past couple of weeks, reaching new highs on July 20. We are conducting over 3,500 tests per day, exceeding the 3,100 goal per day. The percentage of people hospitalized and COVID-19 positive has increased to 6.3% this week compared to 3.3% a month ago, and still below the goal of 50%. We have sufficient hospital capacity with 47% of our inpatient beds and 100% of our surge beds available. While we don't have a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), only 23% of hospitals report having more than 14 days of PPE on-hand and health facilities continue to make significant requests for PPE from the county. All indicators remain at the same status levels this week compared to last week.

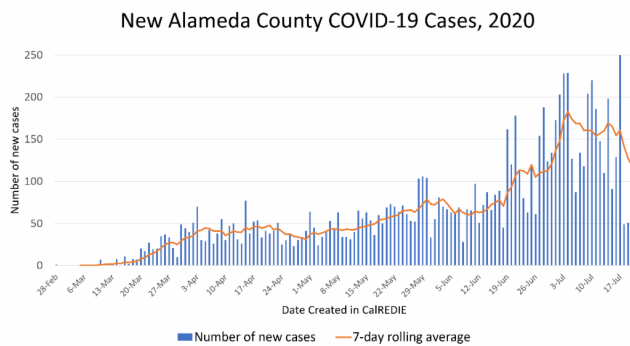
Alameda County COVID-19 Indicators					
Updated 7.22.2020					
Indicator Movement					
■ (-) ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ (+)					
	Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing	Sufficient Hospital & Surge Capacity	Sufficient Testing Capacity	Sufficient Disease Containment	Sufficient PPE
Indicator Status	■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■
Trends & Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9,051 cases</li> <li>161 cases hospitalized</li> <li>7-day avg % change in daily hospitalizations 1.6% (goal &lt;5%)</li> <li>Rates of new cases and hospitalizations continue to be elevated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,324 (47%) inpatient hospital beds available</li> <li>929 (100%) surge beds available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7-day avg positivity rate: &lt;5% (goal &lt;8%)</li> <li>7-day avg 3,234 tests/day (goal 3,100/day)</li> <li>75% of residents w/in 30min drive to site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93 case investigation &amp; contact tracing staff (goal 300)</li> <li>1,020 isolation/quarantine rooms (goal 1,203)</li> <li>Special settings teams: LTCF, Outbreaks, Jail, Encampments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>158 requests for PPE in last 14 days (goal 0)</li> <li>344 requests for PPE in last 30 days (goal 0)</li> </ul>

## Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

Case and hospitalization rates continued to increase over the past week with new

highly reported on July 22.

- As of July 22, there were [9,643 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 and 171 deaths. This represents 10.4 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 20.2 deaths per 100,000 people in California State overall.
- As of July 20, there were [103.2 new cases per 100,000 people](#) over 14 days, which is above the 100-case threshold for being on the State Monitoring List. The goal is to have 24 or fewer cases.
- As of July 21, there were [176 hospitalized patients](#) (new high), including 52 ICU patients (highest was 58 on 7/15) with confirmed COVID.



As of July 19, the county level transmission rate ( $R_e$ , or effective reproductive number) is estimated to be 1.1 using a composite of 6 models on the [California COVID Assessment Tool \(Cal-CAT\)](#). This means each person in Alameda County who has COVID-19 will

transmit the virus to 1.1 other people on average. When the  $R_e$  is greater than 1, cases increase exponentially. California state's  $R_e$  is 1.06.

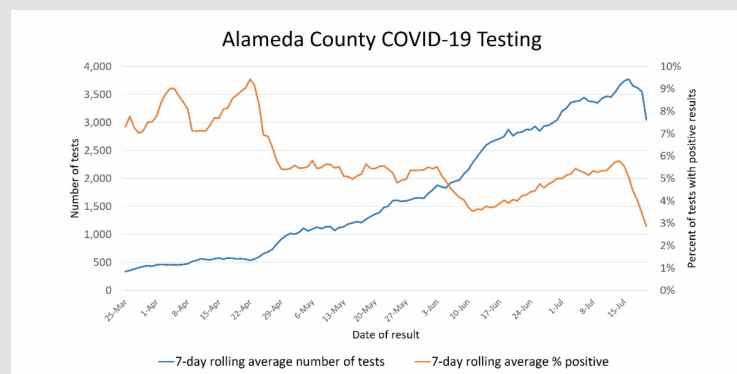
The Alameda County  $R_e$  increased in late June to 1.22 and has slowly trended down over the past 2 weeks to the current  $R_e$  of 1.1, which is promising. If the  $R_e$  remains 1.1, we are predicted to have 577 hospitalizations on August 21, which is a 3.4-fold increase in our current hospitalizations of 171.

Our goal is to reduce the transmission rate ( $R_e$ ) to less than 1. To do so, we need to improve the use of preventive measures including face coverings and social distancing in all settings outside our households. Please help us get the message out to communities with the [Mask On, Alameda County](#) campaign.

## Testing

We are conducting over 3,500 tests per day. The positivity rate remains at 5% and within the goal for 8% or lower.

A [new testing data dashboard](#) was added to the Public Health Department's COVID-19 website, providing more detailed data.



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 please:

- Submit full names, addresses, 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
- 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](#).

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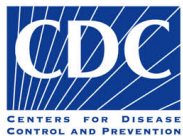
## Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

Alameda County currently has 93 case investigators and contact tracers (CI/CT) with a goal of 300 tracers in the fall. Another 40 contact tracers are undergoing training, and more will be joining through new contracts soon.

La Clínica, West Oakland Health Center, Roots Community Health center and Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center now have immediate action contracts to provide support for case investigations and contact tracing in the communities with the highest rates of COVID-19.

Contact tracing [FAQs and infographic](#) are available to help providers explain the process to consumers. Please encourage clients to answer the call from Public Health and provide the necessary information to help stop the spread of this disease.

Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) can assist with field testing, setting up field testing, and consult with staff conducting CI/CT. Visit the [website](#) to complete an application to join the Alameda County MRC. [Click here to join the medical health personnel database](#). Training for CI/CT is handled through Cal Connect and requires 20-40 hours of online training. EOC Logistics is also monitoring people interested in volunteering by emailing [PHVolunteers@acgov.org](mailto:PHVolunteers@acgov.org). [Click here to join the State Disaster Healthcare Volunteer database](#).



The CDC has updated its guidance and no longer recommends re-testing to release patients from isolation in [community settings](#), [hospital settings](#), and for [health care personnel](#) to return to work. A time- and symptom-based strategy is recommended instead. This is because people continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA (resulting in a positive test) but are no longer infectious.

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## Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

As of July 21, our hospital capacity indicators are:

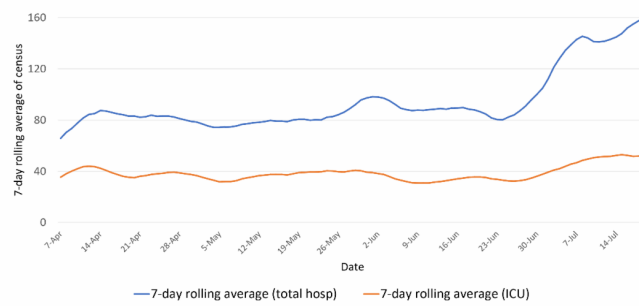
- 6.3% of the patients in hospital beds across Alameda County were confirmed COVID-19 positive, higher than the 3.3% a month



ago, but still well within our goal of 50% or less.

- 12% of the patients in ICU beds were confirmed COVID-19 positive.
- 46% of the 2,804 total inpatient hospital beds were available, and 100% of the 908 surge beds were available.
- 23% of hospitals report having more than 14 days of personal protective equipment (PPE) on-hand, below the State Monitoring goal of more than 90% hospitals.
- There were 344 requests for PPE from the county in the last 30 days, and our goal is zero requests.

COVID-19 Patients Hospitalized in Alameda County, 7-day rolling average, 2020



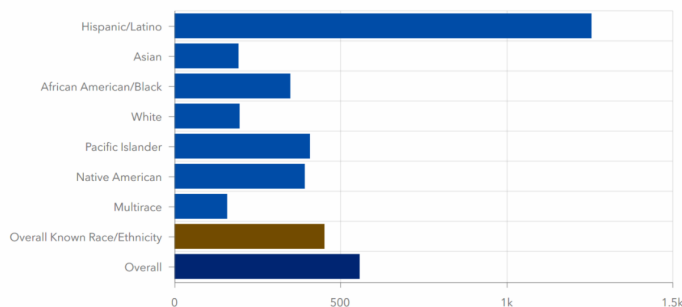
California State has released the final 8-page surge planning document, [downloaded here](#).

The Medical Board of California issued [a letter on mental health and suicide prevention guidance](#) with tools and resources for health care providers.

Alameda County Public Health Department recommends [all health care staff to wear eye protection](#) in addition to their facemask to ensure the eyes, nose, and mouth are all protected from exposure to respiratory secretions during all patient care encounters. This is in line with recent CDC updates.

## Health Disparities and Equity

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



Updated [race and ethnicity data](#) as of July 21 show widening disparities. The COVID-19 diagnosis rate among Latinx people is now 6.7 times the COVID-19 case rate of Whites, up from 6.4 times last week. Black/African American people have 1.8 times the case rate of Whites.

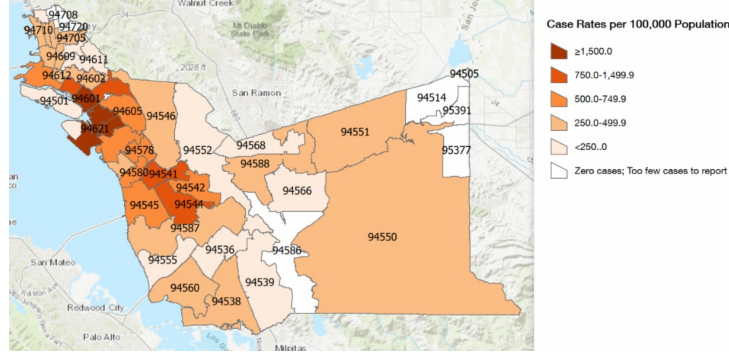
The death rate among Black/African Americans has increased to 2.4 times the death rate of Whites, compared to 2.2 times a week ago. Native Americans have 2 times the rate of cases compared to Whites. Pacific Islanders have 2.1 times the case rate compared to Whites.

Positivity rates remain highest for people living in the Fruitvale, East Oakland/Coliseum, and Hayward zip codes, showing a very disproportionate impact in communities of

color.

We continue efforts through our Health Equity Team and participation in the [Racial Disparity Task Force](#) to address 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.



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