

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of August 3, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

We entered the seventh month of our response to COVID-19 having passed the 12,000 case mark. Alameda County remains on the [California State Data Monitoring List](#) due to a rate above 100 new cases per 100,000 people over 14 days. Schools may not move to in-person learning until the County is off the Monitoring List for at least two weeks, and we are not accepting any waivers at this time.

This week, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved several initiatives related to COVID-19 response including:

- A new Project Roomkey hotel in Livermore;
- An additional \$25 million to continue our progress with testing;
- A rental assistance program to serve 300 people;
- An extension of the county-wide temporary eviction moratorium; and
- A pilot stipend program to provide \$10 million in financial assistance for people who have COVID-19 and live in the highest impacted zip codes. We are excited to launch this effort with our partners in the Social Services Agency and All In.

The Board also took several actions to advance our work to end homelessness. They:

- Adopted the Home Together Plan as the County's policy framework to guide future investments in homelessness;
- Authorized the County to apply to Project Homekey, a state program that provides funding to purchase hotels for the purposes of conversion to permanent housing; and
- Authorized a 30-unit tiny homes project at the Fairmont campus, where half of the units will serve medically complex individuals.

Each week we provide a digest of new information pulled from presentations to the [Board of Supervisors](#) and other key stakeholders. We hope you find this summary useful and we appreciate your readership and your support.

[Public Health Department Website](#)

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

Tada! Updated Website and Dashboards

We launched an updated [COVID-19 website](#) and streamlined [dashboards](#) this week. The new site is easier to navigate and language accessibility is improved through a Google Translation box at the top right. The dashboards include added functionality. We encourage you to visit and share your thoughts.



Progress on COVID-19 Indicators

All counties are currently experiencing data inconsistencies and delays due to technological issues with the State's data reporting and processing systems. Consequently, our trends for cases and testing are unstable at this time, downstream effects on our disease containment efforts. Hospital data are not affected and hospitalizations appear to have stabilized. We continue to exceed our goal of conducting 3,100 tests per day, and are maintaining sufficient hospital and surge capacity.

Alameda County COVID-19 Indicators

Indicator Movement
 ■ (-) ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ (+)

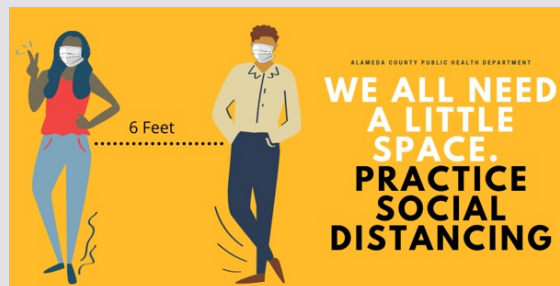
8.5.2020: No change from last week due to technology issues with state data systems

	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"> Hospitalizations stabilizing <p>*Case trends unstable at this time due to data reporting and processing issues with state systems (Electronic Lab Reporting & CalREDIE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 885 (38%) inpatient hospital beds available 1,221 (100%) surge beds available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing trends unstable at this time due to data reporting and processing issues with state systems (Electronic Lab Reporting & CalREDIE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 130 case investigation & contact tracing staff* (goal 300) 1,020 isolation/quarantine rooms (goal 1,203) Special settings teams: LTCF, Outbreaks, Jail, Encampments <p>*Response activities affected by state data issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued PPE requests

Mask On Alameda County!

COVID-19 remains widespread in our County and region. We all need to:

- [Wear face coverings](#) when in public and within 30 feet of others,
- Maintain at least six feet distance from others,
- Sanitize or wash hands frequently, and
- Stay home when sick.

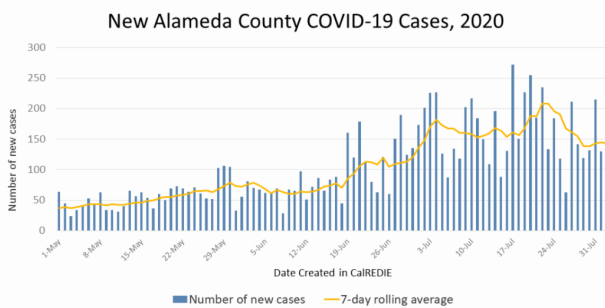


Please help us get the message out to communities with the [Mask On, Alameda County](#) campaign. For help with enforcement or report violations of workplace safety

Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

As of August 4, there were:

- [12,136 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 under-count and 193 deaths. This represents 11.7 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 24.8 deaths per 100,000 people in California State overall.
- [107.7 new cases per 100,000 people](#) over 14 days, which is down from the case rate of 113 last week, though still above the 100-case threshold for being on the State Monitoring List. The goal is to have 24 or fewer new cases per 100,000 people.
- [196 hospitalized patients](#) (highest was 213 on 7/28), including [53 ICU patients](#) (highest was 65 on 7/27) with confirmed COVID-19.

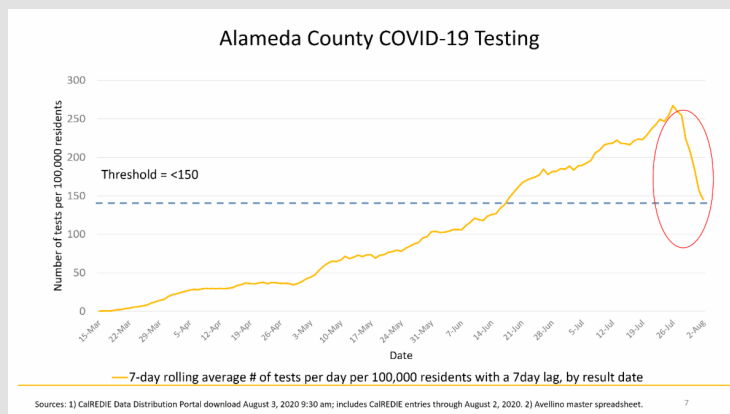


Source: CalREDIE Data Distribution Portal download August 3, 2020 9:30 am; includes CalREDIE entries through August 2, 2020.

The graph of case reports shows the case trend prior to the data reporting problem. New weekly cases appeared to level off in July at about 1,300 new cases per week, over four times higher than the 300 cases per week we saw in April-May.

Due to the lab and case reporting delays statewide, the current transmission rate (R_e , or effective reproductive number) using a composite of 6 models on the [California COVID Assessment Tool \(Cal-CAT\)](#) may be inaccurate. The [LEMMA](#) model uses hospital data (which is not impacted by the statewide data problem) and estimates the median Alameda County transmission rate on July 22 to be 1.02, down from over 1.2 in mid-June. When the R_e is greater than 1, cases increase exponentially and our goal is a transmission rate (R_e) of less than 1 to reduce cases, hospitalization, and death rates.

Testing



Sources: 1) CalREDIE Data Distribution Portal download August 3, 2020 9:30 am; includes CalREDIE entries through August 2, 2020. 2) Avellino master spreadsheet.

We are exceeding our goal of [3,100 tests per day](#) and the positivity rate increased to 5.4%. Our goal of having an 8% or lower positivity rate.

Priority days for testing are now designated for higher-risk populations at some locations. The Pleasanton

site is prioritizing based on the [CDPH testing](#) tiers and Native American Health Center is planning testing days for health care workers. The Hayward site moved to a location near Skywest golf course and continues to offer priority to first responders.

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). Ten 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.

Antigen testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19), while faster and simpler to run, is not recommended at community testing sites because it results in too many false-negative and false-positive results. In the next two weeks, the County testing task force will launch an information campaign to educate the community around the difference between molecular diagnostic (PCR), antigen, and antibody tests.

Testing sites provide critical support with disease containment by:

- distributing [isolation orders](#) for all people getting tested,
- reminding people to stay home until they get test results and to pick up calls from the health department, and
- submitting full names, demographics, addresses, dates of birth, and phone numbers for all positive case reports.

Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

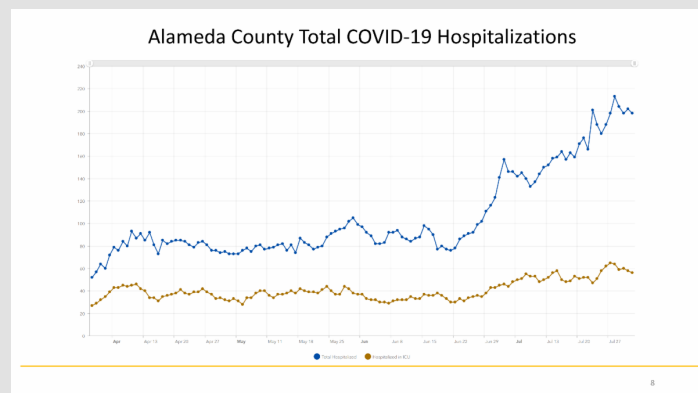
Our Contact Tracing Request for Proposals (RFP) will soon be released with a goal to get several more community-based organizations on board by mid-September. La Clínica, West Oakland Health Center, Roots Community Health Center, and Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center have immediate action contracts and have begun case investigations and contact tracing in communities with the highest rates of disease.

Clearance for work and transfers: Alameda County has issued a health advisory on the [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Release from Home Isolation Guidance Following a COVID-19 Infection](#). County guidance aligns with CDC guidance to **not recommend re-testing** to release patients from isolation in [community settings](#), [hospital settings](#), and [health care personnel](#) to return to work. A time- and symptom-based strategy is recommended instead since people continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA (resulting in a positive test) but are no longer infectious. The County is working on a version of this document written in lay language that can be given to employers to help people returning to work.

Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

As of August 4, our hospital capacity indicators are:

- 8.3% of hospitalized patients were COVID-19 positive and within the goal of 50% of less.
- 18% of ICU patients were COVID-19 positive.
- 36% of the 2,363 total inpatient hospital beds and 31% of the 300 ICU beds were available, and 100% of the 1,221 surge beds were available.
- As of July 22, there were 344 requests for PPE from the County in the last 30



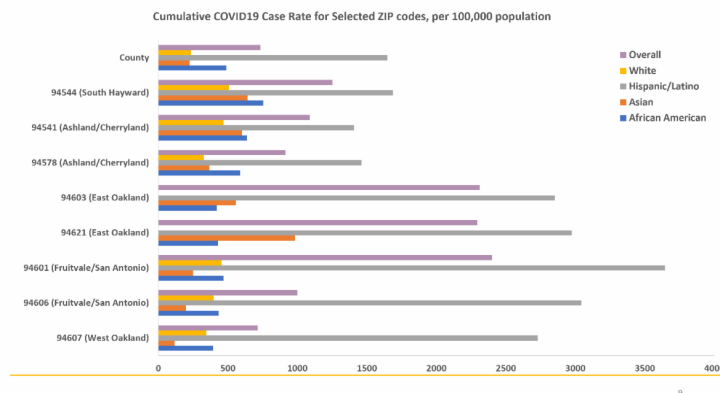
days, and our goal is zero requests.

If your facility needs COVID-related supplies or staffing, visit the [Emergency Medical Services website](#) to [request PPE](#), [request staffing](#), and [request testing supplies](#).

Opportunities to help with medical services include:

- [California Health Corps](#) - Use this link to register for the California Health Corps, a State program for trained medical and health care workers to sign up and provide the availability to assist in the COVID-19 response.
- [Medical Surge Volunteer Sign Up](#) - Use this link to register as a volunteer with the County of Alameda to assist with the COVID-19 response. Medically and non-medically trained volunteers will be needed. [Click here for more information](#).

Health Disparities and Equity



Updated [race and ethnicity data](#) as of August 5 show persistent disparities, though cases in the past week represent an undercount. The COVID-19 diagnosis rate among Latinx people is 6.9 times the COVID-19 case rate of Whites. The death rate among Latinx people is 1.5

times that of Whites. Black/African American people have 2.1 times the case rate of Whites. The death rate among Black/African Americans is 2.6 times the death rate of Whites, compared to 2.2 a week ago. Native Americans have 2.6 times the case rate compared to Whites. Pacific Islanders have 2.3 times the case rate compared to Whites.

Race and ethnicity data are missing for about 19% of cases overall, and the testing task force is working on improving demographic reporting by providers.

By age, most new cases are among people ages 18-50, while nearly all the deaths are among people ages 51 and above. People above the age of 80 have nearly 13 times the death rate compared to all ages.

By location, COVID-19 test positivity rates remain highest for people living in the Fruitvale/San Antonio (11%), East Oakland/Coliseum (16-17%), Hayward (10%), Ashland/Cherryland (8%) zip codes, compared to a 5.4% positivity rate overall, showing a disproportionate impact in communities of color. Latinx people have the highest case rates per 100,000 people in each of these zip codes.

Efforts through our Alameda County Health Equity Team are a priority to address the persistent and urgent need of racial and socioeconomic inequities in workplace safety, education, and access to precautions, rapid access to testing, safe isolation, quarantine, and medical care.

Did you receive the update from a colleague? [Click here to join our mailing list.](#)

[Weekly Update PDF Version](#)



[Follow us @Dare2BWell](#)