

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of August 10, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

Last Friday, Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency, announced an undercount of COVID-19 cases flowing to the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange known as CalREDIE. The issue, which began July 25, has since been addressed and the system is now performing as expected. We are told the current backlog was eliminated and new cases attributed to the backlog will be reported over the next few days. This means that Alameda County's trends for cases, testing, and positivity rates may still be subject to incomplete reporting. It's important to note that hospitalization rates are not affected as they are reported through different systems.

There are several notable leadership transitions to report this week including:

- Dr. Erica Pan's appointment to Interim California State Health Officer following Monday's resignation of Dr. Sonia Angell who served as State Health Officer and Director of the [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH).
- Sandra Shewry is helping fill the role by serving as CDPH Interim Director.
- Our Interim Health Officer, Dr. Nicholas Moss, will be taking family leave later this month. During his leave,
- HCSA's Medical Director, Dr. Kathleen Clanon, will serve as Deputy Health Officer. Dr. Clanon leads our whole person care initiative [AC Care Connect](#), and has been an integral part of our COVID-19 leadership and response teams since the beginning of our activation. She will be assisted by,
- Dr. Michael Stacey who has many years of local health jurisdiction experience, having served as Medical Director, Deputy Health Officer, and Deputy Director of Health and Social Services for Solano County. He will retain his current position as Chief Medical Officer at LifeLong Medical Care, and temporarily reduce his role there to spend most of this time as a consultant to HCSA on public health officer matters. He is also the co-chair for the [Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative](#) (BARHII). We appreciate the support and flexibility of Dr. Stacey and LifeLong during this interim time.

Drs. Moss, Clanon, and Stacey are coordinating to facilitate a smooth transition in close partnership with HCSA leaders and our COVID-19 team.

As we head into high temperatures forecast for Alameda County beginning this weekend, we want to remind you to stay hydrated and check in on vulnerable neighbors. The Alameda County Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates a list

of [extreme heat cooling centers](#) which are currently limited due to COVID-19 considerations. OES is continually updating the list as new locations are submitted. This is also a good time to share the Alameda County [Heat Vulnerability Map](#) which illustrates social and environmental factors that contribute to community heat vulnerability and identifies neighborhoods and demographics disproportionately affected by heat waves. The interactive map illustrates the interconnected environmental, demographic, and health factors that can increase heat vulnerability of our communities. This information may be useful to county departments, city planners, and neighborhood and community organization efforts to assess and respond to the impacts of extreme heat.

Each week we provide a digest of new information on the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic along with emerging and relevant news. We hope you find this summary useful, and we appreciate your readership and support!

[Public Health Department Website](#)

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

Mask On Alameda County! Do you know which masks are best?

This week [Mask On!](#) events will include focused outreach offering masks and information to the general public on the street, entering stores, in parks, and the plaza in the Fruitvale District. The event is sponsored by Street Level Health Project and Mam community leaders.

Alameda County remains under an [Order](#) for face coverings which are an integral part in the reduction and prevention of cases, especially with the coming fall and flu season. We all must:

- [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.

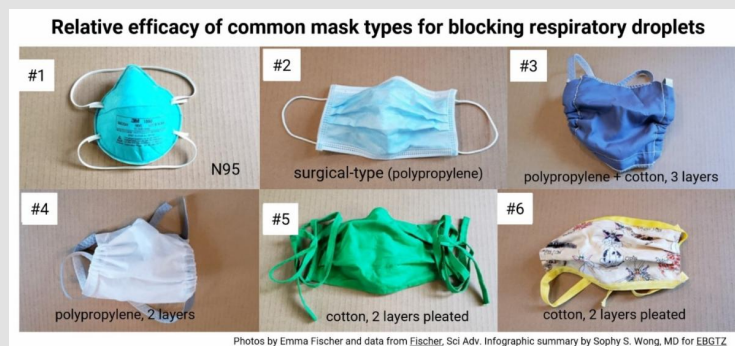
Help spread the [Mask On Alameda County!](#) campaign in your community.

Effective face coverings

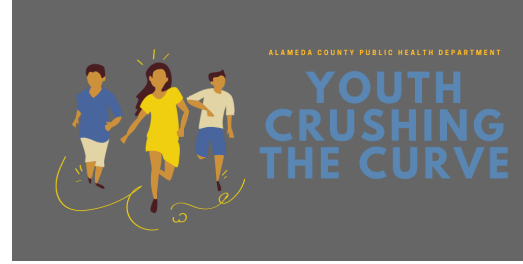
A new study from Duke University ([Fischer](#) in Sci Adv) compares how well 14 commonly used mask and covering types block the number of droplets expelled while people are talking.

The photo at right depicts

efficacy starting with the non-valve N95 mask gold standard which blocked the most droplets. Homemade 2-layer cotton masks blocked nearly 90% of the droplets that N95 masks blocked. Bandannas blocked about half the droplets and fleece gaiters (neck warmers) emitted more droplets likely caused by breaking into smaller ones. Given these findings, community members may want to avoid using gaiters or bandannas when around others and unable to maintain distance.



[REACH Ashland Youth Center](#), operated by Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, has elected two members from its youth leadership group to represent the young people of Alameda County on the [Crushing the Curve](#) Youth Council. Crushing



the Curve is a communications campaign designed to build awareness for, and educate youth about, mental health and well-being during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. Alameda County, in partnership with the six additional local health jurisdictions within the Bay Area, is helping to lead this effort.

A collaborative group of organizations across California has co-created a newly developed one-page resource, [Coping with Stress During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This material is intended for California families experiencing the severe economic consequences resulting from COVID-19. It offers supportive information on ways Californians can take care of themselves and their families during the pandemic.

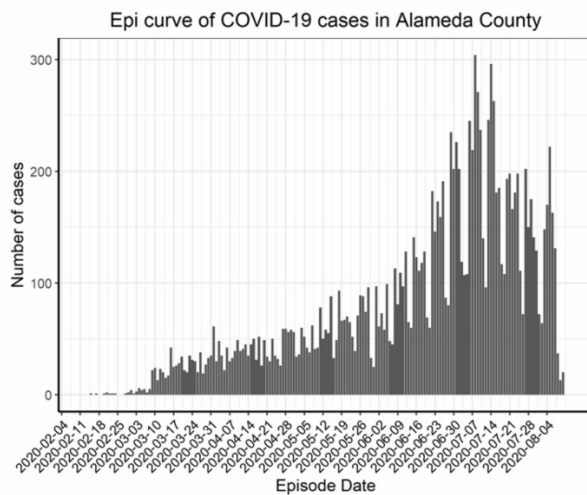
Please share both resources with your networks, the families you serve, or where families access meals or food boxes through the school community or food distribution centers.

Progress on COVID-19 Indicators

The rate of hospitalizations flattened in late July and is starting to decline. The percentage of people hospitalized and COVID-19 positive has decreased to 7.2% compared to a high of 9.8% two weeks ago and still below the goal of 50%. Hospital capacity is 37% of our inpatient beds, and 100% of our surge beds remain available. We are exceeding our goal of conducting 3,100 tests per day. Health facilities continue to make requests for PPE from the county. All indicators remain at the same status levels this week compared to last week, partially due to data issues at the State.

Alameda County COVID-19 Indicators					
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"> Hospitalizations stabilizing *Case 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"> 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 *Response activities affected by state data issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued PPE requests

Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations



Hospitalization rates in Alameda County suggest that our trends flattened in late July and are starting to decline after two months of increases. While we await corrected case numbers, Alameda County remains on the [California State Data Monitoring List](#). Due to statewide data lags, the most current case trend is better represented by the “epi curve” shown here, which reflects the date of test collection or symptom onset. The epi curve shows that cases

peaked in mid-July and flattened in late July to last week. Our goal is for cases to be flat or decreasing:

- On August 12, there were [13,664 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 and 205 deaths.
- On August 11, there were [170 hospitalized patients](#) (highest was 213 on 7/28), including [59 ICU patients](#) (highest was 65 on 7/27) with confirmed COVID-19.

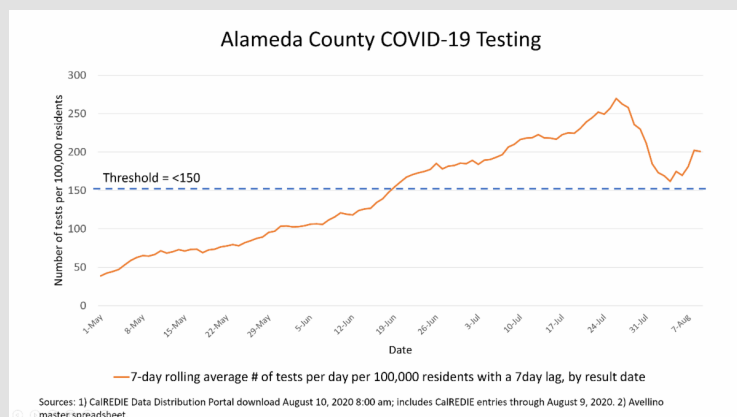
The [LEMMMA](#) COVID-19 prediction model, which uses hospital data and is not impacted by the statewide data problem, estimates the median Alameda County transmission rate (R_t) to be 0.78, down from 1.28 in mid-June. This means each person with COVID-19 transmits the virus to fewer than one other person. When the transmission rate is less than one, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths decrease. Our goal is to keep the transmission rate to less than 1 by ensuring preventive measures are widely implemented and sustained in our communities and workplaces. This includes everyone wearing face coverings and maintaining distance in all settings, including social gatherings at parks and in homes.

For help with enforcement or report violations of workplace safety orders in Alameda County, please email: COVID19compliance@acgov.org

Testing

We continue exceeding our goal of conducting [3,100 tests per day](#).

In an effort to increase testing among African Americans in the hardest-hit neighborhoods, we are planning two days of mass testing on August 22 and 23, followed by support for people who test positive. Many groups have rallied around [Umoja Health -- The Town and All Around](#), including Oakland Frontline Healers, Friends of Frank Staggers Sr, the African American Rapid Response Circle, the Brotherhood of Elders Network, Roots Clinic, UCSF United in Health. Click to sign up as a [clinical volunteer](#) or [community volunteer](#).



New guidance is available on SARS-CoV-2 testing before elective and non-urgent surgical, dental and diagnostic procedures, including screening all patients for symptoms and close contacts, and considerations for when and how to test pre-procedure. The guidance document can be downloaded [here](#) or from the ACPHD [Clinical Guidance](#) page, and on the [Health Alerts page](#).

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.

Testing sites provide critical support with disease containment by:

- distributing [isolation orders](#) and [contact tracing information](#) 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

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.

Answering questions will help them.

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.

Stay Informed
Please click to view "How COVID-19 Can Spread in the Community."
Call 2-5-1 or text "COVID19" or "coronavirus" to 212121 to receive general information.
Check Public Health Department's website: www.acphd.org
Subscribe to our social media

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
Alameda County Public Health Department
Celebrating Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Alameda County currently has more than 130 case investigators and contact tracers with a goal to reach 300 in the fall. Approximately 59% of cases now have contact tracing completed. A new grant opportunity for agencies who want to provide COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing services is now available, with the first round due on August 21: [Request for Qualification \(RFQ\) No. HCSA-900420](#), Emergency COVID-19 Case Investigation, and Contact Tracing Services Vendor Pool.

New [contact tracing infographics](#) such as the English version above, are now available for download in 7 languages and may be used for all people who receive testing.

[Project Roomkey](#) continues to expand and provide isolation/quarantine housing for people living in crowded conditions or are experiencing homelessness. Alameda County now has a total of 1,132 rooms which is 94% towards our goal of 1,203 rooms.

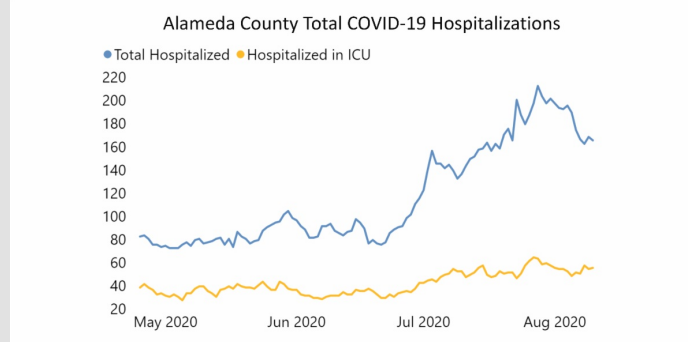
Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

As of August 11, our hospital capacity indicators are:

- 7.2% of the patients in hospital beds across Alameda County were

confirmed COVID-19 positive (highest was of 9.8% on 7/27) and within our goal of 50% or less.

- 19% of the patients in ICU beds were confirmed COVID-19 positive (highest was 22% on 7/27).

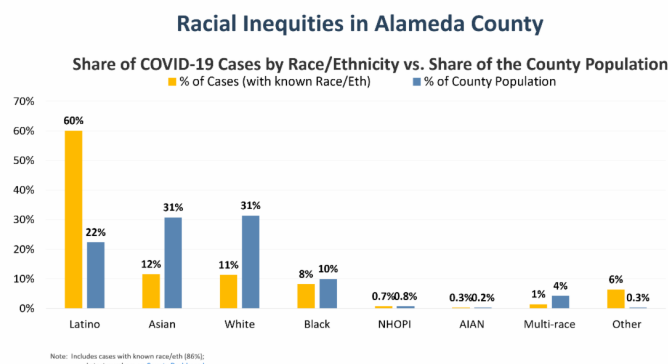


- 37% of the 2,362 staffed inpatient hospital beds and 29% of the 307 ICU beds were available, and 100% of the 1,221 surge beds were available. This indicator remains a five.
- The county continues to receive requests for PPE, and our goal is zero requests.

Long-term surge planning is transitioning from emergency operations to more permanent COVID-19 program operations. Alameda County will use statewide guidance for response plans that address four levels of surge triggers based on the percentage increase in current hospital census over average annual census.

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

Health Disparities and Equity

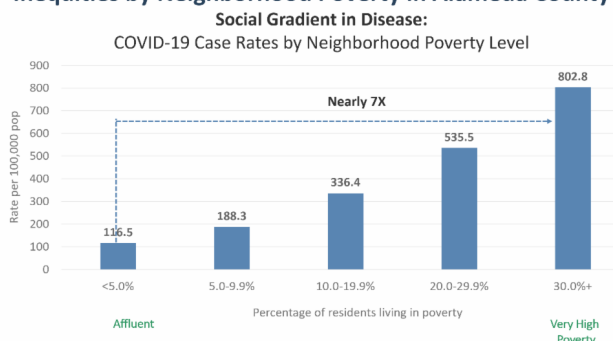


Race and ethnicity data in this graph show that Latino people continue to be disproportionately impacted and represent 60% of our cases while comprising 22% of total county population.

Poverty is heavily associated with a greater likelihood of having COVID-19. The graph below shows that neighborhoods that have more than 30% of residents living in poverty have nearly 7 times the rate of COVID-19 diagnosis compared to neighborhoods with less than 5% of residents living in poverty.

A key element of our COVID-19 equity strategy includes partnering directly with communities most impacted by this pandemic, working collectively with existing people power to uphold community wellness.

Inequities by Neighborhood Poverty in Alameda County



We are working closely with community partners and coalitions in Black, Latino, Native, and Pacific Islander communities to address resource and information gaps that contribute to disparate impacts of the pandemic.



CPUC Requires PG&E to Reduce Shutoffs and Adopt Customer Protections

Up to 25% of Californians are energy insecure, according to the California Public Utilities Commission. On June 11, 2020, the CPUC approved protections against customer disconnections by the three large investor-owned utilities that they regulate—PG&E, Sempra, and SoCal Edison. The decision requires the companies to decrease shutoffs dramatically, keep vulnerable customers connected, and improve affordability for at-risk households. These protections go into effect immediately.

Since 2016, we've been involved in the effort to partner with The Utility Reform Network (TURN) and a statewide network of grassroots organizations to assess the public health impact of utility shutoffs. Our County supported the successful passage of Senate Bill 598 (Hueso), the Shutoffs Reduction Act, which established the direction for the CPUC to develop regulations. For more details, see the CPUC [rulemaking](#) and read the full [decision](#).

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