

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

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Week of October 12, 2020

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

On October 13, Alameda County moved into the Orange (Moderate) Tier on the State's color coded [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). Community adherence to the Health Officer Order and compliance with COVID-19 preventive behaviors including masks, social distancing, frequent handwashing and isolating when feeling ill, helped reduce case and test positivity rates. At this time, Orange Tier activity levels are NOT permitted in Alameda County, and we are continuing our phase-in of additional sectors as follows:

- Outdoor cardrooms and satellite wagering (starting 10/16)
- Playgrounds (starting 10/16)
- Indoor worship services at < 25% capacity or <100 people (starting 10/26)
- Indoor dining at < 25% capacity or <100 people (starting 10/26)
- Indoor retail expansion to 50% capacity (starting 10/26)
- Shopping centers expansion to 50% capacity, limited food courts (starting 10/26)
- Indoor movie theaters at < 25% capacity or <100 people (starting 10/26)

County risk level	Adjusted case rate* <small>7-day average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100k with 7-day lag, adjusted for number of tests performed</small>	Positivity rate** <small>7-day average of all COVID-19 tests performed that are positive</small>
<b>WIDESPREAD</b> <small>Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed</small>	<b>More than 7</b> <small>Daily new cases (per 100k)</small>	<b>More than 8%</b> <small>Positive tests</small>
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b> <small>Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed</small>	<b>4-7</b> <small>Daily new cases (per 100k)</small>	<b>5 - 8% and 5.3 - 8% health equity metric</b> <small>Positive tests</small>
<b>MODERATE</b> <small>Some indoor business operations are open with modifications</small>	<b>1 - 3.9</b> <small>Daily new cases (per 100k)</small>	<b>2 - 4.9% and 2.2 - 5.2% health equity metric</b> <small>Positive tests</small>
<b>MINIMAL</b> <small>Most indoor business operations are open with modifications</small>	<b>Less than 1</b> <small>Daily new cases (per 100k)</small>	<b>Less than 2% and Less than 2.2% health equity metric</b> <small>Positive tests</small>

On October 15, we [issued guidance for the arts](#) as an essential part of Alameda County's community and economy. Throughout the state, 1 in 10 jobs are part of the creative economy which provides opportunities for individuals to express themselves, connect with others, and uplift and strengthen our whole community.

We are continuing our measured approach to reopening new sectors to prevent a potential surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths that would force the reversal of reopening efforts. If metrics remain stable or continue to improve over the next four to six weeks, we will consider allowing Orange Tier sectors to reopen. Visit [Shelter in Place](#) to view [what's currently open](#) in our County, and [what's planned](#).

Each week we provide a digest of new information sourced 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.

## Bay Area Health Officers Join Together to Fight Flu



[Bay Area Health Officials](#) are asking the public to fight the flu by getting the annual vaccination right now.

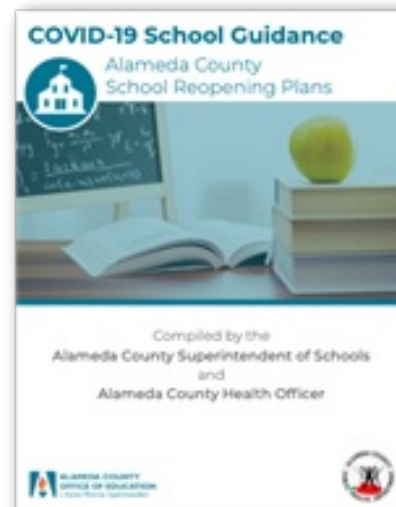
Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Flu is not COVID-19, which is caused by a different virus. Flu is not the same as the common cold, which is caused

by different viruses. It takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to become effective after you get the shot, so getting vaccinated early offers the best protection. While the flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, it is especially important for pregnant women, children younger than 5, adults 65 and older, and those with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes. People in the same household with someone at high risk can help protect that person from severe flu by getting a flu shot.

Each winter, people sick with flu crowd hospitals and urgent care clinics, resources that may be strained due to COVID-19 this year. Early and timely flu shots can prevent a disease that hospitalizes 200,000 Americans every year. Get more information about [flu](#) and visit the [Vaccine Finder](#) to identify locations that offer the flu vaccine near you.

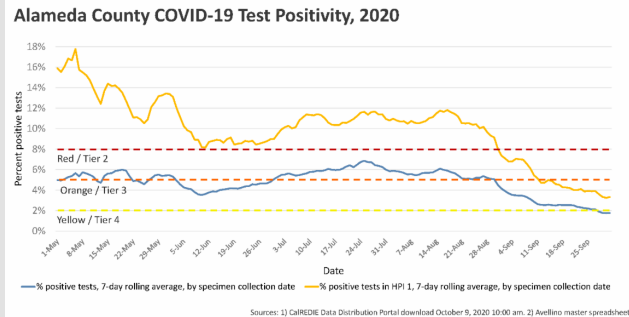
## Reopening Schools

Elementary schools (transitional kindergarten - 6th grade) in Alameda County can now offer in-person learning, if ready. Each school (public, private, charter) is required to submit a [COVID-19 health and safety reopening plan](#) and [required checklist](#) to the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE), along with posting the plan on their website. In partnership with ACOE, we will continue to provide guidance and technical assistance to schools. We will also monitor COVID-19 case rates closely as more schools reopen for in-person learning. If COVID cases remain stable or decrease, middle and high schools may be allowed to offer in-person learning within the next four to 12 weeks.



## New State Health Equity Metric

As of October 12, the test positivity in the most disadvantaged areas of Alameda County was 3.2% compared to 1.6% countywide.

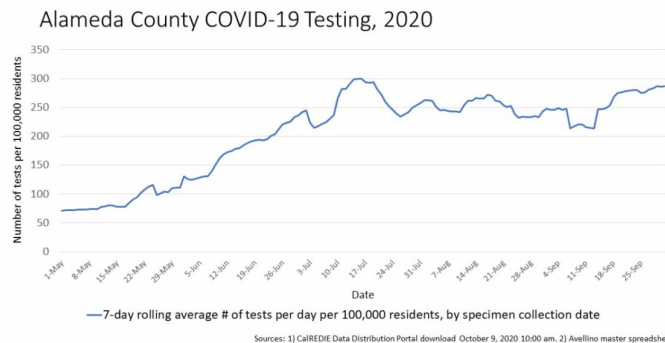


Both rates are within the range for the [Orange Tier](#). Alameda County is meeting the equity metric, in large part, because we've had an equity focus from the start. While we still have some areas with high test positivity, they are much lower compared to a couple of months ago and rates continue to decline in

all areas. We remain focused on our work with community partners to decrease the positivity rate and improve health outcomes in the hardest hit neighborhoods.

## Testing

Testing rates continue to increase with the 7-day average for [testing](#) over 4,000. The increase in testing is a contributing factor to our decreasing positivity rate. Alameda County will continue to work with [Community Organized Relief Effort](#) (CORE) and [Fulgent Genetics](#) to bring free pop-up



testing to locations that are well-positioned to reach disproportionately affected communities or communities that are underserved by COVID-19 testing.

Testing locations and appointment links are posted on the [COVID-19 testing webpage](#) and searchable in the [interactive map of COVID-19 services](#). Eleven community testing sites offer free tests using [county testing guidance](#) for any community member with symptoms, all essential workers, and those at higher medical risk regardless of symptoms.

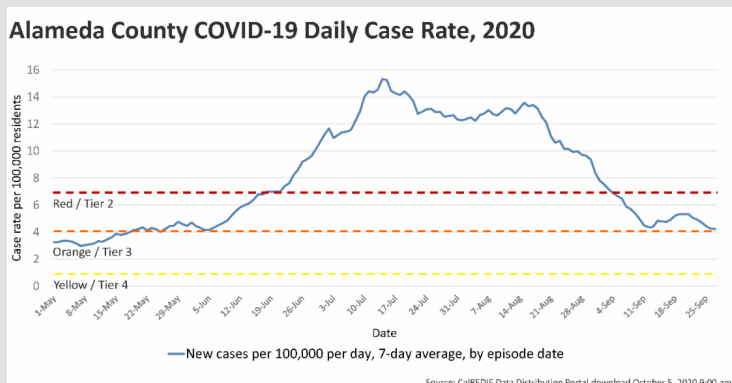
## Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

The number of new cases per day continues to decline as well as the County's overall positivity rate. Hospitalizations continue to decline as well. The October 10 metrics reflect the state's 7-day average and 7-day lag:

- Adjusted case rate for tier assignment is 2.8 per 100,000.

As of October 10:

- Cumulative cases were 22,149 and cumulative deaths were 436.
- COVID-19 positive patients included 64 hospitalized and 24 in ICU beds.



## Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

Alameda County currently has 39 outbreak investigators and 150 trained case investigators/contact tracers, including 34 community-based organizations. Last week 53% of cases were reached within 24 hours of receiving contact information, 60% of cases were reached within 48 hours, and 75% were reached within the week.

As a reminder, [Project Roomkey](#) has 1,233 hotel rooms and trailer slots and continues to provide isolation/quarantine housing for people living in crowded conditions or are experiencing Homelessness.

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## Congratulations Dr. Freeman Garrick



Dr. Jocelyn Freeman Garrick, our Emergency Medical Services Deputy Medical Director, will receive the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) COVID-19 Physician Award during a virtual evening event on October 17. In addition to the award, ABC will donate \$2,000 to Jocelyn's designated organization [Mentoring in Medicine and Science](#). MIMS is a nonprofit operating in Oakland with a mission to increase the number of underrepresented health professionals through mentoring, career exposure, and leadership development. Congratulations, Dr. Freeman Garrick, and thank you for your amazing work.

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