



Week of October 26, 2020

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

Alameda County maintained its position in the Orange (Moderate) Tier on the State's color-coded [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) over the last two weeks. Case rates and hospitalizations remain stable although we are observing slight increases. We are monitoring cases and hospitalizations following recent reopened [activities](#) and the adoption of less restrictive State [guidance](#) on private gatherings with the hope that we'll meet State metrics to move to the Yellow Tier in the near future.

Current Tier Status	Orange				Alameda County (10/23/20)
	Tier 1 (Widespread)	Tier 2 (Substantial)	Tier 3 (Moderate)	Tier 4 (Minimal)	
Adjusted Case Rate per 100,000	>7	4 to 7	1 to 3.9	<1	3.2
Overall Test Positivity Rate	>8%	5% to 8%	2% to 4.9%	<2%	1.6%
Health Equity Metric: Test Positivity Rate in Healthy Places Index Quartile 1	>8.0%	≤8.0%	<5.2%	<2.2%	2.7%

With Halloween and Día de los Muertos occurring this week, we remind our community that trick-or-treating and parties are considered high risk due to close contact with people outside of one's household. Please remember to wear a mask whenever you leave your home and keep at least six feet of physical distance from anyone you don't live with. Get your flu shot, and don't forget to wash your hands frequently.

We're pleased to announce a new series of community voiced Public Service Announcements (PSAs) including [Aaron Ortiz, CEO, La Familia](#), encouraging others to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Community trusted messengers include [Greg Hodges](#) from the [Brotherhood of Elders Network](#), and [Joe Hawkins](#) from the [Oakland LGBTQ Community Center](#). More voices are on the way and we are grateful the support of these community leaders in helping to share important prevention messages.

Finally, as we approach next Tuesday, we are also mindful of the challenges that limit participation in the election process for many people including those experiencing homelessness. Our Health Care for the Homeless team is [partnering with the Oakland A's](#), AC Transit, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and Social Services Agency to help Alameda County's most vulnerable residents vote safely in the general election. The County is also [partnering with the Coliseum and Oakland](#) to host three days of COVID-19 testing October 31 through November 2, and free flu vaccine on

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.

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

## Alameda County Schools Reopening Update

Starting November 9, middle and high schools (7-12 grades) that complete a [COVID-19 health and safety reopening plan](#) may reopen for in-person learning if ready. The decision and timing of when to open rests with each school and school district. Schools are not required to open. Middle and high schools that choose to reopen for in-person learning must post their reopening plans to their school or school district website and submit their plan to the Alameda County Office of Education. This information is shared directly with the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. Our Agency will continue to support schools and school districts with COVID-19 safety guidance and technical assistance, evaluating strategies, and support during outbreaks.

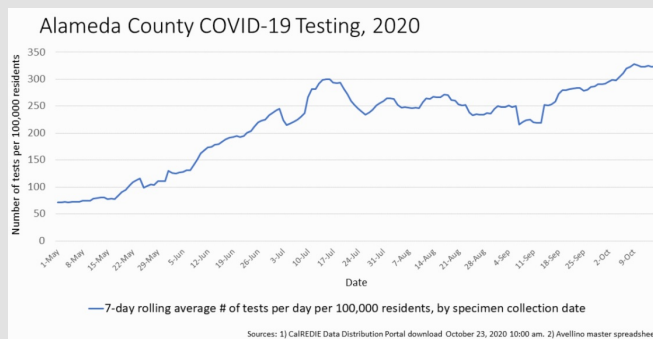
## State Health Equity Metric

As of October 26 (reflecting data from October 11th - 17th) test positivity in the least advantaged areas of Alameda County was 2.5% compared to 1.6% countywide. We continue to

County risk level	Adjusted case rate*	Positivity rate**	
	7-day average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100K with 7-day lag, adjusted for number of tests performed	7-day average of all COVID-19 tests performed that are positive	
		Entire county	Healthy equity quartile
<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>1.0 – 3.9</b>	<b>2.0 – 4.9%</b>	<b>2.2 – 5.2%</b>
Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	Daily new cases (per 100k)	Positive tests	Positive tests

see an overall decline in the positivity rate in the our priority neighborhoods, although there are a pockets of higher rates. We need to remain in the Orange Tier for another week, and our metrics need to meet the requirements of the [Yellow \(Minimum\) Tier](#) for two consecutive weeks before we can move into the Yellow Tier.

## Testing



Testing rates remain high, with a 7-day average for [testing](#) over 5,000. The County launched a new testing site at the [Henry J. Kaiser Center in Oakland](#) on Tuesday, October 27, in partnership with Alameda Health System. Adults can get tested on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from

8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Essential workers will be prioritized for appointments from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursdays. Children ages two and older can be tested on Saturdays.

Our [13 community testing sites](#) in Oakland, Berkeley, Fremont, Pleasanton, and San

Leandro are still active, along with our seven mobile testing vendors which reach up to an additional 700 individuals a week. We also launched a testing site at Lake Merritt on October 24, which will take place every Saturday and Sunday through November and [testing at the Oakland Coliseum from October 31 to November 3](#) . Additional testing sites, opportunities and events can be found on our COVID-19 [testing page](#).

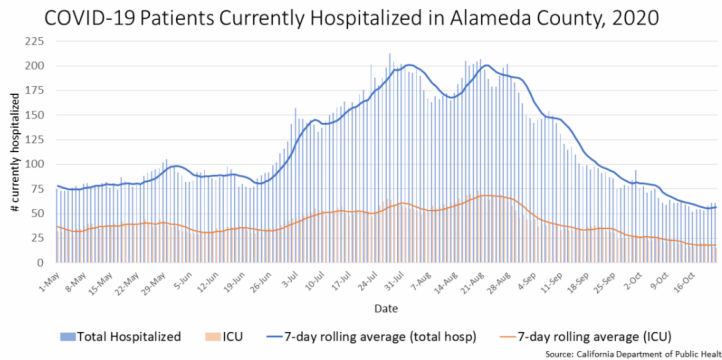
## Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

The number of new cases per day and hospitalizations remain stable at lower levels. The October 26 metrics reflect the State's 7-day average and 7-day lag (data reported October 10th - 17th):

- The unadjusted case rate is 3.3 per 100,000.

As of October 24:

- Cumulative cases were 23,312, and cumulative deaths were 461.
- COVID-19 positive patients included 54 hospitalized and 14 in ICU beds.



## Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

Alameda County currently has 41 outbreak investigators and 125 trained case investigators/contact tracers, including 36 community-based organizations. Four new CBO teams will be added at the end of October. Last week 53.6% of cases were reached within 24 hours of receiving contact information, 58.2% of cases were reached within 48 hours, and 62.9% were reached within the week.

As of October 26, the occupancy rate was 94% for all Safer Ground units in [Project Roomkey](#). Roomkey isolation/quarantine hotel rooms and trailer units continue to provide housing for people living in crowded conditions or are experiencing Homelessness. We are still in the process of preparing for transition from interim homeless housing to permanent supportive housing through [Project Homekey](#).

## Don't Hesitate. Vaccinate!

**Fight the Flu:**  
**DON'T HESITATE. VACCINATE!**

ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH @Dare2BWell

Influenza immunization is critical this season and the Flu Vaccination planning team continues to finalize more events and sites throughout the County. Last Friday, a flu clinic was held at the Castro Valley Adult High School and 798 flu shots were administered to children and adults.

Upcoming community flu clinics:

- Oakland Coliseum, November 3
- Castro Valley Adult School, November 6
- McClymond's High School, November 14
- San Leandro Senior Center, November 16

Updated [flu information](#) can be found on our Public Health website along with the current list of [county immunization clinics](#). Alameda County, the California State Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone ages six months and older. Getting the flu vaccine reduces illness and transmission in our community, reduces clinic visits and hospitalization, and prevents illnesses that mimic COVID-19.

---

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

[Weekly Update PDF Version](#)



[Follow us @Dare2BWell](#)