

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of November 16, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

Last Friday, the Governor issued [travel advisories](#) urging visitors entering the state or returning home from travel outside the state to self-quarantine to slow the spread of the virus. The

following Monday, November 16, the State placed Alameda County in the Purple Tier, the most restrictive level in the State's [reopening framework](#). The State took action in response to local and statewide increases in [COVID-19 case rates](#) and we [issued a statement](#) to help businesses and residents interpret the State's actions. The Governor also issued [statewide guidance for face coverings](#) on November 16, requiring masks at all times outside of the home with some exceptions.

On Thursday, November 19, the Governor issued a limited [Stay at Home Order](#) generally requiring that non-essential work, movement, and gatherings stop between 10 pm and 5 am in counties in the Purple Tier. The Order takes effect at 10 pm Saturday, November 21 and remains in effect until 5 am December 21, although it may be extended or revised.

We welcome this focused, targeted effort by the State to slow the steep rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations occurring in Alameda County, the Bay Area, and the State. We ask our residents to continue protecting themselves, their loved ones, and their communities from COVID-19 by limiting gathering, wearing a face covering, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance, washing hands frequently, and following [Bay Area Holiday Gathering and Travel Guidance](#). The State has also posted [tips for a healthier holiday season](#).

We must avoid overwhelming our health care system, limit severe disease and death due to COVID-19, and protect frontline workers and medically vulnerable residents. Taking steps to limit people's opportunities to mix and gather, especially indoors without masks, is a must right now. As we approach the holiday season, we are thankful to our cities, our community based partners, and all Alameda County residents for continued support. We are in this together and we are grateful for your collaboration and partnership in keeping our communities moving forward, together.

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 daily COVID-19 cases per 100K with 7-day lag, adjusted for number of tests performed	
WIDESPREAD Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Entire county	Healthy equity quartile
		More than 8% Positive tests	More than 8% Positive tests

We hope you find these weekly updates useful and we appreciate your readership and your support in preventing COVID-19. As always, you will find this week's [Board of Supervisors](#) update, previous presentations, and back issues of our newsletter [here](#).

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

Dr. Nicholas Moss Appointed County Health Officer



Congratulations to Dr. Nicholas Moss, MD, MPH, on appointment to Alameda County Health Officer. The appointment was approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and [announced](#) on Tuesday.

Dr. Moss has served as Interim Health Officer since July, when the Governor selected our former Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan to serve at the State level. He has served as a leader in Alameda County's COVID-19 response since January. Dr. Moss brings extensive knowledge in communicable disease and his appointment provides ongoing continuity in our County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic during this critical moment in time.

COVID Futures Update

Our preparations for future pandemic operations continue under the leadership of our COVID Futures group. Our focus is operational planning to manage the pandemic over the next year and beyond, allowing our agency to transition from emergency to sustained COVID-19 response. The group is finalizing triggers and milestones for standing down or activating elements of emergency management as needed to address the evolving nature of COVID. We are finalizing a plan that includes a combination of project staff working in COVID Futures full-time, deployed staff working in response long term, and a Reserve Corp that will activate as needed on demand. We will share more information about COVID Futures as we move forward.

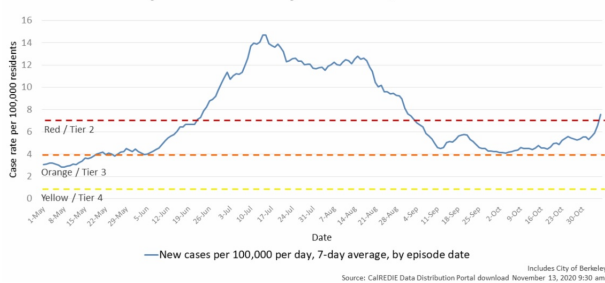
Contact Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT)

Alameda County currently has 39 outbreak investigators and 93 case investigators/ contact tracers, in addition to 46 staff from our CBO contracts for a total of 185. Between November 11 – 18, 41.7% of cases were reached within 24 hours of complete reporting of COVID diagnosis, 49.5% of cases were reached within 48 hours, and 54.5% were reached overall during the weekly period. An average of 63% of contacts were reached during the operational period.



State Health Equity Metric

Alameda County COVID-19 Daily Case Rate, 2020



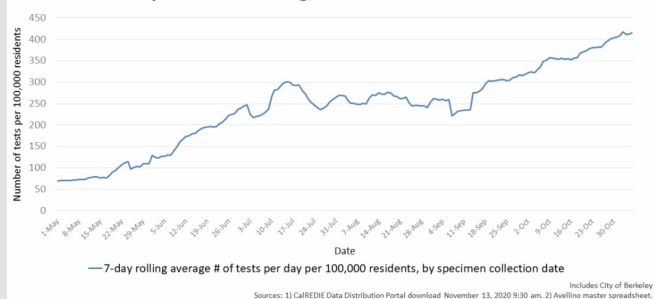
As of November 14 (data from November 1 to 7), test positivity in the least advantaged areas of Alameda County was 2.8% compared to 2.5% countywide. The countywide test positivity rate has increased by 0.9% over the last week.

Collaboration continues with the 11 Community Based Organization (CBO) Outreach and Health Education (OHE) teams to develop and disseminate COVID-19 prevention messaging, content, and collateral. Most of the CBOs are located in neighborhoods severely impacted by COVID-19, while others are working countywide.

Testing

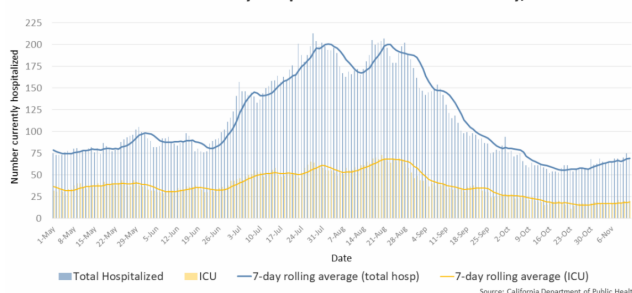
Testing rates remain high, with a 7-day average for [testing](#) over 7,000. Our [13 community testing sites](#) in Oakland, Berkeley, Fremont, Pleasanton, and San Leandro are still conducting tests, along with the weekend testing site at Lake Merritt and our seven mobile testing vendors. Additional testing sites, opportunities, and events can be found on our COVID-19 [testing page](#).

Alameda County COVID-19 Testing, 2020



Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Patients Currently Hospitalized in Alameda County, 2020



As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to increase throughout the State, we expect our rates to increase as well. We may also continue to see an increase in hospitalization rates since these rates typically increase several weeks after there is an increase in case rates.

The November 14 metrics reflect the State's shift to a 7-day average and **4-day lag** (data reported November 1 - 7):

- The unadjusted case rate is 9.1 per 100,000.
- Cumulative cases were 25,872, and cumulative deaths were 490.
- COVID-19 positive patients included 74 hospitalized and 20 in ICU beds.

Isolation Housing

As of November 18, the occupancy rate for all Safer Ground units was **94%** for hotel rooms and trailers sheltering **1262** individuals. [Project Roomkey](#) isolation/quarantine hotel rooms and trailer units continue to provide housing for people living in crowded conditions or are experiencing homelessness. Earlier this week, Governor announced that the State will be adding \$62M in emergency funding for Project Roomkey. This funding will help us extend Project Roomkey operations as we work toward housing

exits for program participants.

Recently the State released a [new video](#) that describes what Project Roomkey is and the positive impact the program is having on individuals throughout the State. The video includes a clip of Vince Russo from the housing support organization [Abode Services](#) of Alameda County. Vince and his colleagues are helping us manage of several Project Roomkey properties. [Building Futures Women and Children](#) and [Five Keys](#) are helping us manage Project Roomkey sites as well. We are extremely grateful for these partnerships and support.

Addressing Housing and Business Needs in Alameda County

COVID-19 Small Business Grant

The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (EDA) is accepting applications from small, local, and emerging businesses in Alameda County for the [Alameda County CARES grants](#). Eligible businesses can receive a one-time grant of \$5,000 to assist with the costs of business interruption caused by COVID-19. Grants are intended to assist small businesses with covering necessary costs due to the COVID-19 public health emergency incurred between March 17, 2020, and December 30, 2020. Applications must be submitted online by Monday, November 30, 2020, at 11:30 pm. Visit the [EDA website](#) for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

COVID-19 Rental Assistance for Unincorporated Alameda County and the City of Oakland

Centro Legal de la Raza is now accepting applications for [Alameda County Housing Secure](#) and [Keep Oakland Housed](#) rental assistance programs. The Alameda County Housing Secure program provides rental assistance to low-income tenants in Unincorporated Alameda County who have lost work or income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Keep Oakland Housed program provides one-time financial assistance to low-income renters in the City of Oakland who have been impacted by COVID-19. Applications for [Alameda County Housing Secure](#) will be accepted until December 28 or as long as funding is available. Submit your [Alameda County Housing Secure](#) or the [Keep Oakland Housed](#) application today.

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