

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of November 30, 2020

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

Today, the State announced that it will use regional availability of intensive care unit (ICU) beds to implement a [Regional Stay-At-Home Order](#), effective December 5th. The State's Order would go into effect when a region's ICU bed availability falls below 15% and would remain in effect for a minimum of three weeks. Although Alameda County's ICU capacity currently exceeds 15%, we may need to enact the State's Stay-At-Home restrictions in order to protect ICU bed availability and save lives in our community. Alameda County [issued a statement](#) urging businesses and residents to plan now for further restrictions.

As of Saturday, November 28, COVID-19 positive patients comprised nearly 7% of all inpatient beds and just over 11% of all ICU beds in Alameda County and we expect these rates to increase in the coming weeks. It's clear that COVID-19 community transmission is higher now and Alameda County residents should stay home and not travel this holiday season.

We are watching for possible case increases following Thanksgiving and urge anyone that traveled and had close contact (within 6 feet and for 15 minutes or more) with someone outside of their household to isolate for 14 days and get tested immediately if symptoms develop. Even if symptoms don't develop, travelers should consider getting tested within 3 to 7 days of exposure. Walk-up or onsite registration testing is available and the [community testing sites](#) and [testing events](#) supported by Alameda County are free and open to anyone who needs to get tested. If you have health coverage, please check with your provider and help preserve free testing for people who may not have access otherwise.

We're in this together and we can flatten the curve one more time. Give the gift of health this year. Let's stay home to stay healthy, and be well, so that we can get back together again.

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

COVID Vaccine

We know the community has questions and we



launched our [COVID-19 Vaccine webpage](#) this week, to provide updates and will continue to add information as it becomes available.

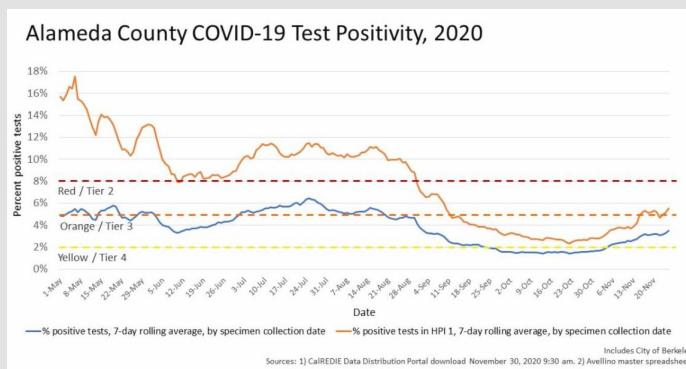
Alameda County anticipates receiving nearly 14,000 doses of the COVID vaccine around the middle of December. Per the framework approved by Federal and State health officials, the first doses will go to acute hospitals in order to vaccinate the highest risk staff to preserve our health care workforce. Additional doses should arrive regularly with a second shipment anticipated in late December. Medical first responders are in the first priority group and likely to receive the vaccine in January. Widespread, general community availability and large scale points of dispensing are not likely before early Spring. There is a separate Federal process to bring vaccine to Skilled Nursing residents and staff that will likely begin in late December. It's important to know that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have set the framework for Counties to follow.

We are using our flu vaccine community points of dispensing as an opportunity to prepare for the distribution of the COVID vaccine when it's available. Partners include community-based organizations, COVID-19 testing sites, local elected officials, cities, and community clinics. We are leveraging our countywide provider network of hospitals and clinics that we convene for COVID-19 surge planning to help refine vaccine distribution. We will soon add a community advisory body to ensure we preserve our mission to achieve equity by working in partnership to promote fair and inclusive opportunities for all Alameda County residents.

Flu Vaccinations

Anthem is still hosting free flu clinics in the community. Flu shots are open to ages 3 and older regardless of insurance (uninsured, privately insured, underinsured, etc.). Members of the community do not have to be Anthem members or patients at the participating clinics. Registration is preferred but not required, and clinics can be found [here](#). Additional [flu information](#) can be found on our Public Health website, along with a current list of [county immunization clinics](#). You'll also find an [interactive map](#) on our homepage.

State Health Equity Metric



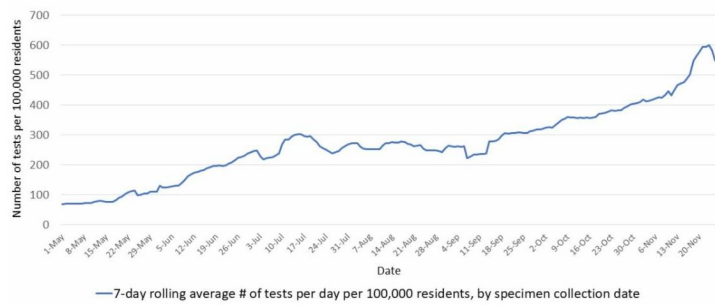
As of November 28 (data reported November 22-28), test positivity in the least advantaged areas of Alameda County was 2.8% compared to 3% countywide. We continue to monitor the increases in the test positivity rates.

Our collaborations with 11 Community Based Organizations (CBO) Outreach and Health Education (OHE) teams to disseminate COVID-19 prevention messaging, content, and collateral will continue as well, especially during this time where we see our positivity rate and other metrics increase.

Testing

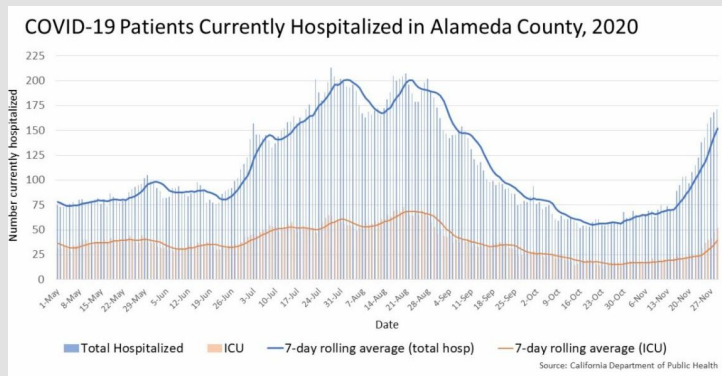
Alameda County recently passed the 1 million mark for tests conducted to date. Testing rates remain high, with a 7-day average for [testing](#) over 7,000. Our [13 community testing sites](#) are still conducting tests along with the weekend testing site at Lake Merritt and our seven mobile testing vendors. Additional testing sites, opportunities, and events can be found on our COVID-19 [testing page](#).

Alameda County COVID-19 Testing, 2020



Sources: 1) CalREDIE Data Distribution Portal download November 30, 2020 9:30 am. 2) Avellino master spreadsheet. Includes City of Berkeley

Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations



We observed a significant increase in the number of new cases per day and hospitalizations over the last week. We anticipate that hospitalizations rates will continue to climb since these rates typically increase several weeks following an increase in case rates.

The November 28 metrics reflect the State's 7-day average and 7-day lag (data reported November 22-28):

- The unadjusted case rate is 16.7 per 100,000.
- Cumulative cases were 29,476, and cumulative deaths were 512.
- COVID-19 positive patients included 168 hospitalized and 48 in ICU beds.

Contact Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT)

Alameda County currently has 37 outbreak investigators and 93 case investigators/contact tracers in addition to 63 staff from our CBO contracts for a total of 193. We're reaching 43.8% of cases within 24 hours of complete reporting of COVID diagnosis, 48.7% of cases within 48 hours, and 54.6% within the week.



THE MORE PEOPLE WHO ANSWER THE CALL,



THE MORE LIVES AND JOBS CALIFORNIA SAVES.



SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

Isolation Housing

As of December 2, we have a 92% occupancy rate for Safer Ground hotel rooms and trailers, and we are sheltering 1,245 individuals. [Project Roomkey](#) continues to provide housing for people who are experiencing homelessness or are living in crowded conditions. Alameda County was allocated \$3.5 million of the [\\$62 million in emergency funding](#) for Project Roomkey that the Governor announced on November 16. We're planning to use the money to extend non-congregate shelter and also a portion for the Roomkey Rehousing program we've been ramping up. To date, 136 individuals have exited Safer Ground shelter housing to permanent supportive housing, and we continue to focus on identifying housing pathways for all guests.

Honoring Communities Living With HIV and HIV APP Launched



Check out the County's first-ever HIV Cares app called *East Bay CARES*. This free app was designed to assist people living with HIV in Alameda and Contra Costa County. No account registration is needed so users can remain anonymous. The *East Bay CARES* app can be

downloaded from the [Apple](#) or [Google Play](#) stores. More information about the app can be found [here](#).

Public Health HIV Care and Prevention will honor people living with HIV and the providers who deliver excellent HIV care by supporting a community event led by [East Bay Getting to Zero](#). The community event will be held on Friday, December 4 and you can join via Zoom using this [link](#).

Behavioral Health Opens New Substance Use Clinic in Union City

Alameda County Behavioral Health opened a new Substance Use Continuum of Care clinic in Union City this week, to serve adults seeking Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient, and Recovery Support Services. The clinic also offers programmatic specializations for young adults (age 18-25) and specific treatment services for Asian and Pacific Islander populations. For more information, see their [flyer](#) and [brochure](#).

Temporary Tax Relief and Grants for Small Businesses

On Monday, November 30, Governor Newsom [announced immediate assistance for businesses](#) impacted by COVID-19, including temporary tax relief and \$500 million in grants, which will be administered by the California Office of the Small Business Advocate. The grant program is still being developed, but interested parties can sign up to receive updates [here](#). The Governor also announced last week that the State would expand the [California Rebuilding Fund](#), by \$12.5 million.

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