

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of January 4

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

It's been almost one year since we activated our Department Operations Center for emergency operations with a handful of infectious disease experts who were closely following a novel coronavirus emerging across the globe. Over the past year, our response has grown exponentially and we have forged new, and strengthened existing partnerships. These partnerships remain critical for working through this next phase of the pandemic, which includes our biggest surge ever and the promise of a vaccine.

We are currently vaccinating thousands of health care workers at community-based points of dispensing (PODs) and through partnerships with hospitals and clinics. Our commitment to safe and equitable vaccine distribution includes ongoing partnership with a diverse [Community Advisory Group](#). We are moving forward at the speed of safety, balancing vaccine supply and demand while maintaining many other aspects of pandemic response.

We were grateful to hear that new COVID-19 Relief emergency funding is coming to California for vaccines, testing, and contact tracing during the Governor's January 8 [budget](#) press conference. We look forward to more details in the coming days.

We are thankful for hundreds of our agency staff, our County colleagues, our cities, and community partners who continue working tirelessly to contain the pandemic. We're in this together and we can flatten the curve again. As always, you'll find this week's Board of Supervisors [update](#), previous presentations, and back issues of our newsletter [here](#). Thank you for helping us save lives in Alameda County.

[Alameda County Dashboard](#)

[Public Health Department Website](#)

COVID Vaccine

Alameda County began Phase 1a of COVID-19 vaccination on December 17th. The County (excluding City of Berkeley) has received 60,075 doses of vaccine, which includes 12,675 second doses. Hospital systems across the county have received 32,925 doses of the



60,075 and this includes 10,725 second doses. Our Agency has vaccinated 3,695 people as of January 3rd and we estimate another 4,000 doses will be administered by the end of this week. Community health clinics are expected to administer at least another 4,000 doses. We are working on reporting countywide vaccination numbers through state and local data systems.

Vaccine supply is limited, and distribution is being prioritized by groups of people based on their risk of exposure to or becoming severely ill from the virus that causes COVID-19. Prioritization criteria include occupation, age, living and health conditions.

Vaccine Prioritization Framework—updated 1.3.21

- ❖ Subject to change per pending Federal and State recommendations
- ❖ Timing depends on vaccine supply and demand
- ❖ Local health departments have some discretion within phases

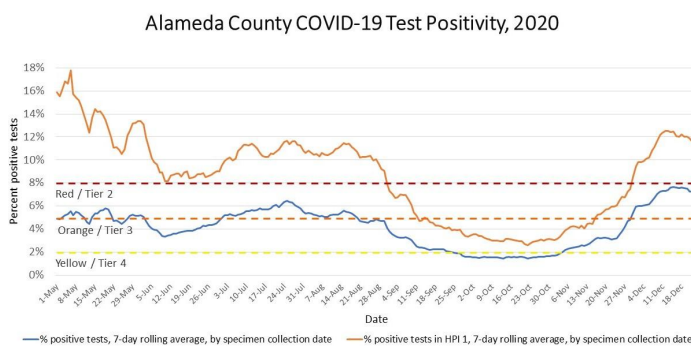
<p>1a: Health care workers, community health workers & long term care facility residents and staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1b: Essential workers; people 75+ years old; incarcerated; unhoused 1c: Government Ops; Older adults 65-74; people aged 16-64 at significantly higher risk due to underlying health conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and residents of: congregate settings and group homes for people with disabilities or serious mental illness People at moderate risk due to underlying health conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults Children Workers not covered in Phases 1 or 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone who did not access vaccine in Phases 1, 2, or 3
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4

Equity is cross-cutting issue

We are following an evolving [prioritization framework](#) approved by the California Department of Public Health. Counties have some control within phases but cannot skip phases or go out of order. We estimate that Phase 1a includes 147,600 health care workers and long-term care facilities residents. Challenges to dispensing include balancing vaccine availability and verifying eligibility of health care workers. We are working with the State to troubleshoot and streamline processes in our County.

We recently posted a [video](#) to show interested community members what they can expect during the vaccination experience. We also launched a video series focused on [Why I got the COVID vaccine](#) starting with our first responders and health care workers at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19. If you have questions about the vaccine you can email covax@acgov.org and visit our [COVID Vaccine](#) page for updates. The next meeting of the [Community Advisory Group](#) will be held on January 12, from 5:00 - 6:30 pm and broadcast live on our [Facebook](#) page.

State Health Equity Metric



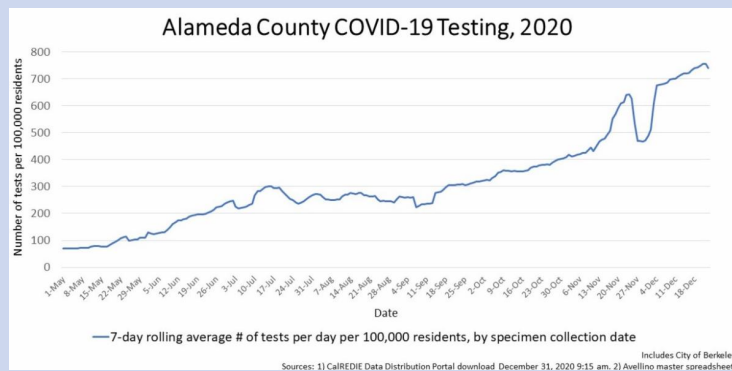
Test positivity data reported for December 27 through January 2 was 10.8% in the least advantaged areas of Alameda County compared to 7.3% countywide.

We awarded contracts to 12 Community Based Organization partners who are conducting

Outreach and Health Education in priority neighborhoods. The work includes the delivering COVID-19 prevention messaging, content, and collateral, and care kits.

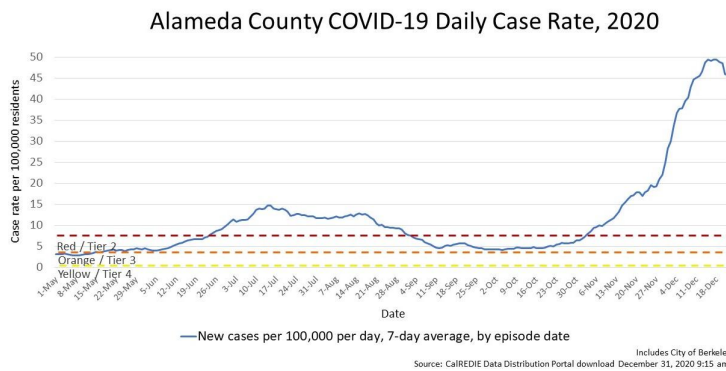
Testing

The Board of Supervisors recently approved funding through our Health Care Service Agency to maintain our existing community testing sites through March 31.



Additional mobile testing sites have opened at several churches in Oakland and CAL-Pep Inc., and the 81st Avenue Library. Another site will open at HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC) starting January 11. Testing rates remain high with a 7-day average of more than 8,000 tests although we observed a decrease over Christmas and New Year's. More information about our current testing sites, opportunities, and events can be found on our [COVID-19 testing page](#).

Cases, Hospitalizations and ICU



Case rates in Alameda County remain high. We anticipate that data from the time period following Christmas and New Year's will show increase cases due to holiday social gatherings.

January 4 case and hospitalization metrics reflect

the State's 7-day average and 7-day lag for data reported December 27 –January 2:

- The unadjusted case rate is 44.9 per 100,000.
- Cumulative cases were 53,714 and cumulative deaths were 656
- COVID-19 positive patients: 428 hospitalized and 116 in ICU beds

As of January 6, the Bay Area Region's ICU bed capacity was 3.5% and is a strong indication that the state will extend the [Regional Stay at Home Order](#). For the order to be lifted, the State's projections must show that our region is expected to meet or exceed 15% ICU bed capacity in the next four weeks and that is unlikely at present and expected levels of case and positivity rates.

Contact Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT)

Due to the dramatic surge in cases, Alameda County is not able to reach all cases and contacts. In addition to phone calls, we are mailing Isolation and Quarantine instructions to people who test positive. The number of cases in the CI/CT queue ranges between 2,500 and 3,500 and priority is given to the highest impacted zip codes based on the [Healthy Places Index](#).

We currently have 48 outbreak investigators and 187 CI/CT staff. During December 30 through January 5:

- 17.6% cases reached within 24 hours, and
- 20.3% within 48 hours, while
- 52.7% contacts are reached within 24 hours, and
- 53.9% contacts are reached within 48 hours.

We updated our [quarantine guidelines](#) over the last few weeks to align with updates from [CDC](#) and [CDPH](#). The primary change is that quarantine has been shortened for most people from 14 days to 10 days from the last exposure date.

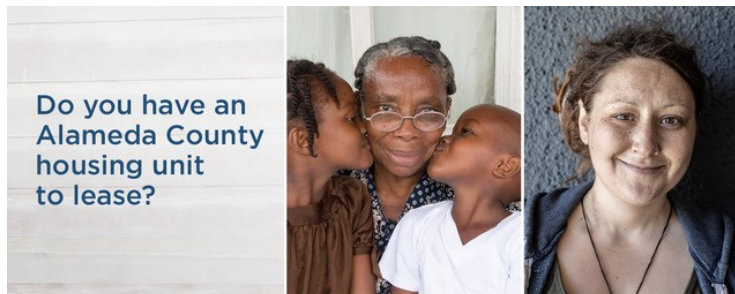


WHY TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING?
Testing and contact tracing will help us slow the spread of COVID-19. The more people who answer the call, the more lives and jobs California saves.

californiaconnected.ca.gov



Project Roomkey



For more information, contact us today! ACHomes@acgov.org | 510-777-2100



We are continuing to decrease the spread of COVID 19 by providing isolation and quarantine locations and safe shelter for people who are at high risk and would be homeless otherwise. We are also taking advantage of time-limited opportunities to develop long-term housing

through initiatives such as the State's [Homekey](#) program. We continue to acquire units through the [Landlord Lease Incentive Program](#) including more than 65 units to date. If you are, or know a landlord who might be interested in the program, [email](#) or call (510) 777-2100.

As of January 6, Safer Ground unit occupancy was 85% and sheltering 1,084 individuals in hotel rooms and trailers. Quality Inn, Berkeley, closed on schedule at year-end and all guests were relocated to housing or another Project Roomkey (PRK) hotel. For more information about the status of PRK hotels, please visit the [Homeless Solutions in Alameda County](#) website and to view the [FAQ](#).

Behavioral Health Exceeds Average State and Large Counties Rate for Serving Medi-Cal Recipients

The External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) recently conducted an annual review to determine if our Behavioral Health team is serving the constituents we need to reach. The following is a summary for the calendar year 2019:

- ACBH served 21,372 individuals overall for a 5.2% penetration rate of all eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The average rate of other California large counties was 4.4%, and the average for the State was 4.86%.
- We met or exceeded, particularly in the Children/Family System of Care, all rates by age except for older adults age 60 and above.
- We met or exceeded the rate by gender when compared with other large

counties and throughout the State.

- We exceeded large counties and state rates for African American, White, Latinx, Native American, and "other." However, we fell below the large County and statewide penetration rates for Asian/Pacific Islander persons.

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