

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of January 11

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

The Bay Area [remains under the Regional Stay at Home Order](#) due to regional ICU bed capacity below 15%. While we are observing small, positive signs in Alameda County COVID-19 case rate and hospital ICU capacity, we ask residents to continue practicing COVID prevention. Our teams are working diligently to get people vaccinated while also supporting the increase in residents who have, or came into contact with someone who has, COVID-19. The pandemic is not over and everyone including those who have been vaccinated should continue to practice COVID-19 prevention measures such as staying home as much as possible, wearing a face covering, and practicing physical distancing.

Vaccination brings great promise and we appreciate the enthusiasm and interest among many residents and employers. When there is enough vaccine to expand vaccination options, Alameda County will share that information widely, along with information on when and how eligible groups can get vaccinated. In the meantime, please complete one of the following forms to be notified when the vaccine might be available for you according to the [state prioritization framework](#):

- [Alameda County residents](#)
- [Alameda County employers](#)
- [Health Care Providers](#)

We will contact you with further details about where the vaccine will be available. The information is kept confidential and will help us plan. These forms are not an appointment to receive the vaccine.

We remain grateful to our agency staff, County colleagues, our cities, and community partners for their support and hard work during this pandemic. 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](#)

## Stay at Home Orders Still in Place

*Bay Area Region ICU capacity was 4.7% as of January 12*

On January 9, the California



Department of Public Health (CDPH) [announced](#) the extension of its Regional Stay at Home Order for the Bay Area. All current restrictions will remain in place until the Bay Area's four-week ICU projection

shows a capacity of greater than or equal to 15%.

ICU capacity projections are calculated based on four factors: current estimated regional ICU capacity available, the measure of current community transmission, current regional case rates, and the proportion of ICU cases being admitted.

## COVID Vaccine Update

We are continuing to vaccinate health care workers eligible for [Phase 1a](#) of the [state vaccine prioritization framework](#). We anticipate starting Phase 1b in the coming weeks as vaccine supply allows. Health care workers and long-term care residents remain the highest priority as noted by the Governor during his January 13 press conference. Alameda County has more hospitals and health care facilities than surrounding Bay Area counties and our estimated population for Phase 1a exceeds 145,000 people. Our Public Health Department has received a little more than 85,000 doses to date, allocated nearly 48,000 to health care partners, and administered over 11,000 in our points-of-dispensing (PODs) as of January 13.



As demand for vaccines continues to exceed supply, Alameda County is balancing shifting priorities. Phase 1b will expand vaccine eligibility to large groups of people and we are working across multiple partners and sectors to update and prepare for mass vaccination scenarios.



We are committed to safe and equitable vaccine distribution, and our strategy is to make vaccine readily and easily available through County administered points of dispensing (PODs) and partnership with health care systems and clinic/organizations.

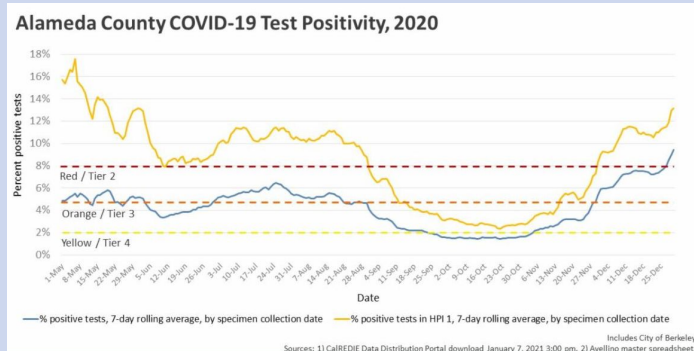
For those who are age 65 and older and are interested in getting vaccinated, we encourage you to please reach out to your health care provider to see if they have vaccine available at this time. Otherwise, we anticipate being able to start vaccinating this group in the coming weeks.

Organizations that would like to receive and share vaccine updates, health information, and other alerts with the communities you serve can sign up for our [Alerts for Community Partners](#) subscription. General inquiries regarding the vaccine

## State Health Equity Metric

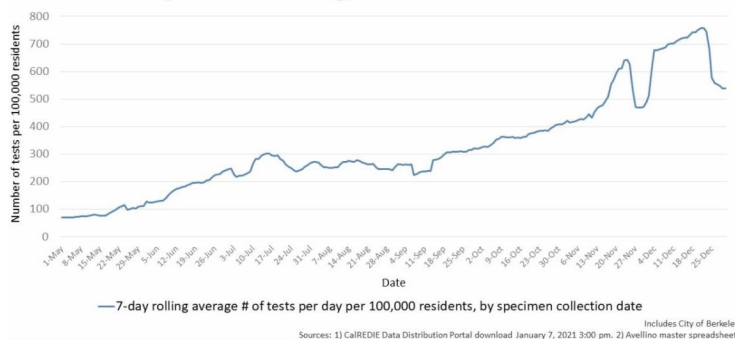
Test positivity data reported for January 3 through January 9 was 7.6% for the County overall and 11.3% in the lowest [Healthy Place Index \(HPI\)](#) quartile.

Our 12 funded Community-Based Organization partners continue to conduct Outreach and Health Education in priority neighborhoods. The work includes delivering COVID-19 prevention messaging, content, and collateral, and care kits.



## Testing

Alameda County COVID-19 Testing, 2020



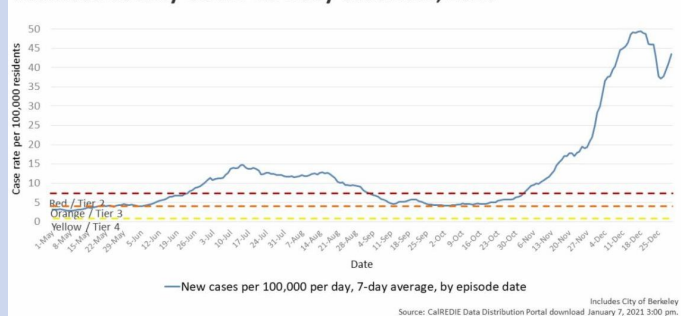
Testing rates remain high, with a 7-day average over 9,000 which is 1,000 more tests than last week. Community members can find more information about our current testing sites, opportunities, and events can be found on our [COVID-19 testing page](#).

## Cases, Hospitalizations and ICU

Case rates and hospitalizations in Alameda County appear to be slowing but it is still too early to assume that we are past our peak of new cases. January 11 case and hospitalization metrics reflect the state's 7-day average and 7-day lag for data reported January 3 – January 9:

- The unadjusted case rate is 35.5 (down by 9.4%) per 100,000
- Cumulative cases were 59,657, and cumulative deaths were 730
- COVID-19 positive patients: 428 hospitalized and 115 in ICU beds

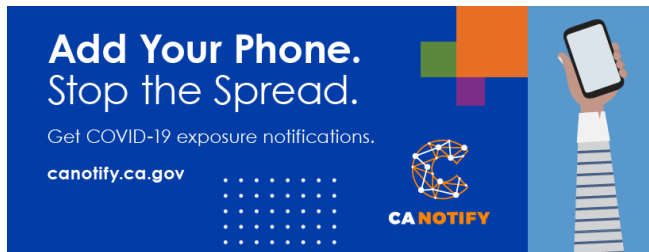
Alameda County COVID-19 Daily Case Rate, 2020



## Contact Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT)

Our Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Teams (CI/CT) are working through the surge of new cases and contacts. Priority has been placed on individuals who had a test conducted within the last six days. This approach is based on CDC guidelines and

allows us to prioritize people who are still within their infectious period while also focusing on individuals living in highly impacted zip codes. We currently have 48 outbreak investigators, 104 case investigators/contact tracers, 83 staff from our Community Based Organizations (CBOs) contracts and 26 Public Health Community Resource Team staff who are supporting our residents.



We strongly encourage our residents to register for [CA Notify](#), the voluntary smartphone-based COVID-19 exposure notification system. Through CA Notify, Alameda County residents could get alerts about an exposure

earlier, to access testing earlier, and begin quarantine earlier. CA Notify has also helped relieve some pressure for the case and contact investigations teams during the current surge.

## Project Roomkey

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 continuing to take advantage of time-limited opportunities to develop long-term housing through initiatives such as the State's [Homekey](#) program.



As of January 13, Safer Ground unit occupancy was 83% and sheltering 1,055 Individuals in hotel rooms and trailers. Community members can find more information about Project Roomkey hotels' status on the [Homeless Solutions in Alameda County](#) website and view the [FAQ](#).

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