

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of February 8

## Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

*Please share with your networks*

We continue to see declines in our overall COVID-19 case rates, test positivity, and hospitalizations. We are moving in the right direction but the virus is still circulating in our community at high rates. We must expect and prepare for future surges in the coming months.

To slow the spread, we must continue using precautions we know to be effective in reducing and stopping COVID-19 and variants of this infectious disease.



Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart, avoid gatherings, and stay home as much as possible to slow the spread. [Isolate](#) if you feel ill, [quarantine](#) if you come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, and get [tested](#) or [retested](#) if you are exposed to COVID-19.

As of February 10, [more than 200,000 individuals](#) have received a COVID-19 vaccine in Alameda County. Most of these individuals are from Phase 1a (health care workers) which began in late December, and we started vaccinating individuals in Phase 1b Tier 1 this week. Vaccine supplies remain limited in our County and we encourage residents to be patient and register to be notified when it's their turn. We recently launched a [video tutorial](#) to help residents complete the COVID vaccine notification forms.

Our vaccine efforts will expand significantly with two mega Point-of-Dispensing (PODs) next week. The Alameda County Fairgrounds site is scheduled to open on February 15 in partnership with Stanford Valley Care and Sutter Health. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State will open the new Oakland Coliseum site on February 16, and ramp up to 6,000 doses per day using additional vaccine supply.

We remain grateful to our agency staff, County colleagues, our cities, and community partners for ongoing support as we continue efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 while ramping up vaccine distribution. You'll find more information and details in this week's Board of Supervisors [update](#) and back issues of our newsletter [here](#).

## COVID-19 Vaccine Update

This week, we began vaccinating individuals in Phase 1b Tier 1 of the [state vaccine prioritization framework](#) of ~325,000 people. Residents at high risk of illness or death due to COVID-19, and those at high risk for transmission, because of where they live or work, will be included in this phase. A full list of the groups eligible to receive the COVID vaccine can be found on our [Vaccines](#) page.

**Alameda County Vaccine Prioritization**

**Alameda County is now vaccinating:**

- Health Care Workers
- People in Long Term Care Facilities
- People ages 65+
- Food/Agriculture/Restaurant/Grocery workers
- Emergency Services workers
- Education/Childcare workers

**Within each category, prioritizing:**

- Older adults
- MediCal or Uninsured
- Areas with very high COVID-19 case rates (HPI Q1 + priority zip codes)
- People with direct contact with clients or the public at work
- People who cannot work from home
- People with limited mobility

Appointments by invitation

Sign up for notification:  
<https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines>

As we plan, locate, and open community PODs, we are aiming to create accessible and safe PODs that deliver low barrier, high quality services to persons living and/or working in our more heavily burdened areas.

- On February 4, we opened our community POD at Fremont High School in partnership with the Oakland Unified School District where we are vaccinating over ~640 people per day from the Fruitvale District.
- We launched a month-long pop-up sites to serve South Hayward and East Oakland in partnership with the Fire Incident Management Team, La Clinica, La Familia, and Tiburcio Vasquez.
- We are finalizing additional community PODS to serve East Oakland and Ashland/Cherryland priority neighborhoods that are more heavily impacted by COVID-19.

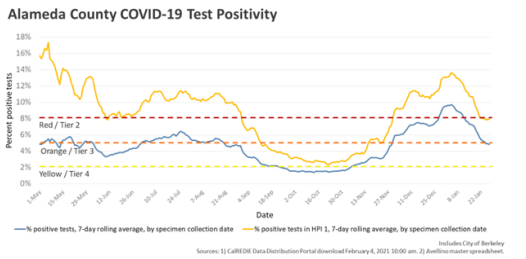
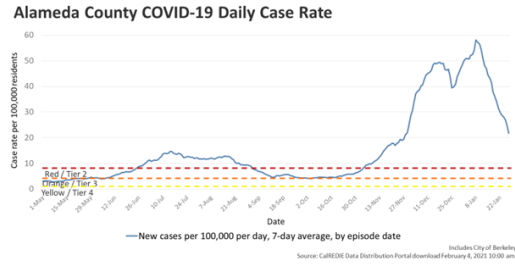
Vaccine supplies remain limited and newly eligible residents over the age of 65 and essential workers in Phase 1b who are covered by community health clinics, Kaiser, or a Sutter affiliate are encouraged to reach out to their [health care provider](#) to ask if they have supplies and can schedule a vaccination appointment. Those who do not have access to a vaccine through their health care provider are encouraged to sign up to be notified when it's their turn to be vaccinated using the resident forms here:

- [Alameda County Residents](#)
- [Recibe una notificación cuando sea tu turno](#)
- [????????](#)

Employers and health care providers are encouraged to sign up using the forms here:

- [Alameda County Employers](#)
- [Health Care Providers](#)

For more information about our vaccine distribution plans, please visit our [Vaccines](#) page. General inquiries about COVID-19 vaccine may be directed to [covax@acgov.org](mailto:covax@acgov.org)

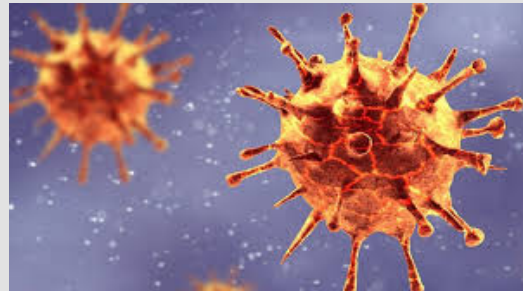


The following data reflects the state's 7-day average and 7-day lag data reported February 2 through February 8:

- 76,117 cumulative cases
- 1,041 cumulative deaths
- 23.1 adjusted case rate per 100,000
- 5.2% overall test positivity rate
- 8.2% lowest [HPI](#) quartile test positivity
- 9,000+ [testing](#) 7-day average
- 282 patients currently hospitalized
- 93 patients in ICU

## COVID-19 SA Variant Recently Detected in Bay Area

On Wednesday, February 10, we joined Santa Clara County to [announce](#) that two cases of the South African COVID variant were detected in the Bay Area (one in Santa Clara and the other in Alameda County). While Santa Clara County's case has been linked to a recent international trip, health officials are still investigating how the person in Alameda County encountered this variant.



It is natural and predictable for viruses to mutate and, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the current vaccines should be effective against the South African variant and other COVID variants as well.

These cases serve as a reminder that we are still in an evolving pandemic. The best way to avoid new variants is to stop the spread of the virus. Avoiding non-essential travel, social distancing, and following CDC [recommendations for wearing masks](#) will help us prevent the spread of COVID-19 and all of its variants.

## Workplace and Reopening Guidance

We recently updated our [workplace and reopening guidance](#) to assist businesses in Alameda County. Some of the updated documents include:

- [Alameda County Workplace COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance](#)
- [General Business Ventilation Guidance](#)
- [Covid-19 Site-Specific Protection Plan Guidance & Template for Developing Your Own Plan](#)

Businesses with questions not answered by our online guidance and information can email [COVIDRecovery@acgov.org](mailto:COVIDRecovery@acgov.org).



Get COVID-19 exposure notifications.

**Add Your Phone.  
Stop the Spread.**

canotify.ca.gov 

We strongly encourage our residents to activate [CA Notify](#) exposure alerts on their smartphones. By keeping Bluetooth on once activated, residents will only receive alerts if they were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Privacy is protected, identity is not known, and the location is not tracked

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