This week began with Memorial Day observances, a time of tradition and remembrance for those who have served our country and our County. As we reflect on 14 months of pandemic response to a deadly disease, we are mindful of pain, loss, and exhaustion suffered by our community and our colleagues. As we move closer to June 15 and further reopening, we encourage eligible residents who are not vaccinated to make an appointment to protect their loved ones, their colleagues, and themselves. You can find a vaccination location near you using our interactive map.

As we move deeper into our communities, especially those hardest hit by the pandemic, we are evaluating additional ways to get more individuals vaccinated. Our new Community Coalition RFP (story below) will support these goals as well as the State's new Vax for the Win incentive program. We are also looking to the future, with the school year coming to a close and preparations for a new academic year. We recognize the toll the lack of in-person learning has taken on our students, and our Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss joined his colleagues to collective support for a return to in-person learning this fall (story below).

We are closely reviewing Cal/OSHAs Emergency Temporary Standards as part of our efforts to support the protection of Alameda County workers. We are also preparing for two public virtual meetings (story below) to help our community and employers prepare for a safer reopening. While the number of Alameda County residents and workers who are vaccinated increases daily, the COVID-19 global pandemic is not over. Of note, Alameda County remains aligned with the State's masking requirements for instances when residents leave their homes and interact with the public.

Finally, as we approach June 15, we are evaluating the frequency of this newsletter. We are evaluating biweekly distribution and welcome your comments and suggestions via email. We appreciate your continued readership and encourage you to share the update with colleagues and others you think might appreciate receiving this information.
Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Reopening

Last week, the State announced the Beyond the Blueprint for Industry and Business Sectors, which will lift capacity and physical distancing restrictions for most businesses and activities. Beginning June 15, all sectors listed in the current Blueprint Activities and Business Tiers Chart may return to operations with limited exceptions such as mega events. Alameda County will hold two virtual Beyond the Blueprint public update meetings to discuss changing COVID-19 guidance and Cal/OSHA standards. Registration is limited and livestream will be available on YouTube and Facebook:

- The Community Update will be held June 15 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
- The Employer Update will be held June 21 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

All workplaces governed by Cal/OSHA standards must follow updates including masking requirements for employees. Cal/OSHA will develop a FAQ to provide additional guidance for workplaces.

Bay Area Health Officers Support Full In-person School this Fall

Bay Area Health Officers gathered on the front steps of Everett Middle School in San Francisco this morning to share their support to open schools for full time in-person instruction for all grades in the fall of 2021. The science is now clear that the risk of transmission among children wearing masks is very low, even with reduced spacing between desks.

The lack of in-person learning has disrupted education, weakened the social supports provided by school communities, negatively impacted mental health, and prevented participation in the rituals and shared milestones that tie our communities together. For more information, see the news release or view the press conference recording.

$12M Initiative for Hyper-Local Response

This week, Alameda County released a request for proposals to encourage community-led coalitions to provide comprehensive community engagement and Vaccination Points of Distribution (POD) customer and client support services. The goal is to increase equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine and to begin laying the groundwork for post-pandemic community recovery.
Selected coalitions will work in partnership with our Health Care Services Agency's Public Health Department to reach unvaccinated Alameda County residents with strategies at neighborhood and census tract levels.

The County plans to award up to $10 million to coalitions to provide comprehensive outreach and engagement as well as POD services. The County also plans to award up to $2 million to single organizations for community engagement services only. The coalition model creates opportunity for small and large organizations to work together to support hyper local and culturally competent community-led recovery and resilience work by cementing neighborhood- and population-based partnership. Grants will support this work for 23 months with an option to extend, contingent on the funding availability. Potential bidders are encouraged to attend the non-mandatory virtual Bidders Conference.

**COVID-19 Data Update**

The following reflects the state's 7-day average and 7-day lag data through May 30:
- 1,886,214 doses of vaccine administered
- 88,929 cumulative cases
- 1,693 cumulative deaths
- 1.8% adjusted case rate per 100,000
- 0.8% overall test positivity rate
- 1.4% lowest HPI quartile test positivity
- 5,660 testing 7-day average
- 40 patients currently hospitalized
- 9 patients in ICU

**Stress and Vaccination**

Our Behavioral Health Department's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Aaron Chapman, sat down with ABC7's Senior Producer Janel Andronico this week to discuss stress and mental health during the pandemic. The segment is part of an upcoming COVID special scheduled to air June 27. The half hour program will explore how stress impacts our lives and asks questions including how stress might affect vaccine participation. Tune in to hear Dr. Chapman's thoughtful answers and receive stress reduction tips and tools.

Did you receive the update from a colleague? Click here to join our mailing list.

Follow us @Dare2BWell  Weekly Update PDF Version