Week of June 7

Alameda County entered the Yellow Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy this week. Effective June 9, activities and businesses permitted in the Yellow Tier per the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy may resume or expand their operations. Alameda County remains aligned with the State’s face masking mandate. Everyone should wear a mask in indoor public settings, even if fully vaccinated, until State masking guidance changes. Please see our statement for more guidance and links to resources.

Also new this week are the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) masking guidelines to align with the CDC and the latest science (story below). And a reminder that the pandemic is not over: COVID-19 remains in our community; vaccines are safe and effective at reducing and preventing this deadly disease. You can find a vaccination location near you using our interactive map.

Please also help us get information out about our request for proposals to award funding for community-led coalitions to provide comprehensive outreach and engagement as well as vaccine POD services. The 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.

We will transition to biweekly distribution following next Tuesday's June 15 edition. We appreciate your readership and encourage sharing with colleagues and others you think might appreciate this information.

CDPH Outlines New Mask Guidance
CDPH has updated its mask guidance to align with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the latest science. Effective June 15, masks will no longer be required for fully vaccinated Californians in public settings, in line with CDC guidance. There are exceptions - such as health care settings, long-term care facilities, public transit, sheltering operations and correctional facilities – where all individuals should wear face coverings. California will align with CDC and require face coverings for all individuals in those limited unique settings.

The Cal OSHA Board held a special meeting last night to discuss CDPH’s new mask guidance. Based on new information provided by CDPH, the Cal/OSHA Board rescinded the June 3rd Emergency Temporary Standards that would have been in effect on June 15. Cal OSHA will meet on June 17 to review and approve an updated Standard that integrates CDPH’s new mask guidance. If it’s approved on June 17, the updated Standard may take effect on June 28. This means that the current standard, which includes requirements for employees to mask indoors, would be in place until June 28th.

### Join Us for Beyond the Blueprint - What's Next?

Alameda County will hold two virtual Beyond the Blueprint public meetings to discuss reopening guidance and Cal/OSHA standards. Registration is limited and livestream will be available on YouTube and Facebook:

- **Community Update** June 15 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
- **Employer Update** June 21 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

### Vaccine Incentive Scammers and Misinformation

Californians need to be aware of and quickly report any indications of possible fraudulent or other questionable activities by individuals attempting to take advantage of the state’s recently announced COVID-19 vaccination incentive programs. If you encounter a possible vaccine incentive scam, please email rumors@cdph.ca.gov or call Vax for the Win incentives hotline at 1-833-993-3873. CDPH urges the public to report vaccine incentive scammers and misinformation.

### COVID-19 Data Update
COVID-19 Dashboard Aligns Deaths with State’s Best Practices

Alameda County's COVID-19 dashboard now reflects the total number of COVID-19 deaths using the State's reporting definition. This update decreased the overall number of deaths from 1,641 to 1,269 based on data available as of June 4, 2021. Aligning with the State’s definition will require reporting only those people who died as a direct result of COVID-19, with COVID-19 as a contributing cause of death, or cases when death caused by COVID-19 could not be ruled out. Alameda County previously included any person who died while infected with the virus in the total COVID-19 deaths for the County. This change does not affect the pattern of disparities or geographic impacts. Several independent Bay Area health care providers said correcting the data is the right move in the San Francisco Chronicle article published Monday, June 7.

Remembering the Early Days of the AIDS Epidemic, 40 Years Later

It's been 40 years since the CDC first reported a cluster of cases of a deadly, rare lung infection in Los Angeles. The infection came later to be understood as a symptom of HIV-AIDS, the syndrome that has claimed more than 700,000 American lives.

Our Agency Medical Director, Dr. Kathleen Clanon, joined a KQED Forum panel this week with host Mina Kim to share her reflections along with other panelists and callers. The segment includes stories from those who knew and cared for the earliest and sickest patients, in an era of scarce public health information. Dr. Clanon started at Alameda Health System's
Highland Hospital in 1984 and, over the course of three decades, has witnessed a remarkable transition of HIV-AIDS. Today she leads our Agency's COVID-19 vaccine response in addition to her leadership of our Alameda County Care Connect, whole person care initiative, and has said the early days of COVID-19 reminded her of the early days of HIV-AIDS. "We are fortunate to have experienced such a rapid pace of learning and fighting the deadly disease, including the availability of vaccines within a year of pandemic response."