

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Get the latest news from our Public Health Department

Week of August 9

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Update

Please share with your networks

Alameda County continues to see increased cases, outbreaks, and demand for testing. Hyper-local outreach remains a cornerstone for our community engagement strategy, including the DOOR program (Direct Outreach to our Residents). DOOR employs people from the neighborhood to knock on doors in census tracts that have the lowest vaccination rates. The goal is to have a conversation about vaccination and build trust. DOOR neighbors (*like our Cherryland Ashland team shown at right*) are prepared to share their experience and provide information about vaccination sites and other resources.



The State issued two new Health Orders last week, requiring vaccinations for health care workers and proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test 72 hours before indoor visits. The [first order](#) requires workers in health care settings to be fully vaccinated or receive their second dose by September 30. The [second order](#) directs hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and intermediate care facilities to verify that visitors are fully vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID-19 in the prior 72 hours before indoor visits, and is effective August 11.

There is renewed urgency around vaccinations as children across the county are heading back to school (see related story below). While we wait for the day when vaccines are available for children under the age of 12, we remain focused on the prevention strategies that are proven to reduce and prevent COVID-19.

Many thanks to the hundreds of staff across our Health Care Services Agency, community partners, and cities who continue working tirelessly to navigate this pandemic. You'll find this week's Board of Supervisors [update](#) on our response page along with past issues of this newsletter. We appreciate your readership and ask that you share this information with others.

Back to School



The Governor visited Alameda County again this week to announce a [new public health order](#) requiring all school staff to either show proof of full vaccination or be tested at least once per week. The new policy for school staff took effect August 12 and schools must be in full compliance by October 15.

Robust and free testing resources are available to K-12 schools through the CA K-12 [schools testing program](#). Our Schools Team is supporting school districts with implementing State guidance for safety protocols, and working with the Office of Education to support vaccine clinics. We've maintained a close relationship with our partners in education since before the first Shelter in Place Order, through a year of hybrid and remote learning, and vaccination. Now, students are returning to school and our Schools Team continues to support local public, private and charter schools, as well as child care settings with COVID-19 prevention education and safety planning.

Vaccine and Testing to End the Pandemic

Alameda County recommends anyone with any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 get tested, regardless of vaccination status or prior infection. In general, you should get tested when you have:

- Symptoms including fever or chills; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; headache; loss of taste or smell;
- New or unexplained nausea, diarrhea, or vomiting; sore throat; fatigue, or muscle or body aches.

Testing is free and you will not be asked for immigration status. Find a place to get tested by visiting one of our [community sites](#) or find a [testing event](#) near you.



COVID-19 VACCINES ARE EFFECTIVE

NEW MMWR REPORTS FIND THAT COVID-19 VACCINES PROVIDE PROTECTION AGAINST:

- REINFECTION FOR THOSE WHO ALREADY HAD COVID-19
- INFECTION, HOSPITALIZATIONS, AND DEATHS IN AREAS WITH THE DELTA VARIANT
- COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATION AMONG THOSE AGE 65+

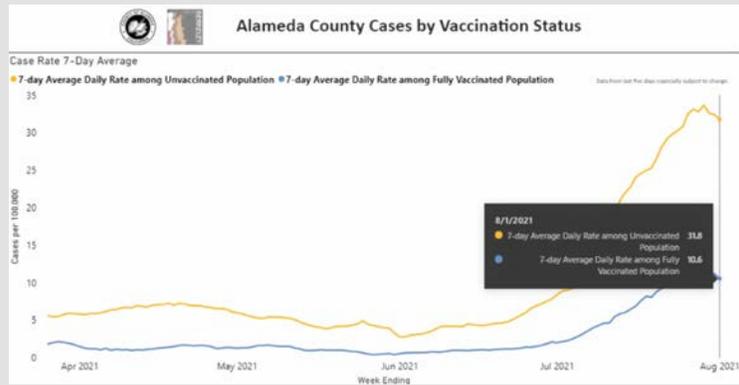
A new [CDC study](#) shows that vaccination offers higher protection than previous COVID-19 infection, including protection against: reinfection for those who already had COVID-19; infection, hospitalizations, and deaths in areas with the Delta variant; and COVID-19 hospitalization among those age

65 and older. To reduce the likelihood for future infection, all eligible persons should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine, even those with previous SARS-CoV-2 infections. Find a [vaccine location](#) near you.

COVID-19 Data Update as of August 9

Reflecting 7-day average and 7-day lag:

- Daily case rate 20.3 per 100,000
- Averaging 300+ cases daily
- Test positivity 5.9%
- HPI first quartile 8.9%
- 201 patients, 49 ICU
- Testing increased ~7,500 per day



The Delta Variant is in our Community and Masks are Required

COVID-19 continues to spread in the Bay Area including the Delta variant. Take steps to protect yourself by:

- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth.
- Staying 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you.
- Avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

Masks are required indoors regardless of vaccination status unless you are less than 2 years old, medically unable, or hearing impaired. Face coverings are not required when you are in your own residence or with members of your household, working in a closed room or office alone, or actively performing an activity that cannot be done while wearing a face-covering.



Stay Healthy During Wildfire Season



The fire season is starting earlier and ending later each year. Wildfires increase air pollution and can affect regional air quality. The effects of smoke from wildfires can range from eye and respiratory tract irritation to more serious disorders including reduced lung function, bronchitis, exacerbation of asthma and heart failure, and premature death. Children, pregnant women, and the elderly are especially vulnerable to smoke exposure.

To learn more about AQI levels and how they affect your health, visit www.baaqmd.gov or www.airnow.gov. You can download an AQI [handout](#) and get customized air quality posters for your workplace or organization. To build a widget and to customize and print your poster, go to the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#).

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