



Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless
Weekly Homeless Provider COVID-19 Community Call
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
10:30am-11:00am

79 Participants & Following Programs Represented:

HEPPAC, St. Mary's Center, WORLD, BFHP, Second Chance, South Hayward Parish, City of Alameda, Abode Services, Livermore Warming Center, Eden I&R/211, City of Fremont, Tri-Valley Haven, HCEB, The House of Prayer Everywhere, Family Bridges, Women's Daytime Drop-in Center, Bay Area Legal Aid, Operation Dignity, City of Berkeley, FESCO/La Familia, CAL-PEP, EOCP, BOSS

- 1. Introduction:** This is the weekly homeless provider community call hosted by the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program. Calls will be **every Wednesday at 10:30am-11:30am on Zoom** (except for the fourth Wednesday of the month when we have our monthly trainings).
 - The purpose of this call is to bring together countywide shelter and outreach providers to share updates, knowledge, practices, build supportive community, and develop effective responses to protect our health and the health of the persons living in our sheltered and unsheltered environments.
 - If you have specific issues or challenges with individuals who may be symptomatic, infected, or at-risk of COVID-19, email achch@acgov.org with details so we can follow up.
- 2. Situation Report:**

ACHCH & Alameda County COVID-19 Stats:

 - **CDC COVID-19 Community Level:** **MEDIUM**
 - Countywide totals as of 01/04/2022: Cases: 362,329; Deaths: 2,099 (not updated to date)
 - **ACHCH:** Active Outbreaks: 16 shelter sites; 0 street sites
 - **Testing:** Check [Alameda County Public Health website](#) for testing sites; reach out to achch@acgov.org for test kit supplies
 - **Vaccinations:** call (510) 208-4VAX; No documentation or identification is needed; people can self-verify (self-attest) address and in identifying themselves.
 - **Treatment:** <https://www.achch.org/covid-19-treatment.html>
 - **Boosters:** Visit our [website](#) for vaccine guidance and resources including new [Bivalent Booster Information Sheet](#).
 - Alameda County Public Health:
 - [Vaccine Guidance & Resources](#)
 - [Vaccine FAQs](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Q&A](#)
 - Visit [East Bay Getting to Zero](#) for weekly updates/information on HIV and COVID

Kerry Abbott, Director Office of Homeless Care and Coordination

- Expanded Housing Resource Center Access Points Info: [Coordinated Entry \(acgov.org\)](#)

- Housing Navigation: Started with 1,500 slots for Housing navigation/tenancy sustaining services (TSS), by end of 2022 we had over 1,800 people who filled those slots. As people moved into housing, they converted to TSS, there was large demand for housing navigation, OHCC has been working to increase. In FY2021-2022 our system worked with 3,000 people. HCSA/OHCC is and would like to work with more providers to bring on more housing navigators to assist with the need.
- 2023 Updates: (1) opening domestic violence access point (operated by building futures, SAVE, Ruby's Place to name a few that will be participating), (2) OHCC/HCSA have applied for NOFA encampment funding.

Lucy Kasdin, ACHCH

- Please visit our website at achch.org for updates on warming shelters and winter emergency information.
- Winter storm update:
 - We have provided funding to Street Health teams to purchase items.
 - Through the EOC we obtained a number of tents, tarps, duct tape for outreach, currently working with organizations for rapid distribution of all available supplies.
 - We are working on obtain resources for people to wash and dry their clothing and belongings.
- We have received hygiene kits. Please email Lucy Kasdin at lucy.kasdin@acgov.org for more information.
- Because of the low number of COVID-19 cases, we have been able to convert a number of beds in I&Q to bring in people that were most at risk during the winter storm.

3. Resources:

- ACHCH BAAQMD portable HEPA air filter distribution: Please identify one lead (person) from each homeless housing/service facility and submit this form (<https://forms.office.com/g/pcVaL7HhAP>).
- Isolation and Quarantine hotel program: We are one of the few counties in the country that are still providing I/Q hotels for the homeless community. We have limited hotel beds for I/Q and we don't have the capacity to expand as we go into the winter. We anticipate closure of I&Q hotels with the end of CA COVID State of Emergency in 2023. Shelter and transitional/emergency housing providers need to start working on plans for isolating and quarantining residents without I&Q hotels. Review this guidance document: https://www.achch.org/uploads/7/2/5/4/72547769/building_shelter-based_i_q_capacity_guidance_11222022.pdf.
- ACHCH is providing COVID-19 test kits and KN95 masks. Please contact us at achch@acgov.org for more information.
- ACHCH is providing flu and Bivalent vaccines at shelters. Bivalent vaccines are effective in protecting against hospitalization and death due to new variants of COVID-19.
- Check [Alameda County Public Health website](#) for testing sites, treatment information, etc.
- [MyTurn](#) for COVID-19 vaccination information and to register
- Vaccinations: call (510) 208-4VAX; No documentation or identification is needed; people can self-verify (self-attest) address and in identifying themselves. Visit our [website](#) for vaccine guidance and resources
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- Alameda County Public Health:
 - [Vaccine Guidance & Resources](#)
 - [Vaccine FAQs](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Q&A](#)
- Frontline Workers Counseling Project; fwcp.org
- All of our COVID test kits distributed have had their expiration dates extended by the FDA. Please check this site to confirm any expiration dates: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>

- Cooling centers can be found on our [website](#).
- Air quality resources can be found on our [website](#).
- Water distribution: [Outreach Providers](#), please contact David Modersbach (david.modersbach@acgov.org) if you'd like to pick up water to distribute.
- [COVID-19 Treatment website](#)
- Order at-home COVID-19 test from the government at www.covidtests.gov.
- Sign up with State of California to access COVID-19 rapid at-home test kits at labsupport.powerappsportals.us/ihealthorder/
- Congregate living facilities such as homeless shelters, residential treatment facilities, transitional housing facilities, room and board, group homes, and residential congregate living for youth must report the following to Alameda County Public Health Department per local reporting thresholds:
 - ≥1 COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period in residents and/or staff
 - [How to Report](#): Email covidob@acgov.org and follow [the Step-by-Step Instructions for Controlling the Outbreak at the Facility](#). In the email, include the name and contact information of the reporter, facility name, number of employees or residents involved, and a brief description. *DO NOT* include the names, date of birth, or any other protected health information of any persons diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.
 - Then, complete the [Shared Portal for Outbreak Tracking \(SPOT\) Intake Form](#).
 - This info can also be found on our website: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/reporting-requirements#congregate>.
- Emphasizing the need for close symptom screening of staff and carrying out full symptoms/contacts checks daily. Please review the [ACHCH Shelter Health Guidance](#).
- SICK staff need to stay home! If staff are not feeling well, they need to call out sick or leave immediately.
- Recommendation to shelter and outreach staff regarding N95 masks: If your site is undergoing an outbreak or suspected outbreak ACHCH advises to double-mask with a cloth and surgical mask or wear N95/KN95 masks.
- Quarantine Update from Alameda County Public Health: If a staff member or resident has tested positive on Day 5, they may choose to test daily after Day 5 and may leave isolation once they receive a negative test.
- *"For the safety of staff and shelter guests, we continue to recommend reduced occupancy and physical distancing. Distancing is a recommendation, but not a mandate and providers may, at their discretion, decide on measures appropriate to their specific sites."* ~Dr. Moss, ACPHD
- What is a Positive Case?
 A frequent source of confusion is how we know if someone has COVID-19, and when they are safe to return to the site or return to work. The guidance has been very confusing. We suggest people think of it in these simple terms:
 - A positive test OR symptoms should be treated as a positive COVID case.
 - A positive rapid test is almost certain to be correct. But a negative rapid test may not be. That's why we consider symptoms to be the same as a positive test.
 - 10 days after symptoms start OR 10 days after your first positive test, you are no longer contagious. It does not matter what your test results say after 10 days - you are not contagious anymore.
 - The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, tiredness. Other signs are sore throat, diarrhea, breathing problems, eye problems, headache, loss of taste or smell, rash. If someone newly has any of these symptoms, consider them to have COVID-19. You do not need to administer a rapid test, and it may give you a false sense of safety to do so.

- Well-fitting masks and vaccination are still the best protection we have against this virus. Masks must be worn at all times indoors by residents and staff unless sleeping or eating. During outbreaks and surges, we recommend N95 masks be worn by all residents and staff while indoors. Masks save lives. Reach out if we can help with access to good quality masks.
- Alameda County Steps to Controlling Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities:
<https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/healthcare-guidance/Steps-to-Controlling-Outbreaks-in-Congregate-Living-Facilities-22.08.02.pdf>
- Drug overdose: availability of Naloxone kits for staff and residents. ACHCH is an important resource to access Opioid Overdose Responder and Naloxone virtual trainings and Naloxone kits. Register for a training [here](#).

Thank you all! Be compassionate in your care for yourself and others. We appreciate all of you and your creativity to support the unhoused community. Please continue to wear a mask, wash hands, and practice social distancing.